



THE BEACON-Church of St. Luke  
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Volume 53 Number 2 – March 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 Savior Jesus, the Christ.

The season of Lent is upon us. For many, nothing will be different. Daily life will proceed as normal and the sun will rise each day. Sadly, this is true for many Christians as well as our non-Christian brothers and sisters. However, for those of us who call ourselves Anglican the season of Lent is a vital part of our Christian year.

Historically, there is no mention of the fasting time of forty days before Easter that we call the season of Lent until the Council of Nicaea that took place in 325. In the first three centuries the period of fasting in preparation for Easter did not, as a rule, exceed two or three days (those were the days my friends!). Quite likely the length of forty days was suggested by the forty-day fasts of Moses and Elijah but more especially the forty days of temptation of our Lord when he fasted and prayed.

Further, the season of Lent has gone through varying degrees of disciplined observance. In fact, in our times the once highly observed fasting of Lent has been lessened greatly and Lent seems to be observed as a time of penance by abstaining from festivities on a communal level with little day-to-day observance by individuals.

In honesty, I would have to say that over the years my Lenten observance has been, well, lacking. I can come up with all sorts of reasons that has been so: busy with school work, raising children, planning all the church services to be held in Holy Week and so on and so on and so on. Reasons for being lax are a dime a dozen and I would imagine that many of us have pockets full of dimes.

And besides, what compelling reasons are there for taking Lent seriously? What persuasive incentive is

there for us to “observe a holy Lent by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and by reading and meditating on the word of God” as we are invited to do in the Ash Wednesday service that is in our Book of Alternative Services? What inspiration for such behavior can we possibly find?

I can think of only one such reason.

In the Jewish Seder there is a simple line with profound meaning: “It would have been enough!” A long list of things that God did for the people of Israel is read and after each item on the list these words are proclaimed, “It would have been enough!”

But as it turns out, even though it might have been enough for us, for God it was not sufficient. In the fullness of time God sent his son to live among us and proclaim to us that we are all God’s children. In truth I think that each one of us might, on hearing such a promise, declare boldly, “It would have been enough!” But for God it was not sufficient. Not only did Jesus tell us that we are children of God, through his suffering, through his time of dying and his death and through his time in the grave he gave us divine surety that we are God’s children. All this Jesus did for us!

That’s it! The one and only reason that I can think of to set aside the forty days of Lent as a time of fasting and prayer is all that God in Christ has done for us.

Please join with me this year in striving to observe a holy Lent worthy of the price our Lord paid for us.

In Christ’s great love for us all,

## Highlights from the Vestry Meeting

The following were appointed or elected to the various offices within the Parish of St. Luke's:

Rector's Warden: Alf Chink  
People's Warden: Philip Shilton  
Lay Members to  
Diocesan Synod: Andrew McGinn  
Bob Gibbons  
Treasurer: Ian Thompson  
Envelope Secretary: Betsy Davidson  
Vestry Clerk: Grace Harte

Garden of Remembrance: Walter Bielski  
Chair of Sidespeople: Ed Cowley  
Doug Vincent  
Garden of Remembrance: Walter Bielski  
Property Committee: Richard Miller  
Bob Bond  
John Jacques  
Earl Butler  
Doug Williams

Advisory Board: Carol LoganTonge  
June Bruce

The treasurer's report showed an amount of revenue over expenditures of \$9,349. The 2009 budget suggests a modest revenue over expenditures of \$240.

The various parish committees reported on their year's programmes showing many projects completed (the new sign is up and running, upgrades to the Rectory, new floors in the Church School rooms, the faded carpet replaced with tile in the sanctuary), successful outreach programmes, Bible Studies, Church School programmes and projects, Hospitality Committee activities, Joy in the Morning music and study, Seniors Luncheons, Threads of Love work as well as all the individual work that carries on from day to day to carry out the parish mission statement "to know Christ and to make Him known in worship, fellowship and service".

### Read a Book During Lent

Two tables of selected books will be available each week during Lent. They are by the Library in the Parish Hall. To take out these books simply 1) Make a selection 2) sign out the selected book on the sheet provided 3) return the book to the table when you have finished reading it. Enjoy!!

## Wednesday Evening Lenten Study

"Follow the words of Jesus from the Last Supper till His Trial and Suffering" each Wednesday in Lent at 7:30 pm (March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, culminating with the service on Maunday Thursday, April 9). This study is led by Captain Walter Marshall.

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### **DID YOU KNOW?**

*Did you know that every week, since 1996, Elizabeth Gibbons and her support worker, Gail Young spend a better part of a whole day picking up trash on the church property. This act of ministry keeps our property free of garbage and looking good! Thank you Elizabeth and Gail.*

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## MARCH SENIORS' LUNCHEON

Because the third Thursday in March falls right in the middle of March Break (no school) our March Seniors' Luncheon will held on Thursday, March 26, at Gordon Graydon Secondary School, on Ogden Ave. The lunch starts at 11:45 a.m. and includes a three course hot meal for \$7.50. Call Ellen Shilton @ 905-276-7443 by Sunday March 22nd. There will be baking order forms available ahead of time. Talk to Ellen or order when you call to reserve your seat.

*WINDOW APPEAL: The order has been placed for the church windows to be installed on the north side, and we anticipate the installation to take place in early spring. In 2008 the window appeal resulted in contributions of approximately \$10,000 or 50% of the entire cost. We ask that you once again consider a contribution toward the remaining cost. Each window cost about \$400. and there are 25 windows still to go. Again, volunteers will be doing the installation, resulting in a substantial saving to the overall cost of the project.*

Enclosed is a detailed schedule of Holy Week and Easter Day services at St. Luke's. Pin it on your notice board or stick it on your refrigerator for easy reference.

## Report on the Parish Meeting February 21, 2009

The Book of Proverbs reminds us, "Where there is no vision the people will perish." (Proverbs 29:18)

With this passage in mind, some forty-five members of St. Luke's gathered on Saturday morning to look at the future of our parish church. After a very tasty and ample breakfast we heard some facts and figures from Diocesan Resources folks. Rev. Ric presented a number of interesting papers on Church Growth and Development. A review of these resources suggests that St. Luke's is a 'Pastoral Size Church'. That means we have between fifty and one hundred and fifty people present for worship each week. The next stage in our development would be to grow into a 'Program Size Church', which would change our structure and focus as a parish. Some questions we need to ask: Do we want to grow? Are we prepared to change? Are we able to restructure our parish in light of these studies to become a Program Church?

In a Pastoral Church the leadership is centred on the Incumbent. New members are usually his responsibility. He is involved in most of the ministries of the parish and with the help of a small group of lay leaders, parish decisions are made and programs are developed. The Incumbent knows everyone in the parish and is responsible for the pastoral welfare of his people. As this number grows the level of intimacy drops and the power of the inner circle begins to wane. When a congregation of this size experiences conflict it most often focuses on the Incumbent. It is also becoming more and more difficult for a congregation of this size to sustain itself financially.

The diocese has identified a 'Transition Size Church', which may become stuck between the Pastoral Church and the Program Church. Their experience is best summed up in the paradox, 'too big to be small and too small to be big!'

This in-between church is still clergy centred but is developing an increasingly independent lay leadership. Conflict in a Transition Size Church is over inclusion, information and attention from the clergy. The desire for intimacy and the desire to

grow are competing values. Some churches will stay at this level.

The next level is the Program Church with an average attendance of between 150 and 450 each week. The role of the Incumbent changes at this level, who together with a small staff and a key group of lay leaders develops programs and makes decisions. This group who are responsible to the incumbent leads most programs. As the church grows and develops this group becomes larger and more diverse. The priest is at the centre, delegating and is the key carrier of the vision. Key tasks for leadership are to provide the right programs, training and coordination and to delegate them to the right people. Much energy in a Program Church is spent on recruiting, training, equipping and empowering both volunteers and additional paid staff. Conflicts appear over priorities and allocations of resources.

There are a number of questions and concerns which we must consider as we make plans for the future well being of our parish. Follow-up meetings will be held as we work at the developing future at St. Luke's. Please watch for further notices about these meetings and join with your fellow parishioners in this important project. Stay tuned!

There are a number of resources available in this area from our Diocesan web page. If you want to check it out go to: [www.toronto.anglican.ca](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca) and click on 'congregational growth'.

Respectfully submitted, Don Beatty

**P.S. Some suggested dates for follow-up meetings are: Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup>**

” **April 25<sup>th</sup>**

” **May 23<sup>rd</sup>**

” **June 27<sup>th</sup>**

**See you there!**

**HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:** Special thanks to Doug and Connie Vincent for their gift of a

new faucet with spray (very badly needed ) in the parish kitchen sink.

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE:** 140 guests enjoyed a delicious pancake supper raising \$829. for local Mississauga charities. A great time of fellowship was had by all. Thank you to No Frills, Dixie Mall and Metro, Applewood Plaza for their generous donations. Special thanks to our servers (our youth group members), and to all the workers for a great job well done.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2009-02-25

*Celebrate Papua New Guinea  
In Christ there are many members yet one body*

To be held this year at

COOKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH  
2500 Mimosa Row  
Mississauga, ON

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

7:30 P.M.

Church School

All children and youth are welcome to come into the church school every Sunday when we have classes. Youth group will meet at 10:30 March 1, 8<sup>th</sup> and 29. Because of the school March break there will be no classes March 15 and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Thank you to all church members for their generous donations of travel size toiletries for the ditty bags for Our Place Peel. We will report on our progress in the next "Beacon".

As we begin Lent, our church school studies focus on following God's path of truth in prayer and contemplation, knowing that He is our constant caring companion and teacher.

If anyone has craft ideas for an Easter craft activity evening for children, or if you are able to help with such an event, please let Rosemary Vezina know as soon as possible (905-271-3809)

With thanks to all of you for your continued support.

Janet, Justin, Jo Ann and Rosemary.

The Ministry of Healing will be offered Sunday, March 15 following the 10:30 a.m. Service.

Easter Memorial Flowers: If you wish to donate towards the cost of the Easter Flowers please place your donation in an envelope and place it on the offertory plate or bring or mail it into the church office. Mark it clearly "Easter Flowers".

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**EVERY WEEK AT ST. LUKE'S**

Every Sunday: 8:30 a.m Holy Eucharist  
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
Church  
School Nursery  
Every Wednesday: 9:15 a.m. Eucharist  
7:30 p.m. Lenten Study  
Every Thursday 9:30 a.m. Joy Bible Study  
7:30 p.m. Joy Music

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

Monday, March 2 7:30 p.m. Advisory Board  
Tuesday March 3 & 17 1:30 p.m. Dorcus Group  
Thursday, March 19 1:30 p.m. Threads of Love  
Friday, March 20 7:30 p.m. Euchre  
Saturday, March 28 8:00 a.m. Parish Meeting

**HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT ST LUKE'S**

Sat. April 4 7:00 p.m. Movie Night  
Sun. April 5 8:30 a.m.  
10:30 a.m. Palm Sunday  
Mon. April 6 7:30 p.m. Evening Prayer

Tues. April 7 7:30 p.m. Compline

Wed. April 8 9:15 a.m. Eucharist  
7:30 p.m. Tenebrae

Thurs. April 9 7:30 p.m. Maunday Thurs.

Fri. April 10 10:30 a.m. Good Friday

Sat. April 11 8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil

Sun. April 12 8:30 a.m. Easter Eucharist  
10:30 a.m. Easter Eucharist