



THE BEACON-Church of St. Luke

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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.

It is almost February. It is the middle of winter - in Canada –and as I write this letter the temperature outside is hovering around minus 17 Centigrade, which (for all you who still think in non-metric ways) is about zero Fahrenheit. Add in the wind chill and we are talking minus 30 degrees Centigrade or 22 degrees below zero Fahrenheit. For all of us, regardless of which scale we might prefer, it is really, really (dare I say it again?), really cold.

Not only is it cold, it is a time when we are in-between! The excitement of the falling leaves and the coming of the first fresh clean blanket of snow has long past. On the other hand, the excitement about the melting of all the dirty ice and snow and the coming of the fresh green grass of spring seems so far away. Yes, we are in a time of in-between. So too, Christmas is over, the decorations have all been put away and though we know Easter is coming it is nonetheless a long way away. We are in a time of in-between. Further, as Christian people, we are also in a time of in-between; we are in-between the first appearance of the Messiah and the Messiah's second coming for which we wait. Yes, we are in a time of in-between.

Sometimes, in the in-between times we can become restless or bored or apathetic. Sometimes we can settle into routines that are really not the best. Most of us grow impatient with waiting. Between the leaves of fall and the new green grass of spring we can blame the snow and ice for not exercising or getting out into God's wonderful world. Between the celebration of Christmas and the celebration of Easter we can become ambivalent about going to church because there really isn't anything "special" at church between those two great feasts.

There is a poem by Linda Ellis entitled *The Dash* (copyright 1996) that I have heard read every now and then at a funeral. It talks about the dash, that is, the dash that is inserted between the year of a person's birth and the year of their death. It is a poem about the time of in-between and it talks about the importance of how we live our dash.

Ah yes! We are an in-between people. But, just as we do not spend the years of our dash idly waiting, so too, we should not spend the other in-between times which we experience passively waiting, especially the great in-between time of the appearances of Jesus, the Christ, our Messiah!

Our Christian lives are more about how we express and live out our faith in between the exciting feast not just about how we faithfully go to church on the great feasts. And further (and I believe most importantly), our Christian lives are about how we live to the fullest in the time between the Christ's first coming and the second coming for which we wait. Yes, we are a waiting people but waiting does not imply or insist on being idle or passive. Our waiting is to be enthusiastic, involved and full of life. Our waiting in the time in between is to be expectant and active, lived in the fullness of God's grace and for the fullness of God's kingdom here on earth.

Perhaps this cold in-between time of our Canadian winter is a good time for us to take pause and reflect on how we are indeed an in-between people. Perhaps we might ask ourselves if our faith-lives are lives of passive waiting or are they lives of enlivened and active waiting. In other words, how are we living the dash of our lives as God's children?

May our times of waiting all be filled with excitement and expectation and may each one of us live all our in-betweens passionately and faithfully.

Yours in Christ,

THE WARDEN'S REPORT

We hope that you have had a Joyous Christmas and wish you a Happy New Year. Our church as had much to be thankful for during 2008. A number of projects were undertaken with the generous help of many parishioners and especially Ric for his work not only in the church but also in the rectory. We plan to continue with the Window Project in the spring and wish to acknowledge the financial contributions, which by year end amounted to almost 50% of the target covering phase one costs. We expect that the new sign will be erected early in the new year at no cost to the parish due to the generous contribution of one of our parishioners and the Church of Isaac. We are planning to replace the faded sections of the carpet in the church with tile and also replace the carpet in the remaining schoolroom with laminate flooring. Needless to say other projects will surface during the year and we are always in need of volunteers to help defray the costs.

We are in the process of developing the budget for 2009 to be approved at the February Vestry Meeting. We do anticipate that costs will rise and ask that you take this into consideration for your 2009 offering.

Alf Chinck
June Bruce.

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

The Parish of St. Luke will hold its
Annual Vestry Meeting
On
Sunday, February 15th, 2009
Following the 10:30 am Service

A SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

(Free will offering to benefit
Outreach Project)

All Members of the Parish are invited and encouraged to attend this important meeting in the life of our parish.

The food chest located at the entrance to the cloak room continues to be "open" for non-perishable food items which will be donated to our local food bank. I am sure that we all understand the special needs of our community in the difficult economic times and our food chest will continue to overflow with donations.

Seniors' Luncheon for February

Our Seniors' Luncheon at Gordon Graydon Secondary School will resume Thursday, Feb. 19th 2009 at 11:45 a.m. Lunch includes a three course hot meal with tea or coffee for \$7.50. if you wish to reserve a seat, call Ellen Shilton at 905-276-7443 between Feb. 1st and Feb. 15th. Why not invite a friend or neighbour!

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

**Will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 24th
5– 7 p.m.
St. Luke's Parish Hall**

\$7.00 each - \$2.00 pre-teens

Bible studies with Captain Marshall will start again beginning Wednesday, January 28th, 7:30 pm, in the Vine Room. All are welcome to attend and be part of a group enjoying themselves by getting closer to God and closer to one another.

Church School – Youth Group News

Youth Group Toiletry Collection: The Youth Group will be meeting to fill small “ditty bags” for Young people living in Our Place Peel. We need hotel/sample sizes of the following: shampoo, toothpaste, tooth brushes, soaps, lotions, conditioners, deodorant, make up, cologne, etc. We would like to have all donations in by **Sunday, Feb. 22nd**. Please place your contributions in the blue bin in the parish hall.

Youth Classes with Janet Huber and Justin Daigle will take place on the following Sunday mornings at 10:30 am., Feb. 1, Feb. 8, March 1, March 8, and March 29. Prior to the end of January please bring a face photo of yourself as well as two or three suggestions of ways you can ‘give back’ to others in serving God.

The Younger Classes: The lessons for the younger children will take place every Sunday except March 15 and March 22 (Happy March Break Everyone!). We have been learning how God knows and loves each one of us always and forever.

Many thanks to Grace Harte for the wonderfully, creative teaching bulletin board in the parish hall; to Jo Ann Thompson for her continued dedication to teaching us all praise songs with signing; to John Mathews for being our photographer; and to Justin Daigle for his enthusiasm and leadership.

A SPECIAL PARISH MEETING
Will Be Held
Saturday, February 21st, 2009
Beginning with Breakfast at 8:00 a.m.
Concluding at Noon

Everyone in the parish is encouraged to attend this special meeting to look at the Parish of St. Luke’s - what is it doing well, are there some areas that require improvement - what kind of changes could or should be made - what kind of parish do we envision in five years -in ten years!!!! Do plan on attending and being part of the excitement that comes with looking into the future.

ASH WEDNESDAY AT ST. LUKES

Ash Wednesday falls on Wednesday, February 25, 2009. There will be Ash Wed. services at 9:15 am and 7:30 pm with imposition of ashes at both. Your old palm crosses

*can be brought to the church up to Sunday, Feb. 22nd.
They will be burned for the ashes.*

**THE NEW CHURCH SIGN HAS ARRIVED-TAKE A
LOOK!**

The following interpretation of the "Lord's Prayer" has been submitted by Dorothy Dupley. It was a favourite of her late father:

Our father in heaven, we hallow thy name.
May thy kingdom holy on earth be the same.
O give to us daily our portion of bread.
It is from thy bounty that all must be fed.
Forgive our transgressions and teach us to know
The humble submission that conquers each foe.
Keep us from temptation and sorrow and sin.
And thine be the glory forever.
AMEN.

EVERY WEEK AT ST. LUKES

Every Sunday	8:30 am	Holy Eucharist – Coffee Hour
	10:30 am	Holy Eucharist – Church School, Nursery, Coffee Hour
Every Wed.	9:15 am	Eucharist
	10:00 am	Bible Study
	7:30 pm	Bible Study with Captain Marshall
Every Thursday	9:30 am	Joy in the Morning Bible Study
	7:30 pm	Joy Music

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, Feb. 1	Following 10:30 am service – KITS ANNUAL MEETING-Vine Room
Monday, Feb. 2	7:15 am Advisory Council
Sunday, Feb 8	Following 10:30 am service-Laying on of Hands and Anointing for Healing
Tuesday, Feb. 3 & 17	1:30 pm Dorcus Meeting
Thursday, Feb. 12	1:30 pm Threads of Love
Sunday, Feb 15	Following 10:30 am service – ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING (see info on page two)

Friday, Feb. 20	7:30 pm	Euchre
Saturday, Feb. 21	8:00 am	SPECIAL PARISH MEETING
Tuesday, Feb. 24	5:00 pm	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25	9:15 am	Eucharist-Imposition of Ashes
	7:30 pm	Eucharist-imposition of Ashes
