



## **THE BEACON -Church of St. Luke**

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Volume 53 Number 6 – July 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 Jesus Christ:

June 21<sup>st</sup> has come and gone so summer has officially arrived. But it is not just the date on the calendar that tells us summer is here. There are other signs that we all see and note. Signs like people in their gardens or out for a walk (even if they don't have a dog), bright sunny days like today, the heat of the sun (today is hot enough to have caused me to turn on the air conditioner in the office), car windows are down, people are in shorts (there is a noticeable profound absence of coats, boots, gloves and hats – baseball hats excluded), the birds are singing and the squirrels are scurrying, people seem happier and there are fewer people in church. All these are signs that summer is here.

Yes, attendance numbers do go down in the fair weather months but it gives me great delight to know that it is because people are vacationing, going on weekend getaways, spending time at cottages, trailers or camping, receiving guests from far off places and in many different and wonderful ways are enjoying being a part of this wonderful world God has given us to take care of, to revel in and to cherish.

Summer is a time when we can slow down, at least a little bit. It is a time when we can catch up on any numbers of things. It is a time when we can relax and renew ourselves in body, mind and spirit.

As of yet I don't have any specific plans for this summer but I am looking forward to some time spent in different ways, perhaps unusual ways and certainly in refreshing ways. And I hope you have plans too and if not plans then certainly expectations for some time of renewal.

We all need times of refreshment and renewal. The ancients knew it and followed patterns of work followed by rest, not only for themselves but also for the land. Jesus often went apart to be alone, to be quiet, to pray or to be with a few close friends in order to be renewed and revitalized. And if that is not argument enough, let us not forget that God rested on the seventh day and in so doing sanctioned and sanctified times of rest and relaxation for us, for our bodies, and our minds and our spirits.

I pray that as you engage these wonderful days and weeks of summer that you will indeed find time for true and satisfying rest and relaxation. Where ever you may go and whatever you may do remember that you are in my prayers and the prayers of all of us who will gather Sunday by Sunday to worship our gracious God. And I hope that your activities will not hinder you praying for me and for your fellow members of St. Luke's.

The past few months have been very busy and exciting and the fall looks as if it will be equally filled with old and familiar and well as new and exciting things. But now is the time to renew and refresh. When we are apart may we be united in prayer and whenever we are home may we come together in worship. May you have a richly fulfilling and perfect summer and may you know the presence and peace of God wherever you go and in all that you do.

Your brother in Christ.

**Update - The Five Parish Groups**

**As a result of the spring Parish Meetings five groups have been formed to move forward the plans and ideas that surfaced during the Saturday morning discussions. The five groups are:**

- 1) Welcoming Ministry,**
- 2) Worship,**
- 3) Proclaiming the Good News,**
- 4) Teaching and Learning,**
- 5) Pastoral Care.**

**All groups are now meeting on a regular basis and over the next few months you will begin to notice some of the results of their efforts. It is not too late to be part of the excitement! Should one of the above areas of ministry be of interest to you please speak with the Rector or leave a message on the Church telephone (905-278-1811) and you will be connected to the appropriate group.**

**CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS**

There are activity bags in bins on the table by the church entrance for the children to use during the summer services. The bags have labels with coloured dots to indicate the grade levels of the contents:

- BLUE        Pre-school to Grade 1**
- RED         Grades 2 and 3**
- ORANGE    Grades 4 to 6**

We will check the bags every week and add new activities. Please help us by taking out the sheets that the children have done and by having the children put the crayons or pencil crayons all back in the bag before returning the bag to the bins at the back of the church.

Note: Parents are welcome to use the nursery room themselves, but we are not providing babysitting or nursery care during the summer.

*PLEASE NOTE – PLEASE READ*

*Inserted in this issue of “THE BEACON” is a lengthy, but very well written report on the 153<sup>rd</sup>. Regular Synod of the Diocese of Toronto. Bob Gibbons was our lay representative to that two day meeting and his detailed report is both interesting and informative for all members of our congregation. Do take a few minutes to read Bob’s report.*

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**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE  
“DHARKAN NEWSPAPER”**

**who was awarded first place in the Front Page layout category at the Canadian Church Press Awards. This is a huge achievement!**

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**CATCHUP NEWS**

**The Multi-Cultural Pot Luck Dinner, held on Saturday May 30<sup>th</sup> was a great success. Fiftytwo people attended the event and \$177 was raised for local outreach projects.**

**The Annual Parish Barbeque was held on Sunday, June 14. One hundred and twenty adults and children enjoyed the usual hamburgers, hot dogs and desserts. Many thanks to the chefs and helpers.**

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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup> is the date set for our Annual Outreach Walk.**

**All sponsorship revenue will be donated to our local outreach projects. Watch for further details!!!!**

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**Sunday Coffee and Fellowship**

There will not be coffee following the summer services however, you are more than welcome to stay behind after service and enjoy the fellowship of your fellow worshippers.

## The Bake and Yard Sale was a Huge Success!!!!

The Bake and Yard Sale started off with a beautiful day . People lined up for their long awaited purchase of delicious baked goods. The bake table was staffed by Olga Mathews and her dedicated team. Home baking seems to be a lost art the way the baked goods disappeared– our diets were quickly placed on the back burner.

Bob Gibbons had the air filled with suspense as we awaited the results of the raffle. Thank you to Bob and Father Ric for their creative talents in setting up the table and for all who generously donated the raffle items.

A special thank you is extended to Gisela Jirku and Bill Lade for their ongoing willingness to stand in for any task with their gifted energy and their wonderful attitude when it comes to getting things done.

Ian Thompson did a super job of keeping track of all the monies going out and coming in, making our jobs much easier. John Mathew's pictures are proof that a good time was had by all.

Whether they were selling hot dogs, baked goods, children's items or clothing, plants, dishes, jewelry, treasures, games, books, materials, Christmas items, sporting goods, small appliances or furniture each person played an important role in success of the day. "The wheel is only as good as the spokes". It was great working with all of you.

**Total amount raised: \$3020.00**

Judi DiLullo  
Bake and Yard Sale Co-ordinator

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**St. Luke's Anglican Church**  
**Bridge and Euchre Luncheon**  
1513 Dixie Road, Mississauga ON

Will be held on  
**THURSDAY**  
**OCTOBER 29, 2009**  
**12 NOON**

Tickets may be purchased at \$80 per table  
(Group of four)  
Contact the Church office (905-278-  
1811) for ticket purchase details.

Gather Together Your Friends for an  
afternoon of fun

**PRIZES – DELICIOUS LUNCH-RAFFLES**

### SUMMER REMINDERS

Food Chest: Please remember to continue to fill the food chest with non-perishable items as the need in our community will continue throughout the summer months.

Milk Bags: We continue to collect clean, dry outer plastic bags from the three litre size milk containers. These bags are used to weave sleeping mats for God's children in third world countries. It takes 250 bags to weave one mat.

Hotel Size Notions: We continue to collect the small hotel size notions (shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste etc.) to fill ditty bags for "Our Place Peel".

## SUMMER WORSHIP AT ST. LUKE'S

**SUNDAY WORSHIP:** From July 5<sup>th</sup> to September 6<sup>th</sup> (inclusive) we will combine the 8:30 am & 10:30 am services into one service to be held at 9:30 am. We will alternate between contemporary and traditional services and we will also explore some of our alternative Eucharistic Prayers. The Healing Ministry will be offered on the third Sunday of each month during the summer.

**WEDNESDAY WORSHIP:** Though the Wednesday morning Breakfast and Bible Study will not be held during July and August there will continue to be a Wednesday morning celebration of the Holy Eucharist. However, please note, beginning June 24<sup>th</sup> and continuing to September 2<sup>nd</sup> the service will be held at 10:00 am rather than at 9:15 am.

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### Through the Summer Week's at St. Luke's

Every Sunday beginning July 5                      9:30 am              Holy Eucharist

Every Wednesday beginning June 24              10:00 am              Holy Eucharist

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### COMING EVENTS

**Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>**                      **OUTREACH WALK following 10:30 am Service**

**Thursday, October 29**                      **St. Luke's Anglican Church Bridge and Euchre Luncheon**

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**POLICY CHANGE:** Because "The Beacon" is published on our web page, and is therefore open to the internet, it has been decided that in the future we do not publish personal telephone or email addresses in "The Beacon". If you require further information or express interest in any item or event kindly (1) speak with those in leadership of the various events (2) speak with the Rector (3) leave a message on the Church telephone (905-278-1811) or (4) leave a message on our e-mail address – [stlukes@eol.ca](mailto:stlukes@eol.ca).

This issue concludes the first year as your editors. We want to thank the Rector for all his assistance and, of course, to all the members of the congregation for their input and their support during the past year.

The next issue will be published the last week of August – do get your organization's fall plans into the church office on or before Sunday August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Don and Barbara Beatty.**

## **Synod - 2009   A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE**

### **Robert Gibbons**

I have always believed that when a chance to experience something new occurs, one should seize the opportunity....carpe diem. Such was the case when Ric and the Advisory Board asked me if I would be interested in being a lay representative for St. Lukes at the diocese's 153<sup>rd</sup> Regular Session of Synod of Toronto on May 28 and 29 this year. With my recent renewed interest in church activities and with Nancy's strong encouragement, I accepted the invitation albeit with some trepidation. I had heard from various sources that synod could be boring, repetitive, stimulating, revitalizing, informative and all of the above. I went with an open mind and my usual inquisitive nature.

Ric and I left early on Friday morning and arrived at Oshawa's Durham College in time to register, find our accommodations, grab a coffee and get our name tags. It was comforting to be accompanied by someone who knew practically everyone there and whom everyone there seemed to know.

Following a 10:00am opening procession of church banners, some opening remarks and prayers, we were given a little time to meet the people who were at our table. They were all lay members of synod from Aurora, Barrie, Toronto, Coburg and Oshawa. All were very friendly and none had ever attended synod meetings before. I was beginning to feel at home already.

Nearly 800 synod members from parishes across the diocese prepared to participate in the opening Eucharist. This was my first exposure to such a massive celebration of this holy sacrament. While our regular Sunday morning Eucharist's compose an important part of our St Luke's worship and are always solemn, meaningful, and intimate, this struck me as being important too but on a different level. Perhaps it was more imposing, grander and impressive in my mind because I was having communion with such a vast number of strangers that made it seem that way. But it was a different feeling. Live music from a four piece band playing in the background added to a sense of pageantry, a sense of occasion. It was a very open and public expression of faith. I put it down to the sheer number of people involved and the presence of so many of the church's leaders that gave it a special meaning for me. I thought it was not unlike the difference between a ceremony conducted in a small rural church and that of one conducted in a large cathedral. There are values in both kinds of presentations and now I have had the experience of having participated in both.

The Eucharist was followed by an impassioned homily by Bishop Colin Johnson. He told us that the focus of this synod would be on how to be a "missional" church. Through workshops, group discussions and the message of the guest speaker, The Reverend Canon Phil Potter from England, much time was spent about what a "missional" church might be and what "missional" really meant. The Bishop said, "We need to be a missional church because God is missional....and we are called to be shaped as a missional people." We were told about the "five marks of mission" and they are necessary to know in order to try and understand this concept. To begin with, I personally found the concept a little abstract but it became clearer as we discussed it in various groups.

#### **The "five marks of mission" are**

1. to proclaim the good news of the Kingdom
2. to teach, baptize and nurture new believers
3. to respond to human need by loving service
4. to seek to transform unjust structures of society
5. and to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and renew the life of the earth.

To begin this discovery of "mission", we formed discussion groups of 35-40 people seated in a circle. The groups consisted of a mix of clergy and lay members. For the first time at synod the *indaba* process was used to conduct the discussions with a leader keeping us on track. The sessions lasted about an hour and a half. *Indaba* is a Zulu word meaning "a one agenda meeting" or, a gathering for purposeful discussion. For some of us this was not a totally new experience as Ric has used it in his Saturday morning sessions regarding the future of St. Luke's Church. It can be a very successful method of conducting a meeting but at the same time in can be terribly intimidating as it is expected that each person in the group must speak at some point in the proceedings. That is fine if one knows something about the topic to be discussed or has formed opinions about the subject. I had neither. The guidelines were to, "express ourselves with respect, courtesy, reverence, compassion, and the expectation of hearing something new." I struggled through two of the three *indaba* sessions trying to avoid direct eye contact with the animateurs while listening attentively and taking notes. In the process I did learn a lot about missional churches. By the third *indaba* session I was actually able to participate....somewhat. Talk about challenging!

We began by reading Acts 2:38-47 and were asked to discuss a two part question: How was the church, described in Acts, shaped by mission and where do you see evidence of the five marks? Try it. A clue: If you were fortunate enough to attend Canon Don Beatty's course you would have learned that the first great missional movement outside of Jerusalem was to Antioch.

Space does not allow me to expand on this issue too much but there are a couple of statements that I heard that for me pretty clearly and succinctly sum up the nature of the "missional" church. One was, "The Church going out into the world" as opposed to continually and solely attempting to "fill the pews". The other was, "Taking our faith out to the workplace." Another

image I liked (and I relate well to images) was presented by guest speaker, Canon Potter who said that the new mission- shaped churches, as he saw them, work alongside regular churches. He called this the “lake and river church, the lake being the regular church and the river the new expression.”

The basis for our two day group discussions on missional churches came from the two addresses given by Canon Potter. In his Friday talk he outlined his experiences in helping to create mission-shaped churches in Liverpool, England. “The church will have to change if it wants to survive,” was his opening line. I’ll briefly describe his main points.

“There are five significant changes in the world that Anglicans need to think about if they’re going to adapt”.

1...Sundays are no longer boring, do-nothing days but are one of the busiest days of the week. Church attendance has been radically affected by this. This presents challenges.

2... The ways people relate to each other have changed. We no longer live, work and shop in the same local place. For many the neighbourhood or parish is not what it used to be. Most people are not going to just wander in off the street into the local church anymore. This presents challenges.

3...The culture has changed...there are many cultures now. Television has 500 channels to choose from. Similarly, Radio offers scores of musical genres. Even here at synod members represent many different cultures. “How far removed is our church and it’s traditions from our life in all these other places?” This presents challenges.

4...People today know less and less about Christianity and church culture. “Forty percent of England’s population is completely unchurched. At a local primary school only 5 children out of 70 had any understanding of what the name Jesus was when celebrating Christmas. How would an Anglican Sunday service appear to them for the first time? Would they really understand where we were coming from?” This presents challenges.

5...Our culture is becoming less religious but more spiritual. “In other words, people are still hungering for meaning, peace and purpose but they no longer equate that with the diet that religion offers them”. This presents challenges.

Having outlined the challenges, Potter from his personal experiences, offered his thoughts as to how to begin creating missional churches. Again, briefly;

- 1...Spiritual renewal.
2. Literally turning the building inside out and making it more accessible and open to the community outside. (In doing so, they rediscovered that the church is not a building, it is the people.)
3. After removing the barriers and reordering the bricks they reordered their mission as well. (They opened a restaurant (!) and a whole series of ministries that made the church far more attractive to those outside it.)
4. Restructuring the resourcing. As the congregation grew, they learned a lot about giving away what God had given to them. “Growing the church is not about building bigger and better all the time, but rather about reproducing and multiplying and passing on the blessing.”
5. Reinventing. Why? “Because no matter how vibrant and effective we may appear on the outside and no matter how we renew our inherited structures, the truth is you can have a thriving congregation of 1,000 and yet have 10,000 right on your doorstep who cannot relate to you and will not engage.”

Canon Potter was an excellent speaker and used numerous videos to punctuate his themes. He said that there was a, “new movement emerging in the U.K. with new phrases like “fresh expressions”, “emerging church” and “mission-shaped churches”. His speech provoked a lot of discussion within our various groups. One thought occurred to me even as I write this. This new missional church being discussed is not meant to replace our traditional church structure...Liverpool is not Mississauga but there are certainly aspects of it that could easily be implemented into our experience. This is where the lake and river image becomes apparent. The new mission-shaped church would work along side the regular churches.

At some point I heard another interesting phrase, “Constant change is here to stay”.

Humour was not absent during the sessions. At one point a speaker was proclaiming the word of God and we were reading along with her from the huge screens situated around the room. However, what the speaker was saying was totally out of sync with what we were reading off the screens...it was scrambled. She cleverly ended the reading saying, “The word of the Lord...sort of”. Canon Potter told the story of a visiting preacher who stood at the church door after the service and greeted the congregation as they were leaving. As they shook his hand, they gave him some of the usual comments: “lovely service”, “powerful message”, “really helpful”. He was feeling encouraged until a strange little man stopped and said, “You were rubbish”. He didn’t worry until he saw the same little man rejoining the queue and as he passed by he said, “Talked too long”, “Can’t preach”, “Never been so bored”, “Don’t come back”. The priest couldn’t take it anymore and went to the church wardens and said, “What’s going on here?”

The church wardens said, “Oh don’t worry about him, he has some learning problems. He just goes around repeating what everybody else is saying.

In the first *indaba* about the missional church, we were asked to discuss the following;

What excites you about this concept?

What challenges you about this concept?

What else is needed to move forward?

Again, briefly, the responses were generally as follows:

- Question #1
- no rules required. Anyone can do it.
  - no “church” experience needed. Kids, teenagers can get involved.
  - it’s not just a Sunday church but weekly.
  - it’s driven by lay people
  - great for work places
  - helps others toward spirituality
  - gets church values out into the community

- Question #2
- change is always a problem
  - priests might not like this
  - it’s not God’s will
  - you’ll upset older family members
  - we’ve never done anything like this before
  - we’re too set in our ways
  - it’ll cost too much
  - interesting idea but our church is different
  - we’re too inexperienced
  - it’s too ambitious
  - I like our church just the way it is

- Question #3 (Incorporating Canon Potter’s thoughts)
- the heart of the church must be changed
  - a new honesty. “In the U.K. 1,000 people are leaving the church every week and nearly half of all Anglican churches have a Sunday attendance of 20. More Muslims attend mosques than Anglicans attend church.
  - Nearly half of the population is completely unchurched.
  - at least once a year ruthless questions about the whole pattern of our services, meetings and organizations and buildings, must be asked.
  - hunger, passion and energy from enthusiastic lay persons who really want to see transformation.
  - lay people should take on more duties
  - don’t fear failure

To close this section of the synod, there were some very practical ways mentioned for the church to reach into the community. They were discussed in the second *indaba*. Briefly and in point form;

- 1...priests could go into the community more often.  
(Take a priest to your work place for a 15-20 min.get to know you” session.)
- 2...Conduct community meals not unlike the Gordon Graydon experience at St. Lukes
- 3...A special “Vision Day” at the church
- 4...The “Messy Church” concept which I will share with you on another occasion. (It’s exciting!) Kids can come to church with their community friends.
- 5...Café in the church
- 6...Painting, photography, video, crafts, singing, book of the month reading group..all including some members from the community.
- 7...Glee Club, movie nights, historical walks, again, incorporating community members.
- 8...Concerts and lectures from community members.

Canon Potter closed his remarks by quoting from a national newspaper article: “The world challenges the church saying, we don’t want to hear your talk about love; we want to see it happen in communities of love. We don’t want to hear your words about joy; we want to see joyful people. We want none of your forgiveness; we want to see a community where forgiving, loving, accepting love is happening all the time and changing personal behaviour.”

Synod boring? Often it is the frame of mind of the person(s) going to an event that influences how they react to the situations encountered at the event. I was never bored. I met interesting people, learned many new things and found it both challenging and rewarding. I am looking forward to relating to you the thoughts of the discussion groups on the controversial issue: the proposed pastoral response that the College of Bishops is proposing for same-sex blessings in the Diocese of Toronto which also took place at this year’s synod. It was a very serious and emotional experience. That will appear in the next Beacon along with details about a workshop called “Messy Church!”

I wish to thank the Advisory Board and Ric for giving me the opportunity to be a part of the 153<sup>rd</sup> regular session of synod. It was everything Nancy said it would be.