



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 Jesus Christ.

Recently I have made the rounds shopping for a new car. I began on the Internet which was a great way to eliminate quite quickly the likes of the Audi, the Volvo, BMW and the Mercedes that I have been admiring as I have seen them driving by on the street. In truth, for financial reasons they were never really contenders in the first place though it was nice to dream for a little bit. The Internet also allowed me to narrow the wide field of financially friendly options down to a comfortable handful of four.

With my list of questions and my list of “must haves” and my list of “it-would-be-nice-if”, off I went into the land of retail car sales. In many ways the land of retail car sales is a foreign land to me. Now I must tell you, a long, long time ago I worked in the land of retail car sales, back when the Ford Grenada was really popular. And yes, I have visited the land of retail car sales as a buyer from time to time but (due to various circumstances) not that often. Actually, as I think of it the last new car I actually purchased without some mitigating circumstances in my favour was my Datsun 610 (and for those who have forgotten, Datsun is what Nissan used to be called a very long time ago!). All this just to tell you that I really don't have an understanding of what it is like “there” anymore, out there in the land of retail car sales. In many ways this was a new experience for me and I was feeling a little uncomfortable, not knowing what to expect.

The first salesperson I spoke with was great. He was welcoming, cheerful, pleasant and relaxed and took the time to explain things to me and to give me more detail about cost, options and standard equipment on the model I was interested in. And I began to relax. Feeling a little better about this land of retail car sales, off I went to dealer number two. Now it could well have been me but with the second salesperson I felt as if I was being treated as the next piece of commission and the only reason I was important was because they would get money from me. My anxieties began to return and I was only half way through my sojourn in the land of retail car sales! With increased caution I was off to the third dealership and a third salesperson. Again it could well have been me but with the third salesperson I felt as if I was an interruption and they really wanted me out of their way in order that they could get back to something more important. At last, I went off to the fourth and final dealership. There, the salesperson was more like the first except for the cheerful part and except for what seemed to be a rather unexcited, lacklustre manner. At the end of day one I was convinced that salesperson number one would get our business even though the finance rate was a little higher (besides, the car itself was the one Heather liked the best).

I could not help but wonder if my car shopping expedition might be similar to someone's church shopping expedition in today's world. In today's world people looking for a church home will have their own list of questions, their list of “must haves” and their list of “it-would-be-nice-if”! Perhaps they will come not knowing what to expect of the church in today's world, even if, in their past, they were quite involved in the church. Likely they will evaluate our church using their own past experience and current criteria. They will test-drive us, they will compare and they will weigh all the pros and cons. Ultimately, they will choose.

My friends, there is nothing we can do about what they will bring and what they might be searching for. However, we can do everything about the impression that we make when they come.

Over the past few months we have sought to discover what God would have us do here at Saint Luke's and we have identified five ministry priorities. The five ministry priorities are welcoming, proclaiming, teaching/learning, worshipping and caring. Over the next few months we will explore what we can do to address these ministry priorities to the best of our ability. God is calling us to be all we can be and to do everything that we do to the glory of God in the love of Christ. Not everyone looking for a church home will be looking for what we have to offer but when someone walks through our doors we should be prepared to offer the best that we can as a welcoming, proclaiming, teaching/learning, worshipping and caring church.

I most certainly pray that we will not see someone new as just another set of envelopes or as an interruption or inconvenience. I pray that we may faithfully continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers, that we may faithfully proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ, that we may faithfully seek and serve Christ in all persons and that we may faithfully strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being.

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Report on the May Sessions of The Parish Meetings

The third session of our Saturday morning Parish Meetings was held on May 2nd with some thirty of our parishioners present. We heard the results of the Indaba process from the last meeting. This had been analyzed and grouped into four areas. After much discussion it was decided to divide the second group on worship and proclaiming into two parts. Thus the five issues expressed in the Indaba process included:

1. Be a place of welcome
2. Be a place where God is worshipped
3. Be a place where the good news is proclaimed
4. Be a place of learning and teaching
5. Be a place of pastoral care.

After more discussion and much prayer, it was decided to survey the congregation on these five items to gain a wider cross section of ideas. This will be carried out on May 10th during the worship service.

On May 23rd we met for our fourth and final Parish Meeting for this season. Twenty-five folks gathered for another delicious breakfast and heard the parish feedback to the above five issues. Each was invited to choose one interest group. Then we spent the next hour discussing the results of the parish questionnaire, looking for some common themes and possible ways of moving ahead in

each particular area. Each group discussed how we may work toward making our parish more responsive to the needs of our church and community.

After this hour, we reconvened to hear reports from each of these interest groups. A great deal of enthusiasm became evident as the groups reported back and it also became evident that most of us wanted to continue working with these ideas. It was decided that each group would plan to meet during the summer months to continue working out their role in looking at the future of St. Luke's. We will gather again in the autumn to hear how plans are progressing and to hopefully develop new ministries at St. Luke's.

It was further suggested that other members of the congregation be invited to join one of the five groups. If you are interested please talk to our Incumbent, Ric. The five groups are:

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

Conscious of our Parish Purpose "*to know Christ and to make Him known in worship, fellowship and service to His world*" each group will endeavour to help St. Luke's fulfill this mission.

Respectfully submitted Don Beatty

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Ditty Bags: Father Ric blessed our fifty completed ditty bags on Sunday, May 24th. We have taken them to *Our Place Peel* where they will be put to good use. As our generous friends in the congregation have donated more items, we will put together more bags in the early fall. Many thanks to all of you!

Picnic Sunday, June 7. This will be our last formal Church School Sunday. We will be presenting church school awards for attendance and participation. The games will start after the meal and we invite children of all ages to participate. Please join us for fun and prizes!

Help please! Our teachers this year have been Jo Ann (Music), Janet and Justin (youth), and Rosemary. We need volunteers for the coming school year. If you enjoy doing crafts and could assist the teachers with crafty activities, please let Rosemary Vezina know. We really could use help!

We thank all St. Luke's parishioners for your support and encouragement this year!!

Open Door Thank You

Thank you to everyone who provided food and donations of money to purchase food for the Open Door Dinner held on Thursday, May 21st. At first no one seemed to signing up but then you all came through with a delicious variety of food. Money was also put towards baby formula and Mississauga Transit Tickets that are always needed. Thank you to all who helped out in any way.

Grace Hart.

The Ministry of Healing will be available following the 10:30 am service on Sunday, June 21st.

LOOKING AHEAD: St. Luke's Bridge and Euchre Luncheon will be held on **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2009** beginning at 12 noon. Plan now to gather your friends for an afternoon of fun. Tickets may be purchased at \$80. per table (group of 4) from Maureen Nugent or Florence Janzen.

Senior's Luncheons – June 2009

We have ceased our seniors' luncheons for the summer break, but I thank all of you who have continued to support and attend our monthly get togethers at Gordon Graydon Secondary School. Rev. Ric and I had an opportunity to speak with John Volpe, the teacher who heads up the hospitality department at Gordon Graydon, and John conveyed his appreciation to those who have given the students an opportunity to practice and hone their skills to serve others. What a great outreach for our church! Everybody benefits! We also have some ideas in the pot to make things even better next year.

Thank you to all who have had an active role in making our monthly luncheons come off without a hitch: to Gloria and Earnie Johnson who continue to man (and women) the door collecting money and distributing the name tags; to Gloria for her "double duty" as resident pianist, always offering lovely music to aid our appetites; to Norma Chink who did such a great job as our host for this past year; to Connie Vincent who took on the hosting job for May, and has agreed to carry on hosting in the fall (thanks for that Connie!) for our dedicated drivers – Doug Vincent, Bill Dupley, John Mathews – who go out of their way to make sure our guests can get there; to everyone who invites others to join us: YOU have made this enterprise a success.

Here are some things to think about over the summer. We will once again be rewarding a \$500 bursary to one hospitality student going on to post graduate studies or training. Please consider making a donation to the bursary fund through St. Luke's. Secondly, in discussion with Connie, we thought it would be a good idea to have a "co-host" who could act as back-up if Connie or the Johnsons were unable to attend. If you enjoy welcoming people and don't mind making birthday announcements from time to time please speak to me before September. Thirdly – John Volpe has suggested changing the luncheons to the 3^d Wed. instead of Thurs., as he would possibly be available to assist. At this time it is only a consideration so please let me know before Sept. if this change would interfere with your plans.

Senior's Luncheons will resume in Oct. Watch the Beacon for further notice. Blessings, Ellen Shilton.

ST. LUKE'S ANNUAL YARD SALE
Saturday, June 6 – 8 am till 2 pm
THIS IS THE WEEK !!!

To

- 1) Clear out your cupboards, your basement, your garage of unused or unneeded treasures. (Please no mugs, drinking glasses- also we are requesting only children's clothes).
- 2) Bring them to St. Luke's Tuesday, June 2 through Friday, June 5 between 9:00 am and 8:00 pm .
- 3) Bake your special pies, bread, muffins, fruit loaf, cakes, cookies, squares or tarts along with jams, jellies and preserves to add to the bake table. (Please clearly label any baking that contain nuts – items should be brought to the Church Friday evening or early Sat. morning)
- 4) Volunteer to help out on Saturday – leave your message at the church office 905-278-1811
- 5) Come out Saturday prepared for fun – an opportunity to purchase a new treasure and take home some baked treats for the weekend.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Saturday, June 6	8:00 am	St. Luke's Annual Yard and Bake Sale
Sunday, June 7	10:30 am	Church School Year-end Closing – Presentation of Awards for attendance and participation – Followed by the Parish Barbeque and Games. All welcome!
Tuesday, June 9	7:30 pm	Teaching and Learning Ministry Group – at the Church
Wednesday June 10	1:15 pm	Welcoming Ministry Group at the Church
Monday, June 15	6:00 - 6:30 pm	Chancel Guild Pot Luck Dinner – at the Rectory
Saturday, June 20	8:30 am	Lay Reader's Breakfast
Sunday, June 21		Ministry of Healing following the 10:30 am service.
Tuesday, June 23	7:30 pm	Worship Group – at the Beatty's
Tuesday, July 21	1:30 pm	Pastoral Care Group – at the Shilton's

<p>Please Take Note Beginning Sunday, July 5th until Labour Day Weekend, Sunday, 6th. our summer schedule will be one service at 9:30 am each Sunday</p>
