

## THE BEACON -Church of St. Luke

1513 Dixie Road, Mississauga, ON, L5E 2P7

Phone: 905-278-1811 Fax: 905-278-1176

Email – [stlukes@eol.ca](mailto:stlukes@eol.ca)

Web Page – [www.stlukemississauga.ca](http://www.stlukemississauga.ca)

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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 risen Lord!

It all started with a very simple question quite innocently asked; “Did you see the unmarked police car parked just over there looking for speeders?”

I was in a public place with two other people. We were each hooked up to identical machines being treated for our individual aches and pains. Don't worry, this is not about my aches and pains; rather it is about the diatribe that I was privy to and my subsequent reflections on what I heard.

As I said, it all started with a very simple question! But it went down hill from there! With no small degree of rancor the most vocal (not to mention highly opinionated) of my “room mates” quickly responded. It went something like this:

“Yeah, I sure did. What right does that cop have to sit there anyway! Ya know, I was coming here one day and I was in the left lane and I needed to be in the right lane to turn into the driveway and there was another car right there beside me so I had to speed up to get in front of him so I could turn in here. Right back there, you know, where the speed goes from 50 to 40. Well, I sped up and there was a stupid cop sitting there. Lucky thing I pulled in here because I bet that “*mild expletive*” cop would have given me a ticket all because that guy was in my way! When I walked in here my heart was racing and I could hardly breathe - stupid cop. Someone should go out there and tell him that he can't sit there.”

Without missing a beat and seemingly quite unconcerned if anyone was actually listening, the same person shifted into overdrive and continued: “And you know, I had to go over here to the hospital for some tests and I parked at Sherway Gardens. When I came back, there was a stupid *Green Horn* (I am quite sure they meant *Green Hornet* but misspoke - numerous times) who gave me a ticket for thirty bucks! I mean really! Thirty bucks! I asked him what for and he just pointed to those signs they have that says that its private property. Who ever pays any attention to them, anyway? So I asked him if he was joking and he went all Cop on me asking me where I had just come from, as if he didn't know. He must have been spying on me! Thirty bucks...it would've only cost me five if I had parked at the hospital!”

I'll spare you the part when this person started to criticize (actually condemn) the poor man who was simply doing his job. The condemnation became denigration with spurious cultural slurs, accusations of low intelligence and pontification about how all “*Green Horns*” get some warped pleasure in picking on “innocent” people - and it was clear that they thought they were one of the innocent people.

This person found they were in the wrong lane and blamed the other driver for making them speed up to pull in front (not realizing that they could well have slowed down and pulled in behind!). Speeding up causing them to exceed the speed limit but they blamed the police officer for all the anxiety they felt about nearly getting a ticket. To save \$5.00 they knowingly parked where they should not have and when they received a ticket they not only blamed the issuer of the ticket, they spoke disparagingly about him on many levels. I don't know their story but for some reason this person could not accept responsibility for their own actions. Rather, they found it easier to blame others for things that they themselves could well have changed. Blaming others was easier than reflecting on and modifying their own actions.

So, to my point! Being able to reflect on our own actions and behaviors is, I believe, essential for us as individuals who follow the Christ and for us as a Christian community. It is an easy trap to fall into, to blame others for our failures or our shortcomings. But we are not called to take the easy road – certainly Jesus did not take the easy road. I pray that as we, the people of God here at Saint Luke's, move into the future to which God is calling us, we may openly and honestly reflect on who we are and who we ought to be. I pray that we may acknowledge our strengths and celebrate our successes but also that we will equally acknowledge our shortcomings and learn from our failures that we may take the responsibility that is ours and become fully the people God calls us to be. It might not be the easy way but I think it is Christ's way!

## WARDEN'S REPORT

It is with great sadness I report that Alf Chink has resigned both as a warden and as a member of St. Luke's. Alf has been a great asset to this church; giving freely of his time to work on a great number of projects within the building, on the grounds and in business matters. We wish Alf and Norma all the very best and God's peace wherever they go.

We are currently discussing options for the restructure of the wardens at St. Luke's. I expect to be able to make an announcement soon and begin to consider the possibilities for the exciting year ahead of us all.

Respectfully submitted,  
Philip Shilton  
On behalf of the Wardens.

## **OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Palm Sunday Hot Cross Bun fundraiser provided \$176.00 towards our Faithworks commitment. Again we thank Chris and Stacey's No Frills for their donation of the Hot Cross Buns.

The next outreach event will be the **Multicultural Pot Luck Supper** to be held on **Saturday May 30<sup>th</sup>** beginning at 5:30 pm. Watch for details in the Sunday bulletins and posters throughout the building. Come and enjoy!

Good news!!! As of the end of April the Outreach Account balance is \$1,486.

### A Few Reminders

Kindly return all "Lenten Reading" books to the table located in the Parish Hall when you have finished reading them.

Remember to continue to fill up the Food Bank Chest with non-perishable foods. The need is especially great in these times of economic difficulties.

### Thank You

Thank you to those hearty souls who continue to install the new windows in the Church. They really look great. Just a reminder – donations to the cost of the new windows are most welcome.

## St. Luke's Parish Meetings March Forward

On Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> the third in a series of Parish meetings was held to discuss the results of our April meeting, especially the report back on our "*indaba discussion*" where everyone was given the opportunity to speak and then to discover common threads of what might be the path of moving forward for St. Luke's. These results will be reported in the next issue of "The Beacon".

The next parish meeting will be held on  
**SATURDAY, MAY 23**  
8:00 am for a delicious breakfast  
9:00 am the meeting begins.

Discussions are becoming quite exciting as we begin to look forward into the future and try to discern what God's plans are for the parish of  
St. Luke's, Dixie Road.

## **SENIORS LUNCHEON – May 21**

**Our last Seniors' Luncheon before the summer breaks will be held on THURSDAY, MAY 21, 12 noon at Gordon Graydon Secondary School "Skylight Café". A hot 3 course meal is served for \$7.50 per person. Baked goods will be available for purchase after the meal and can be ordered in advance. Please call Ellen Shilton at 905276-7443 between May 1<sup>st</sup> and May 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**Also, our dear friend and hostess Norma Chink has asked to be relieved of her duties at this time. She has been a valuable help to ensuring our Seniors' Luncheons run smoothly, and her kind and cheerful welcome to each guest, her concern for their comfort and satisfaction has made her a fine ambassador for Jesus AND St. Luke's. We will miss her, but extend our heartfelt thanks for her service and wish her God's Blessings.**

**Thanks Norma.**

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**MONEY FOR MINISTRY**  
**On The Plate – the 2009 Target**

Each week the Sunday Bulletin shows the total regular envelope offering (including Pre -Authorized Giving) received the previous Sunday, and relates it to our weekly Budget Target.

**How have we done in the first part of 2009?**

Regular envelope offerings received to the end of March were \$35,663 or 21% of the annual target.

Offerings improved significantly in April, with the celebration of Easter. Total regular envelope offerings to the end of April totaled \$51,149 or 30% of the annual target.

Last year, to the end of April 2008, regular offerings had totaled \$57,690 so we are trailing the 2008 pace by about 11%.

**What is the target for the rest of the year?**

In February, the Annual Vestry Meeting approved a balanced budget based on a target of **\$170,000** for regular envelope offerings. Last year, regular envelope offerings had been slightly higher (\$172,564). To reach the required \$170,000 for 2009 the regular offerings for May -December will have to total at least \$118,851. December regular offerings are usually about \$25,000, so  $\$118,151 - \$25,000 = \$93,151$  – the amount needed in the 31 Sundays from May 1 to Nov. 30. That averages to \$3,000 per week, which will be the basis of the weekly smiles and frowns bulletin entries for May through September.

Let us continue to pray that our parishioners will continue to respond generously. We all want St. Luke's to be secure financially so that we, the parish can continue to know Christ and to make Him known in worship, fellowship and service.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ian Thompson, Treasurer.

## **St. Luke's Annual Yard Sale**

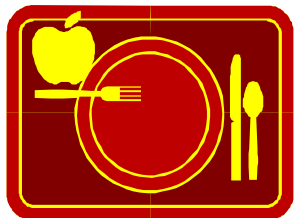
**Saturday, June 6, 2009**  
**8:00 am till 2:00 pm**

**Here is your opportunity to clear out your cupboards, your basement, and your garage and contribute your unused or unneeded treasures to the St. Luke's Annual Yard Sale.**

**Your treasures can be brought to the Church Tuesday, June 2 through Friday, June 5 between 9:00 am and 8:00 pm. If special arrangements need to be made for people to donate items, they can telephone the church office at 905-278-1811.**

Also, don't forget to come out on the sale day to purchase new and, of course, needed items.

### THE OPEN DOOR



St. Luke's has been asked to provide a meal for Open Door on **Thursday, May 21, 2009**. Open Door is a drop-in center at Square One for anyone in need of help. A dinner is provided every Thursday night by the various churches in Mississauga. Please sign the sheet in the parish Hall to bring food to the Church by 12:00 noon on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Cash donations are also needed to be sure we have enough food for everyone. For more information contact Grace Harte.

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### ANOTHER WAY TO HELP CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD

Beginning Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> a box will be provided in the parish hall to collect clean and dry large outer plastic bags from the three litre size milk containers. These bags will be used to weave sleeping mats for God's children in third world countries. It takes 250 bags to weave one mat.

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### EVERY WEEK AT ST. LUKE'S

Every Sunday	8:30 am 10:30 am	Holy Eucharist– Coffee Hour Holy Eucharist– Coffee Hour-Church School-Nursery
Every Wed.	9:15 am 10:00 am 7:30 pm	Mid-Week Eucharist Bible Study Bible Study– Life in the Early Church (till May 27)
Every Thursday	9:30 am 7:30 pm	Joy in the Morning Bible Study Joy Music

### SPECIAL EVENTS

Monday, May 4	7:15 pm	Advisory Council
Tuesday May 5 & 19	1:30 pm	Dorcus Meetings
Sunday, May 10		Ministry of Healing following the 10:30 Service
Saturday, May 23	8:00 am	PARISH MEETING
Saturday, May 30	5:30 pm	Multi-Cultural Pot Luck Dinner
Sunday, May 31	8:30 & 10:30 am	The Feast of Pentecost

### LOOKING AHEAD

Saturday, June 6	8:00 am	ST. LUKE'S ANNUAL YARD SALE
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**Saturday, June 27**

**8:00 am**

**BREAKFAST and PARISH MEETING**