



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 Sister's and Brother's in Christ,
Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A few weeks ago I heard a story which I have shared with some of you. I think it is a good story so I have chosen to impose it on all of you through this letter.

A man, recently retired from the Canadian Navy, decided to take a job at a local Walmart as a greeter. He took to the new role extremely well and was well liked by young and old alike as he welcomed people to the store as they entered. The only problem was that he was always late for work. Though he was the consummate Walmart greeter he was unfailingly late by twenty or thirty minutes each and every day.

After a couple of weeks his tardiness caught up with him and he was called into the managers office "You know," said the manager, "you are the best greeter I have ever seen. Everybody thinks you are wonderful and you treat everybody with respect. But you are always late for work!" "I know." responded the recent retiree. "I know I'm always late but I really would welcome the chance to improve and really be part of this team. "Well," responded the manager, "you really are great at the job and I am pleased that you want to be part of the team. But, you will really have to pull up your socks regarding this lateness issue. You know," the manager continued, "I'm actually surprised. You were in the Navy all your adult life and in the Navy there all sorts of rules and regulations, all sorts of routines and regimentation. What did the people you worked with in the Navy say to you when you came in late every morning?" "Oh," said the retiree, "they said 'Good morning Admiral. Would you like coffee this morning?'"

Each of us has past experiences. Each of us has a history that is ours alone, unique and exclusive. For each of us our lives are shaped and formed by our histories and lived experiences. And just like the Navy retiree in the story, sometimes our life experiences cause us some difficulties in our present positions and places in life.

Jesus recognized this reality of human experience, and more, he understood it. He understood that sometimes our lived experience gets in the way of the present reality that we so deeply long to be part of, that is, the present reality of belonging to God and being fully children of God in Gods kingdom. He understood when he called the disciples to follow him. He understood when he told the rich young man to sell all he had and give the money to the poor. He understood when he encountered the woman from Samaria at the well. He understood when he wept over Jerusalem and when he healed Baritmaeus and many others. He understood when he fed the five thousand and when he ate and drank with outcasts and sinners. And he understands you and me!

Yes, Jesus understands and in my human way of thinking his understanding is more than I could ask for or imagine. But Jesus goes further. Not only does he understand the shape and form of our lives, he invites us and shows us the way into a new life, life in the Kingdom of God. As he hung on the cross our Lord certainly understood the lived experiences of the criminals who hung on crosses on either side of him. But then he spoke those wonderful and eternal words of hope to the one criminal who was open to the transforming power of God's grace, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23:43).

May we all be open to the transforming power of God's grace made known in the understanding of our Lord and through his invitation to be fellow heirs of the Kingdom of God.

Your brother in Christ,
Richard+

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome to St. Luke's



Sunday, October 18th the Parish of St. Luke's welcomed **Timothy Isherwood** as our organist.

Timothy is a musician and composer who lives in Toronto. He grew up in a musical environment – his mother as piano teacher and attending St. Michael's Choir School touring across North America. He has been playing the organ and directing choirs in various churches for the past 20 years. During the week Tim works as a composer at a music production company. He is delighted to be so warmly welcomed into the St. Luke's Community.

We also welcome into our midst **Karen Dwyer** as the parish Administrative Assistant. Karen's office hours are as follows:

Mondays – 9 am till 1 pm
Wednesdays – 9 am till 4 pm
Fridays – 9 am till 1 pm.

Karen can be reached at the parish telephone number 905-278-1811 or by email stlukes@eol.ca during these hours. At other times messages left on the answering machine will be responded to as promptly as possible.

SENIORS' LUNCHEON

The next Seniors' Luncheon will be held on **Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2009; 11:45 am – 1:15 pm**. A three course meal is served, including salad, hot entrée, dessert, tea and coffee for #8.00 per person. To be held at Gordon Graydon Secondary School "Skylight Café", 1490 Ogden Avenue. To reserve a seat please call Ellen Shilton at 905- 276-7443 **BEFORE Sunday, Nov. 15th**. Rides available upon request.

The Church School has once again put together cutlery and napkin sets for "The Open Door Dinner" on November 5th at Square One.

Ditty Bags: We wish to thank all those who have donated toiletries. We continue to collect items and at this point especially welcome toothbrushes and small tubes of toothpaste. We hope to have another fifty bags ready before Christmas.

Operation Christmas Child boxes are due on November 15th. The Church School will be making up a couple of boxes, but we encourage each family to fill at least one box of their own. You may put a photo of yourselves inside. See article on page three for further details on this project.

**IMPORTANT DATE: Friday, November 27
7 to 9 pm**

Making Advent Wreaths and Calendars

Please sign up not later than Nov. 22nd on the sheet in the church hall so that we will have enough materials for the wreaths, as we will be making our own wreaths and calendars, one each per household. Everyone is welcome including individuals and couples. If you are able to assist us that night, please put your name on the sheet.

Many thanks to Grace for the bright, inventive, teaching boards and to Jo Ann for once again this year leading us in singing and signing!

Janet, Justin and Rosemary.

The Ministry of Healing will be offered following the 10:30 am service on Sunday, November 15th.

Notes from "The Groups"

Pastoral Care: The Pastoral Care Box which was dedicated in September is now operational. If you have a pastoral need such as a friendly visit, a social service contact, a telephone call, shut in Holy Communion, talk with a priest, pastoral counseling or prayers, complete the green card located with the box and place inside the locked box. It will be handled with much loving care and confidentiality.

Worship: The Worship Group continues to meet regularly. Young people in the parish continue to train as servers under the expert training of Carol Logan-Tonge.

"Back to Church Sunday" was an exciting and happy event in the life of the parish. Some of our guests on that day are now settling into our parish life.

The main agenda item of our latest meeting was a discussion around how St. Luke's will celebrate the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Season. More about this in the next issue of the Beacon.

Milk Bags

Thank you for your great response in collecting these bags. We have more than enough to finish the project so we will not be collecting more. Two mats from our congregation will be made, plus over 2,000 bags were cut, tied and made into balls.

Lois Marshall.

The Parish continues to collect non-perishable food for our local food bank –

place your donations in the Food Chest located in the Parish Hall

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

The Church School welcomes all the Church family to participate in our exciting project

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Again this year we are encouraging everyone to share Christ with a needy child by using a simple shoe box! Special boxes are available at the church but an ordinary unwrapped shoe box or a plastic one of that size can be used. Your box this year will reach a child in South American or Eastern Europe. This is a project of Samaritan's Purse led by Franklin Graham. People all across the country are filling shoe boxes for children in troubled countries. This is how you do it: choose the age of a child and place the label found on the brochure on the top of the box: Girl or boy (2-4yrs. 5-9 yrs. or 10-14 yrs.) Fill the box with gifts suggested below and if possible include an envelope with \$7. to cover costs. Then return the box to the church on or before November 15th.

Gift Ideas:

School supplies: pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, pencil crayons, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, colouring books, etc.

Toys: small cars, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yo, skipping ropes, balls, etc.

Hygiene items: Toothbrush, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag) comb, washcloth.

Other: wrapped hard candy, T-shirts, caps, socks, sunglasses, toy jewelry, hair clips etc.

Please do not include: toothpaste, liquids that would leak or freeze, food, used items, breakable items of anything that might scare a child (ie: knives, war related toys, toy guns) etc.

Complete details are outlines on the poster in the parish hall. Brochures and boxes will be available at all services. For further details contact Lois Marshall at 905-275-0777.

**RETURN FILLED BOXES BY
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH.**

Outreach Report

The "Feast of St. Luke" dinner held Saturday, Oct. 17th was a great success with 112 in attendance enjoying a scrumptious dinner and wonderful fellowship. Many thanks to all who helped make this happen – cooks, clean up crew etc. A special thank you to "Chris and Stacey"'s No Frills", Dixie Outlet Mall for their generosity providing all the staples. After expenses monies raised for Outreach Projects was \$634.00

Updates: We can now report that proceeds from "The Outreach Walk" totaled \$1,960.00 again for our Outreach Projects.

As of October 21st our Outreach Account Balance is \$4,400.00

November at St. Luke's Weekly Events

Every Sunday	8:30 am	Holy Communion – Coffee Hour
	10:30 am	Eucharist – Church School, Nursery, Coffee Hour
Every Wednesday	9:15 am	Mid-week Communion
	10:00 am	Bible Study
	7:30 pm	Bible Study
Every Thursday	9:30 am	Joy in the Morning Study Group
	7:30 pm	Joy Music Team
		Special Events
Mon. Nov. 2	7:15 pm	Parish Advisory Committee
Tues. Nov. 3 & 17	1:30 pm	Dorcas Group
Sunday, Nov. 8		Remembrance Day Sunday at St. Luke's
Thurs. Nov. 12	1:30 pm	Threads of Love
Sunday, Nov. 15		RETURN YOUR "OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD" BOXES.
Sunday, Nov. 22	10:30 am	Baptism Soup and Sandwich Sunday – Outreach Project
Mon. Nov. 23		Chancel Guild Annual General Meeting

Friday, Nov. 27
Wreath.

7:00 pm Family Night – Make your Advent Calendar and

Sunday, Nov. 29

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT