

The Beacon – The Anglican Church of St. Luke

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Volume 55 – Number 8 – September 2011

Affecting Hearts – Engaging Minds – Connecting Spirits – Welcoming All

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Remember the article I wrote for the Beacon last June? It was about a little boy and his mother near the “Freshly Squeezed” booth at the Dixie Mall. The little boy was reaching for the fruit that was on the counter; he was reaching for something good, something he longed for. Then along came Mom who scooped him up and carried him away from that good stuff.

When I wrote that story I thought about times when something carried me away from something I thought was good, even times when something has carried me away from God and God seemed to be getting further and further away from me. I had to ask, “If we are truly reaching out for God, why would God allow us to be carried away?” and “Wouldn’t God draw us closer rather than letting us get drawn further away?”

At the conclusion of that June letter I mentioned that I had thought a lot about that little boy, his reaching out for what he thought was good and his mother, who carried him away. That thinking, I mentioned, had led me to another possible way of thinking, another way of using those events as a way of thinking about God and about how God cares for us. I said that that was for next time and “the next time” has arrived, so here it is. Here is an alternative way of using the story of the little boy, the good fruit and the mother.

Perhaps my thinking was off.

Imagine now, if you will, that the mother of this little boy can be seen as an analogy for God rather than for those forces which draw us away from God. Yes, in our eyes and in our human understanding there are many things that we long for and that we reach out for thinking that they are wonderful, that they are good and even, perhaps that they are divine. The thing is they are not divine, that they are not God, those things we mistake to be so. They may be wonderful, they may be good, but

they are not God. Wow, there we are. Reaching, longing, yearning with all our hearts and then suddenly we are scooped up and carried away as our arms continue to reach out to that which we think is God and the object of our desire gets smaller and smaller as it gets further and further away until it is gone from our sight and we think that we have been torn away from God, that not only has God been taken out of our reach, God is no longer even visible.

I’ve been there! It is not a nice place to be until we stop looking back and begin to look at that force that is carrying us. And there is God, holding us and taking us where we should go rather than allowing us to wander off to where we think we should be going or to where our human desires draw us to go. There is God, carrying us, loving us, nurturing us.

Many years ago I wrote this poem – it was the first time I came to the realization that God was actually holding me when I was longing and reaching out for false gods:

Though I put you from my mind I turned and saw you by
my side,

Your love for strength, your hand to guide, patiently
waiting by my side.

So easily we can get distracted or side-tracked and allow ourselves to put the divine out of our minds, allowing the false gods to take the place of the true God who is there beside us, holding us, carrying us, loving us and guiding us. I pray that we will have the courage and boldness to cease looking back at what we think is divine and to look right there beside us and see the true and only God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Please say a prayer for that little boy and his mother.
Blessings in the love of God,

Rev. Ric Miller

SIX GROUPS – SIX OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY

During the spring of 2009 a group of parishioners met with our incumbent, the Rev. Ric Miller, to look at recent developments in church organization and how it will affect our parish. Bev Holdgate was our Process Consultant. By the end of this series we decided that a possible way to organize for future growth and development in our parish was through the establishment of a number of groups to work at the various ministries necessary in this parish. We divided ourselves into five groups which have been meeting over the past two years. This article is a brief report of where we are in this process today. New members are always welcome. If interested please contact Joanne at the Church Office, 905-278-1811 or email stlukes@eol.ca.



The Worship Group meets regularly and has made a number of suggestions regarding our worship. A small group of servers was started.

Other initiatives included the Good Friday and Palm Sunday outdoor processions; the Christmas caroling around the neighbourhood; All Saints Day photo's of the saints in our lives; the summer BBQ's and hymn sing; involving more lay people in leadership roles; the outdoor service which coincided with the Church School Picnic. We also collaborated with the Church school for the children's Good Friday events. A new hymn book fund has begun to replace our pew hymn books with the new 'Common Praise' Anglican Hymn Book. Hopefully, this project will be completed by the fall. Donations for these books may be made through the Church Office, \$25 for words only, \$30 for words and music. These books may be given as memorials or thank offerings.



Pastoral Care: This group meets monthly and looks at the various ways we can help one another in our parish. A Box for Pastoral Care requests was established but was soon found

that it was not being used and has been discontinued. A newcomers and information card is in the process of being prepared for the church pews and new racks will be installed to hold these cards. We have established a Pray Chain for the parish with twelve people praying daily for various parish and personal needs; training for Pastoral Visitors (most shut-ins now have a pastoral visitor); planned a successful seniors' day last fall; established a group to work out a process for Baptisms at St. Luke's. This group has prepared a brochure on Baptism which is also posted on the web page and established some parish sponsors (it is our hope that every child or adult baptized at St. Luke's will have a parish sponsor). It has asked the Teaching/Learning Group to prepare a two-part series for Baptismal Preparations.



Welcoming: prepared the parish name tags and looks after these each Sunday. It is concerned with the sides-people and parish greeters. It is responsible for most of the photographs on the Bulletin Boards. They are working on placing new pew cards into our new pew holders, securing a table for brochures and providing activity sheets for children. They are looking at ways to change the Sunday Bulletin to make it more user-friendly. They meet as required.



Teaching/Learning is responsible for all educational events in the parish. It is presently working on a Baptismal Preparation Course. It was also responsible

for the updating and installation of our very attractive bulletin boards. All information on these boards will be the responsibility of this group. They are planning a microphone awareness session for Saturday October 22nd at 9:00 am. All most welcome. Also, they are reviewing all church signage. This group meets as needed.



Proclaiming: It is responsible for the Advent and Lent study books which have been made available each year. They meet as needed.



A sixth group has been added to our Ministries Groups. It was decided that **Outreach** is part of our parish ministries. This group is responsible for the ministry outside our parish doors primarily by raising funds to help various needs in our community. It sponsors the annual Parish Walk each fall, the pancake supper, Palm Sunday Hot Cross Buns after church, a soup and sandwich lunch, the St. Luke's dinner, the multicultural dinner, a movie night and parish catering. They meet in January to plan the program for the year. Also the book sale last spring raised money for this work. This may become an annual event. They help maintain the many activities in our parish providing much needed social events as well as the outreach fund raising.

Each group has used the services of John Lanari to develop their mandate to help focus their ministry and evaluate the work accomplished. These mandates will be made available to the whole parish soon. Watch the Bulletin Boards. All groups have now finished their mandate. Thank you John!

Again, may we suggest every parishioner consider belonging to one of these groups? You will find the work satisfying and worth-while as we try to evolve new and exciting ways to do ministry in this parish. It will give you a new insight into our parish life as together we serve our Lord Jesus Christ in this community.

FLOWER MINISTRY

Calling all flower lovers! Do you enjoy bringing joy to others by giving them flowers? Here is an opportunity to share the joy, “say it with flowers”, without costing you a cent – only a few minutes of your time occasionally. The Caring Ministry team, in conjunction with the Altar Guild, is looking for volunteers to deliver flowers from the altar following the 10:30 am service on occasional



Sundays. All it requires is for you to pick up the flowers after the service and drop them off at the home of the designated recipient.

You are not required to stay and visit – just to offer the flowers on behalf of St. Luke’s. Hopefully a team of volunteers would come forward to share the load, in which case you would be scheduled to deliver once a month, or once every six weeks, depending on the response. For more information, of if you are willing to help out, please speak to Ellen Shilton or Barbara Douglas. We will begin the flower ministry this fall. Pray and ask if God is perhaps calling you to serve! *The Caring Ministry Group.*

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SENIORS’ LUNCHEONS

Once again the monthly Seniors’ Luncheon at Gordon Graydon will be starting up in October. Watch for the next Beacon and Sunday bulletins for dates and times.

Ellen Shilton

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Please note: The Seniors’ Awareness Day planned for Tuesday, September 27th will not take place as scheduled.

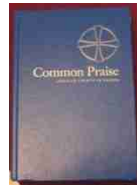
OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: Again this year St. Luke’s will participate in the Operation Christmas Child programme providing shoe boxes filled with gifts of school supplies, toys, and small articles of clothing for children in need around the world. This is a great time to pick up school supplies for your box. More details will follow.

Ministry of Healing

The ministry of healing will be offered at both services on Sunday, September 18, and Sunday, October 23^d.

A New Blue Hymn Book

It is great to report that as of this week we have received donations to cover the cost of 118 “words only” and 7 “words and music” copies of the most recent hymn book “Common Praise”. As



mentioned in the summer issue of the Beacon, members of the congregation are invited to donate the cost of these books in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving.

The “words only” cost \$25.00 and the “words and music” cost \$30.00. Envelopes

containing all the information and providing space for book plate information are available on the table at the back of the Church.

Electronics Recycling – Year Round

Thanks to the overwhelming success of the electronic waste collection events, St. Luke's has committed to diverting electronic waste from landfill year round. We encouraged you to bring your old electronics from home or work for free and secure recycling through Sims Recycling Solutions. A collection bag has been set up near the rear door to the church for regular collection.

St. Luke's will receive free pick up and a credit of \$165.00 per metric tonne for the e-waste collected. Any product with a plug or a battery is welcome to be recycled through this program. Sims asks that you please **DO NOT** bring smoke detectors, loose batteries or products containing freon such as water coolers, mini fridges and window air conditioners. Did you know???? For every tonne of electronic waste recycled, St Luke's will prevent the mining of 100,000 tonnes of raw material! For more information regarding the recycling program, please visit www.recycleyourelectronics.ca



OCT. 2- Fall Concert: A Harvest of Music - Performances by four up-and-coming Mississauga Ensembles:

Falgarwood Brass Quintet, Eufouria Vocal Jazz Quartet, Sound Harbour Wind Quintet, and Two Degrees of Separation Flute/Piano Trio Proceeds to the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada and PWRDF Famine Relief 7:30 p.m., Church of St. Luke, 1513

Dixie Road, Mississauga, south of the QEW, Information and Ticket Orders: Call (905) 278-1811 or email stlukes@eol.ca . Tickets: Adults: \$15.

Students: \$5.



Fall Events At St. Luke's

Thurs. Sept. 8		9:30 am 7:30 pm	Joy in the Morning Joy Music rehearsal
Sunday, Sept. 11		8:30 am 10:30 am	Eucharist – Coffee Hour Eucharist-Church School, Nursery, Coffee Hour
Mon. Sept. 12		7:30 pm	Worship Group– Parish Hall
Wed. Sept. 14		9:15 am 10:00 am 12:30 pm 2:00 pm	Mid Week Eucharist Bible Study Pastoral Visitors Meeting Pastoral Care Meeting
Sunday, Sept. 18		Following 10:30 am	Service– Outreach Walk
Tues. Sept. 20		1:30 pm	Dorcas Group-also Oct. 4 and Oct. 18
Sat. Sept. 24		9:00 am	The Group of Six Meeting-Parish Hall
Sunday, Sept 25		8:30 & 10:30 am	BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY -Invite a friend, a relative, a neighbour to attend church with you on this special day!
Sunday, Oct. 2		8:30 & 10:30 am	HARVEST FESTIVAL - The Chancel Guild will welcome donations of Fruit and vegetables to decorate the church and all are encouraged to bring non-perishable food for our Food Bank Chest. Guest Preacher at 10:30 am service: Lynne Culham, Executive Director of the Open Door Ministry at Square One.
		7:30 pm	Fall Concert at St. Luke's-see page 3 for details
Saturday, Oct. 22		6:00 pm	Parish Dinner celebrating our Patronal Festival
Sunday, Oct. 23		8:30 & 10:30 am	ST. LUKE'S PATRONAL FESTIVAL Guest Preacher at 10:30 am – The Rev. Douglas Graydon, Chair of the Hospital Chaplaincy Committee, Diocese of Toronto.
Sunday, Oct. 30		8:30 & 10:30 am	ALL SAINT'S DAY
Sunday, Nov. 13		8:30 & 10:30 am	REMRBRANCE SUNDAY

