



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

Web Page – www.stlukemississauga.ca

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To Know Christ and to make Him known in Worship, Fellowship and Service.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

This past week I spent about thirty-six hours on the shores of Kempenfelt Bay at a clergy retreat. There were about fifty clergy of various ages and stages of ministry along with our Area Bishop Philip Poole and our Diocesan Bishop Colin Johnson. My room was very comfortable and the food was plentiful and as always, quite wonderful. And though it was rainy most of the day on Monday, the sun came out a bit on Tuesday and we were able to sit outside for a little while. All in all it was a very nice time apart.

But retreats are not just about getting away, or comfortable beds or good food and good company. Retreats are times of prayer, times of quite meditation and times of study. Although there was not really an official theme for the retreat a theme kept cropping into my mind. As we met in small groups for Bible Study, as we listened to two young priests talk about their hopes for ministry and about the surprises in ministry that they had experienced and as I listened to two senior clergy, one having just retired and the other just about to retire, my personal theme kept popping into my mind. My personal theme was quite simply “The Kingdom of God”.

Now I admit, there is nothing simple about the Kingdom of God if you are going to talk about it with deep and profound words of theology. Certainly I cannot claim to understand the fullness of the Kingdom of God; not its height, nor its depth and nor its breadth. But what I could not stop thinking about was that it was the Kingdom of God that Jesus taught about and preached about. It is the Kingdom of God that he came to proclaim was near, was at hand and was open for

those with eyes to see, ears to hear and hearts to believe. Jesus came to open to us God’s Kingdom where righteousness, mercy, love, forgiveness and inclusion prevail over all things.

The Kingdom of God, not the Church— that is what Jesus proclaimed, that is what Jesus lived and that is what Jesus invites us to live out in our world.

Being the Church is easy, after all we have been doing it for two thousand years. But, being a Kingdom people is not so easy; at least for me it’s not. Yet, over the few hours of this retreat I became increasingly convicted that I must find ways to live out the Kingdom and I must strive to invite people into the Kingdom— not just into the Church.

How I might do that and how we as God’s People might do that remains to be seen. But I am convinced that everything we do should teach the Kingdom, preach the Kingdom, proclaim the Kingdom and invite people into the Kingdom.

Being the Church is easy: we have it down pat. Being the People of the Kingdom is an entirely different thing, it’s the more difficult road, I know. But that is what we are called to be and that is the road we are called to walk.

Together let’s stop worrying so much about the Church and let’s start being the Kingdom! It is what Jesus calls us to be!

Behold, the Kingdom of God is at hand. Alleluia!

Ric Miller Incumbent

THE REPORTS FROM THE GROUPS

TEACHING AND LEARNING: *what does it mean to be a teaching/learning church? What are the benefits of being a teaching/learning church? What are the drawbacks of being a teaching/learning church?*

Do these questions sound familiar? If so it is because they were on the parish questionnaire we were all asked to fill out last May. In typical St. Luke's fashion, people responded with thoughtfulness and insight. Then, participants at the Parish Visioning Meeting on May 23 were invited to gather in small groups to consider the answers people had submitted. A lively discussion ensued and the Teaching/Learning Group was born.

Since May 23 we have met four times. Three of those meetings have focused on issues arising from the parish questionnaire and meetings, and the new priorities that have emerged from our own discussions. One of our meetings was an actual hands-on work party. It has been interesting to observe how our discussions have often overlapped with the concerns of other parish groups. When that has been noted we have contacted the others to advise them of our discussions. Ric has told us that the same phenomenon has been occurring in the other groups. The Spirit moves in surprising ways?

Initially, our discussions of teaching and learning led us in an interesting direction. We found ourselves wondering what messages we were teaching about God and ourselves by the condition of our facilities, particularly the walls of our fellowship hall. What did people learn about life in Christ just by reading bulletin boards and looking around inside the building? We had heard reports from local residents of their interest in the changing messages on our new outdoor sign. What would people think, we wondered, if they should actually come in to see what St. Luke's is all about?

There was a group consensus that we could do better. We needed to clear up the clutter and to make our wall space and bulletin boards more attractive and informative to parishioners and visitors alike. Hence, the work party. We removed tired old balloons, streamers, and loose wires. We moved the old pamphlet rack into

storage, and created in its place a St. Luke's wall display. We removed old signs that had outlived their purpose and put up new bulletin boards destined to serve new purposes. In addition, we have begun the huge task of de-cluttering and repurposing the music rooms. But, as they say, Rome wasn't built in a day. There is still much to do.

Our more traditional discussions of teaching and learning concerned how we could better support our church school staff and students, and how we could offer adult learning opportunities. From these talks came a new, year-at-a-glance St. Luke's Activity Calendar to help us coordinate our planning. A requisite Sexual Misconduct Policy Workshop is being offered in October. The "Via Media" adult Christian education programme is being investigated. Marriage and Baptismal Preparation and Follow-up are on our upcoming agendas for discussion, as is an opportunity for the Church School Staff to share concerns and resources with those from other churches.

As one of our members sagely remarked, up to now we have been drinking from the fire hose", entertaining a broad spectrum of issues connected with teaching and learning. However, we now feel the need to agree on the purview of the Teaching/Learning group, and to discover God's priorities and next steps. In this work of discernment we seek the ongoing prayerful support of the congregation. Nancy Gibbons Group Members: The Rev. Ric Miller, Bob Gibbons, John Lanari, Philip Shilton, Rosemary Vezina.

WORSHIP: The Worship Group continues to support the Rector in planning rich and meaningful Worship Services at St. Luke's. Youth members are beginning training as servers under the careful tutoring of Carol Logan-Tonge. During the service the Bread and Wine will be brought to the altar by members of the congregation just prior to the receiving of the offering by the sidespeople. The group is also examining ways to enrich our special services – ie. Harvest, St. Luke's Day services, All Saints etc.

PASTORAL CARE: The Pastoral Care Box which was dedicated in early September will become operational on Sunday, Oct. 18 (St. Luke's day – how appropriate!). If you have a pastoral concern or prayer need, please complete a simple form available at the box and place it in

the locked box. It will be handled with much loving care and confidentiality. The Pastoral Care Group.

OCTOBER SENIORS LUNCHEON

The next Seniors' luncheon: (note new day!) Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2009 12:00 – 1:15 pm. A three course meal 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 Ave. To reserve a seat please call Ellen Shilton at 905-276-7443 BEFORE Sunday Oct. 18. Rides available upon request.

Also

GORDON GRAYDON SECONDARY SCHOOL BURSARY: Each year St. Luke's awards a \$500. bursary to a student in the Hospitality Programme who is going on to post-secondary education. Contributions to the Bursary may be placed on the offering plate clearly marked "Bursary Fund". This bursary is a marvellous way for the parish of St. Luke to reach out into our neighbourhood and to especially assist a youth in our community.

I Was Lost, but now I'm Found (MAYBE!)

Dear friends: The following books are missing from my personal library. They were part of the church library table during Lent. If you have one of these books please let me know. No fines will be applied!!!



- 1. N.T. Wright The Last Word
- 2. Anne Rice Christ the Lord
- 3. Mark Pearson Christian Healing
- 4. Tom Wright The Crown and the Fire
- 5. Neil Lightfoot How we got the Bible
- 6. Ann Jervis At the Heart of the Gospel

Many thanks,
Don Beatty

THE MINISTRY OF HEALING WILL BE OFFERED FOLLOWING THE 10:30 AM SERVICE ON ST. LUKE'S DAY, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18TH.

It is "OPEN DOOR" time again!

As most of you know, "Open Door" at Square One provides a dinner every Thursday evening for approximately fifty needy people. St. Luke's Church has committed to provide a meal for "Open Door" on Thursday, November 5, 2009. Please help by contributing food for the Thursday dinner and Sign-Up on the sheet in the Parish Hall. Food should be brought to the church by 12:00 noon on November 5th. Cash donations are also needed to be sure we have enough food for everyone. For more information contact Grace Harte.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

A big part of our Harvest Thanksgiving celebrations is the decorating of the Church with the fruits and vegetables. We are blessed to live in a country where our harvest is rich and plentiful. Let's celebrate our bounty by bringing fruits and vegetables (or non perishable food for the Food Bank) to the church on Friday, October 2nd. or before 10:30 am on Saturday October 3rd. Members of our Chancel Guild will happily decorate our Church with your gifts.

FALL BIBLE STUDY
The Fall Bible Study, under the leadership of Captain Walter Marshall will begin Wednesday,

October 14, 7:30 pm in the Vine Room, Chapel.

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St. Luke's Patronal Festival

The parish of St. Luke will celebrate its Patronal Festival Saturday, October 17th and Sunday, October 18th. SATURDAY, OCT. 17 there will be a special Parish Dinner beginning at 6:00 pm. Tickets for the Roast Beef and Chicken Dinner are: Adults \$10. Students 13-18 \$5.00, children under 12 \$2.00. Tickets are available from June Bruce (8:30 service) and Marilyn Lutes (10:30 service).

On SUNDAY, OCT. 18 we will honour our Patron Saint, Luke the Evangelist and Physician at our two morning services.

EVERY WEEK AT ST. LUKES

Every Sunday	8:30 am	Holy Eucharist – Coffee Hour
	10:30 am	Holy Eucharist- Coffee Hour, Church School, Nursery
Every Wednesday	9: 15 am	Mid-week Eucharist
	10:00 am	Bible Study
Every Thursday	9:30 am	Joy in the Morning Bible Study
	7:30 pm	Joy Music

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sun. Oct. 4	8:30 and 10:30 –Harvest Thanksgiving
Mon. Oct. 5	7:15 pm – Parish Advisory Committee
Tues. Oct. 6 – 20	1:30 pm - Dorcas Group
Thurs. Oct. 8	1:30 pm - Threads of Love
Tues. Oct. 13	7:30- pm – Sexual Misconduct Policy Training Session
Wed. Oct. 14	7:30 pm – Bible Study – Vine Room – continuing weekly
Sat. Oct. 17	6:00 pm - Parish Roast Beef and Chicken Dinner

Sun. Oct. 18

8:30 and 10:30 – The Feast of St. Luke the Evangelist and Physician

Sat. Oct. 24

8:30 Breakfast – 9:00 am Meeting of the Worship Group

Thurs. Oct. 29

12 noon – St. Luke's Bridge and Euchre Luncheon (Tables are SOLD OUT)

