

ST. LUKE'S

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2019-2020



Celebrating 185 Years

Calendar of Events

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Rector's Message

As I write this message, we have just been through a series of special weekends including our Harvest Festival Sunday, Thanksgiving Sunday and our own patronal feast: St. Luke's Sunday when we celebrated our 185th anniversary. Imagine that! For 185 years, St. Luke's has played a vital role in this community, making a difference to the lives of so many; and not just to our own parishioners, but also in the wider community. That's what we are still about, and you can see in the following pages some of what we have been up to in the last little while, and see what's coming up.



Giving Evelyn Orcheson (aged 103) home communion

There are, of course a whole variety of things to attend, or to give your time and talent to, in the few months ahead. These include our Christmas Market and Advent, Christmas and Epiphany events. I also hope that you can find the time in the season before Christmas to really reflect on its true meaning. Far before and beyond all the tinsel and the lights of Christmas, the first Christmas was about God sharing God's great love for us; leaping across what seemed to us to be a chasm of separation to be among us. To actually be one of us. And all of this to show us how to be in relationship with God and in right relationship with each other. This is the whole reason why we are here as a Church and why we do all that we do!

If you're not too involved with the ways in which we serve Burlington and the wider community, come alongside. You'll find that we not only do great things to make a difference for good, but that we have a great deal of fun doing it, and we love to be part of this parish.

May God bless these few months ahead, and give you insight into God's desires for you.

Here are some significant events that have happened recently to some of St. Luke's people:

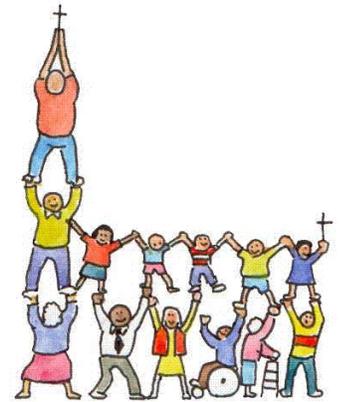
- 6 October Christine Hughes received the Order of Niagara at the Cathedral.
- 20 October Archdeacon Suzanne Craven was installed as a new Honorary Assistant at our St. Luke's Day service. She was here many years ago as a curate.
- 20 October Michael Coren and Jody Balint were ordained as Deacons. They both served student internships here at St. Luke's in the past 3 years.

Stuart.

Canon Stuart Pike
Rector.

Wardens' Report

During the summer months we are all officially on Summer break. This does not mean that all activity ceases, it simply means that we will slow down a little and take time to renew our energy and refresh our spirits in order to accomplish all that we seek to do in our many missions.



September found us returning to a very full schedule that is so much a part of life at St. Luke's. When the Committee Contact brochure was presented at Parish Council it was obvious from the three page foldout that we are indeed a very active parish with wide ranging missions, all of which are driven by the activity of many volunteers. Throughout this newsletter you will read of the work that they do and, hopefully, feel able to join a group and serve your church in a way that brings you a sense of a closer relationship to your faith.

This season has been a very active one for your wardens. There have been some frustrating issues with our website and email availability. We have been advised that our Windows 2007 support systems will end in January 2020 and our computer systems in several departments will need upgrading or replacing. Technology is still moving forward at a rapid pace and our current systems are outdated. We have engaged our contracted computer specialist to review our systems and advise us of the costs involved in the changes we must undertake.

We have met with contractors regarding the changeover of our lighting system to a LED system. This will be a cost saving measure and also in keeping with our "greening" policy. We will review all estimates and move ahead with this as soon as possible.

The wardens conducted a "walkabout" of the church and grounds as part of their mandate to maintain the integrity of buildings and property. It was noted that the siding area around the outside Sacristy door of the church is broken and rusted in places. Several local companies have been asked to quote on replacing that area of siding and the work will be completed shortly.

Another urgent matter that must be undertaken is a repair/replacement of the church hall roof that is leaking in some areas. A roofing consultant has been engaged and will examine the whole roof area and help us to determine what the best course to follow is. There were other small issues to be dealt with that will receive attention under general daily maintenance by our much appreciated Head of Maintenance, Ray Payne.

Ray has decided that he will be retiring at the end of February 2020 and we are so thankful for all that he has done and all that he continues to do. Thank you Ray.

Wardens' Report continued.....

At this time of year the church is a busy scene with all groups in full swing and we are seeing a good turnout at church services. There is room for you in any of the groups you might like to join and always a seat for you in the church.

To all of you we send our good wishes for a joyful Christmas season and a happy, healthy New Year. May God continue to hold us in the palm of his hand and grant blessings to us all.

As our Mission Statement decrees:

WE SEEK spiritual growth by living the message of Jesus Christ

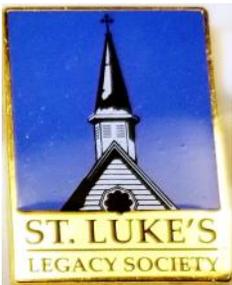
WE SERVE our diverse church family and the broader community through worship, fellowship, mission and outreach .

Bob Bruce, Rector's Warden

Carole Prytula, People's Warden,

Tim Tiernay, Deputy Rector's Warden

Marie Danielsen, Deputy People's Warden



St. Luke's Legacy Society

The Legacy Society invites us to prayerful action, to bind ourselves to the future of St. Luke's church, to declare that we are doing all that we can to keep it vital, engaged, and active . Consider remembering St. Luke's in your will.

Harvest Sunday Decorations



From the Deacon

By the time you read this, the Christmas season and all it entails will be upon us. The stores will be full of advertisements, decorations and Christmas music (which probably began sometime in early November!) Our own Christmas Market will once again have been a huge success and we give thanks to all those who worked tirelessly to fill every nook and cranny of the parish hall with special treasures, hand crafted items, and all manner of delectable treats to enjoy over the holiday season. Children will be looking forward to their visit to Santa, to making and remaking their Christmas list. People will have reservations made for trips to warmer climes or to visit loved ones and also to “go home for the holidays”.



Home, truly is where the heart is. It is where we gather with family and friends. It is where we widen our circle to include those who have no home to go to. It is also where we embrace those whose heart may be broken or empty. No matter what our circumstances, home is not necessarily a place, it is a feeling: a feeling of comfort, safety, security and most of all love. Some time ago, I came upon a passage called “Home for Christmas” by Elizabeth Bowen. It seems to speak to the feelings that so many of us have around this time of year. It also brings to mind simpler times and simpler pleasures, things that we sometimes lose sight of in all the hustle and bustle of the season. It is also a passage that I often come back to and I thought it was worth sharing with you again.

The passage reads: “This is meeting time again. Home is the magnet. The winter land roars and hums with the eager speed of return journeys. The dark is noisy and bright with late-night arrivals—doors thrown open, running shadows on snow, open arms, kisses, voices and laughter, laughter at everything and nothing. Inarticulate, giddy and confused are those original minutes of being back again. The very familiarity of everything acts like a shock. Contentment has to be drawn in slowly, steadily, in deep breaths—there is so much of it. We rely on home not to change, and it does not, wherefore we give thanks. Again, Christmas: abiding point of return. Set apart by its mystery, mood and magic, this season seems in a way to stand outside time. All that is dear, that is lasting, renews its hold on us: we are home again..... This glow of Christmas, has it not in it also the gold of a harvest? *“They shall return with joy, bringing their sheaves with them.”* To the festival, to each other, we bring wealth. More to tell, more to understand, more to share. Each we have garnered in yet another year. No other time grants us, quite, this vision—round the tree, or before the fire, or at table, we perceive anew, with joy one another’s faces. And each time faces come to mean more. It is not one of the mysteries of life that life should, after all, be so simple? Yes, as simple as Christmas, simple as this. Journeys through a dark night to a lighted door, arms open. Laughter- smothered kisses, smothered laughter. And blessedness in the heart of it all. Dearer than memory, brighter than expectation, is the ever returning now of Christmas. Why else, each time we greet its return, should happiness ring out in us like a peal of bells?” 6

Deacon's Report continued

Perhaps it is time to put the frenzy of last minute shopping, the flurry of Christmas card writing and the frantic dash to squeeze in visits to friends aside for a short period of time and concentrate on what we often take for granted: the gifts that God bestows on us all the time, not just at this time, but all year long. Let us give Him thanks for all his blessings. So, may we all take time during this Holy season to give thanks for the simpler times—for that night in the stable when that precious child was born in a simple manger, for friends, family and all of the simple things that this season brings us. As we journey through the season of Advent and all that it is on our journey to the manger, may we all share in God's gifts and may we all take those gifts and share with one another. May all your days be blessed and may God cradle you in the palm of his hand.

Sheila

MAPLE VILLA LONG TERM CARE

Monthly Sunday Worship Services are held at Maple Villa with the help of our St. Luke's ministry team. As Maple Villa's House Chaplain, I lead Morning Prayer Services regularly on a Thursday morning and every three months a Memorial Service to remember our dearly departed residents.



We send a warm thank you to Rev. Dr. Leonel for leading our Harvest Communion Service in October. All services have been well attended by residents and family members on occasion.

During the summer months I led a focused group into their garden for a Nature Sketching Program. The presence of bird's singing, and the sensory aspect with herbs and flowers provided a calming social time.

Once a month I spend time with a small focused group that has a component of meditation, lectio Divini as we prayerfully consider verses and poems with meditative colouring and reminiscent therapy with interesting discussions of days gone by.

Having the opportunity to provide programs and pastoral care to Residents has been a blessing and I give thanks for this time to be with them.

Submitted by Marjorie Latimer, Licensed Lay Reader

Pastoral Assistant Report - Caring as Sacrament



Like so many other Christian churches, in our Anglican worship we give great importance to the celebration of the sacraments. Baptism and Holy Communion -the two we encounter most often, together with Confirmation, Marriage, Reconciliation, Anointing of the sick, and Holy Orders. Christian Sacraments are effective signs of our faith, enacted within the whole of the local Church as part of the whole of the people of God, and meant to both convey the grace of God we learn and grow into through them, and to proclaim the Good News of Jesus to all who hear and see.

If you look at that very brief list of sacraments up there, the one most likely to connect with ministries of pastoral care might be that of anointing of the sick. And, it is true, a great deal of what the ministers of pastoral care of this church of St Luke's do relates to the well-being of, and solidarity with those who are frail in their health. For one, we have many who dedicate a great deal of their time and energy to the care of those who are in hospital or home care, with regular visits and phone calls, carrying with them the love and prayers of our entire congregation and the church universal.

We also have friends who volunteer in our phone ministry, reaching out to those who are homebound for any reason, and specially to those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. We have ministers of home visits, yes, to those who are in difficult times for their health, but also to those who are homebound, or overall struggling with any of the challenges of life for the elderly. Our priests bless and anoint after each Sunday service, yes, to those who are praying for better health, for either themselves or others, but also those who seek wholeness, forgiveness, and peace.

And those are only a few examples among many instances in which the pastoral care of our congregation is addressed both to those in poor health, but overall to anyone who struggles, and seek the assistance and prayers and presence of their Church community.

In all this, what we do, as agents of pastoral care, is in some ways also a sacrament, an external sign of the grace the Church has been given so She will bless and pray for and accompany anyone who struggles. A sacrament, an effective sign of the work of the Holy Spirit, healing and transforming those who have poor health, yes, but also assisting and speaking Gospel to anyone who struggles, who hurts, in any way.

I encourage you to pray for the sick and hurt among us, and also for all the ministers of pastoral care of our congregation. I further invite you to inquire with any of our volunteers, should you be interested in learning more about what our agents of pastoral care do, or how to get involved in any of their ministries.

Messy Halloween Church

On Sunday Sept. 27th we had a pumpkin carving and haunted house event. (The youth group set up a haunted house for the little kids.) Pictures: touching eyeballs, guts, and brains inside the "zombie parts" box; making monster cupcakes; playing with balloons in the haunted house; carving pumpkins.

Submitted by Rebecca Vendetti



WINTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November

16	Advocacy Breakfast	9:00am
17	Communion and Healing Service	10:00am
23	Messy Church	4:00pm
24	Reign of Christ Service	10:00am
	Afternoon Communion (Parish Hall)	1:00pm
	Evensong	4:00pm
	Alpha at Church on Tap	7:00pm
30	Christmas Market	9:00am

December

1	Advent 1: Lessons and Carols	10:00am
7	Music at St. Luke's	6:00pm
8	Advent Studies Great Hall	12:00pm
13	Taize	7:30pm
15	Advent 2: Christmas Pageant	10:00am
	Harbourtown Sound Concert	3:00pm
22	Advent 4: Lessons and Carols	10:00am
24	Family Christmas Pageant & Eucharist	4:00pm
	Christmas Drama and Eucharist	6:00pm
	Christmas Eve	8:00pm
	Traditional Christmas Eve	10:00pm
25	Christmas day Communion (no 8:15am service)	10:00am
28	Messy Church	4:00pm
29	Afternoon Communion (Parish Hall)	1:00pm
	Alpha at Church on Tap	7:00pm

January

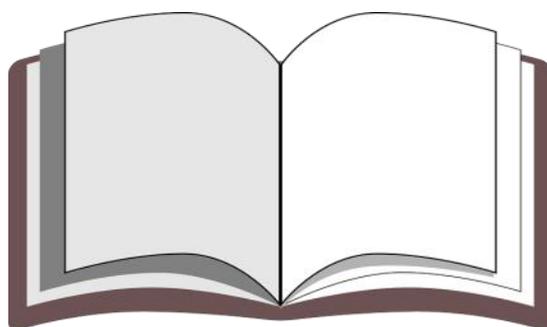
9	Speaker's Lunch	11:30am
10	Taize	7:30pm
25	Messy Church	4:00pm
26	Afternoon Communion (Parish Hall)	1:00pm
	Alpha at Church on Tap	7:00pm

Calendar of Events continued

February

8	Music at St. Luke's	6:00pm
13	Speaker's Lunch	11:30am
14	Taize	7:30pm
22	Messy Church	4:00pm
23	Afternoon Communion (Parish Hall)	1:00pm
	Alpha at Church on Tap	7:00pm

Life Passages



August

- Ellen Waugh**
- Iris May Snider**
- Peggy Kirby**
- Margaret Goossen**

September

- Archdeacon Laughton Binns**
- Dorothy Ross**
- Doreen Wilson**

October

- Yvonne Brown**
- Rita Clarke**
- June Hamilton**
- Joyce Willis**
- Jane Rupar**

Advent Study December 8; Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen lands, Strong Hearts

“*Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen lands, Strong Hearts*” is a film about a proclamation, made over 500 years ago, which continues to profoundly impact Indigenous and Settler people worldwide. Pope Alexander VI ruled that the lands being discovered by European explorers at the time was “empty” land and its millions of Indigenous inhabitants were “non-human”. Produced by the Anglican Church of Canada this documentary will educate us on the Doctrine and create an awareness of its legacy. It will be the focus of this year’s Advent study December 8 after coffee hour.



You can watch it in advance of the study session via the Anglican Church of Canada website:

<https://www.anglican.ca/primate/tfc/dri/doctrineofdiscovery/>

A brief introduction to the Doctrine is presented in the brochure that can also be found on the website:

<https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/Doctrine-of-Discovery.pdf>

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Capture the Joyous Spirit of Christmas
through the Music of the
Harbourtown Sound Chorus,



Sunday, December 15th, 2019

3pm

St. Luke's Anglican Church
1371 Elgin Street, Burlington

Cost—\$20 per adult & \$5 per child

For Tickets contact: Louise at 905 639-8266

Christmas Market 2019

Activity in all of the church groups increased as we moved further into the Fall , and summer vacations became a pleasant memory . We are a very busy church and it is apparent when one reads the back of the weekly bulletin to see what each day of the next week will bring . The Christmas Market leaders all met in September to kick off the new 2019 season . Throughout October and November the church kitchen was filled with enticing aromas of delicious foods in preparation as we began filling the freezers with gourmet dishes , sauces , cookies, cakes and pies.



Time in the church kitchen is always at a premium at that time of year, so much activity also centred around other kitchens in the parish . When the actual day arrived , everything was in place to welcome the many guests we serve each year . It takes a large team of many volunteers to get to that point and each year we are delighted to find that not only was the event very successful in raising money to help finance our church's ongoing needs , but we all had fun along the way . To each and every volunteer, a heartfelt thank you for all that you do each year to make the whole experience one that creates such a wonderful day for all of us.

The convenor group works on a rotation of 1st, 2nd and 3rd lead convenors . This year was Carole's last year as 1st lead so Bob will now step into that role and Leslie will be 2nd lead . We will need a third person to fill the role of 3rd lead so please think about joining this group whose function is to co-ordinate the work of all the groups and to ensure all resources are available when needed .



Carole will continue as 3rd lead until a replacement can be found and will be available to help if required .

We take this opportunity to wish everyone a joyful Christmas season and a healthy , blessed New Year .

Bob Bruce

Leslie Allen

Carole Prytula

Parish Life Report

One of the things I have always loved about St. Luke's is the abundance of opportunities for fellowship, many of which fall under the umbrella of Parish Life. There are many activities taking place through the Fall and Winter months at St. Luke's, providing all with a variety of things to choose from, whether you are looking to volunteer or just attend for the fun and fellowship.

As I write this, I am looking forward to the annual Parish Potluck dinner & Silent Auction, which I am sure will be enjoyed by all who take part.

Our first Music at St. Luke's event of the 2019/20 season, an evening consisting of a catered dinner and virtuoso celtic music, has already taken place, and was a great success. The next one, to be held on Saturday, December 7th, will feature "High Strung", members of Quartetto Gelato, with Colin Maier and Brock Burford; and following that, on February 8th, 2020. The Great Canadian Fiddlers will be the featured entertainers. Tickets for these events can usually be purchased at coffee hour from Bonnie or Harry Lennard.



The Speakers Lunch Group has also gotten off to a great start; please see their report submitted independently.

If you missed the advance purchase opportunity for tortierres, not to worry, you can purchase them at the Christmas Market on Saturday, November 30th, which we hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend, and/or help out with to help ensure the continuing success of this great event.

Each Tuesday morning at 10:00 the Stitching Circle Meets for an hour or two in room 201, followed in the afternoon by the Quilting Group, which meets at 1:00 in the parlour. New members are always welcome to join in these groups - the more the merrier!

Our beloved "Group A" continues to meet in the homes of its members, more than 50 years after its inception in 1967! This group has contributed to the parish in many ways over the years, forming lasting friendships along the way.

Coffee Hour is a weekly time of fellowship after the 10:00am service, and has the added benefit of giving us the opportunity to welcome guests and newcomers over a cup of tea or coffee (and perhaps even a little treat!). This important ministry needs help to continue on, so if you can volunteer to help set up, or serve and help with cleanup, please contact Nan Bruce at

(905) 632-6528 / nabruce@bell.net.

Parish Life Report continued

We also have a “Men’s Cooking Group” on the go, with an average of 10-15 attendees per session. Interested gentlemen can contact Terry Raybould at (905) 681-2816 / pokeyc@icloud.com

Another Ministry that falls under Parish Life is serving at funeral receptions that are held in the parish hall. Help in this area would be gratefully accepted, and volunteers can contact Cathy Payne at (905) 639-5135 / rpayne@cogeco.ca, or Louise Neville at (905) 639-8266 / lrneville@bell.net.

This is not an exhaustive list of everything that falls under Parish Life, but I hope it does give any of you who may be new some food for thought as to some of the things you might like to attend or become involved in, as well as bringing us up to date on what’s happening in “Parish Life” over the next few months.

Respectfully Yours,

Lesley Emery
Parish Life Chair



Parish Dinner

Photos by Dorothy Kew



ST. LUKE'S TIME AND TALENT SUNDAY

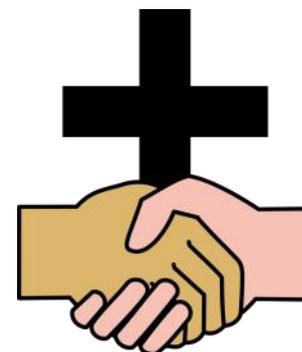
(photos by Dorothy Kew)



Engagement Committee

Engaging with each other...

When you think about engagement what comes to your mind? Perhaps you seek participation, connection, or commitment? As a church congregation our connections are with each other and with God. Engagement means getting closer to one another and really showing mutual care and openness. This all gets expressed in purposeful activities to be together, to be hospitable, and to share what is really happening in our lives.



People who visit us in our spiritual home, God's home, don't yet have a connection with us. They may very likely be seeking one. Having visitors is an honour and a blessing to us, and it is important that visitors feel that. Welcoming an individual into one's home is something we all understand. In much the same way visitors need to be welcomed into our spiritual home. With an open, welcoming heart and happy smiles, the greeting has to be intentional. We call it intentional hospitality. We don't get a second chance to make a first impression, so have to do it right! There is a statistic that 70% of all visitors and newcomers will make up their minds to return to our parish, or not, before the clergy even gets up to speak!

We want to open our church community to those who visit or who are church shopping or who need us in some way and to make them feel at home. Hopefully we may initiate a relationship that will extend for a long time. To make new friendships with new comers and with each other is engagement. When is the last time you invited someone from church over for coffee? When is the last time you reached out to someone in need? When did you go across the room and get to know a new face?

At St. Luke's we have volunteers who focus on visitors and new-comers. Welcoming is a very important ministry as we have all experienced going into a new space and particularly churches and have not had one person come to speak to us. Our volunteers try to catch those new people who might be standing alone to make sure that they feel that someone cares. It has taken a lot of courage for someone to come out for the first time and we need to put them at ease. Often as part of our Sunday service, the liturgy reminds us to "respect the dignity of every human being", and welcoming them in our midst is one way to do that. The ministry of greeting is one of the most effective forms of evangelism that we can offer.

We all have the ability to welcome an unfamiliar face, to extend our ministry of greeting. It may be a small gesture, a few words, but it has a big impact. We need to be aware of those around us. We may perceive that we are a friendly church because we are friendly to one-another. We should always be outwardly friendly and engaging. At the church there may be a face we haven't seen before, we can greet them walking up the walk, or we can extend them a greeting at The Peace during the service, or inviting that new person over for coffee.

Engagement Committee Report continued

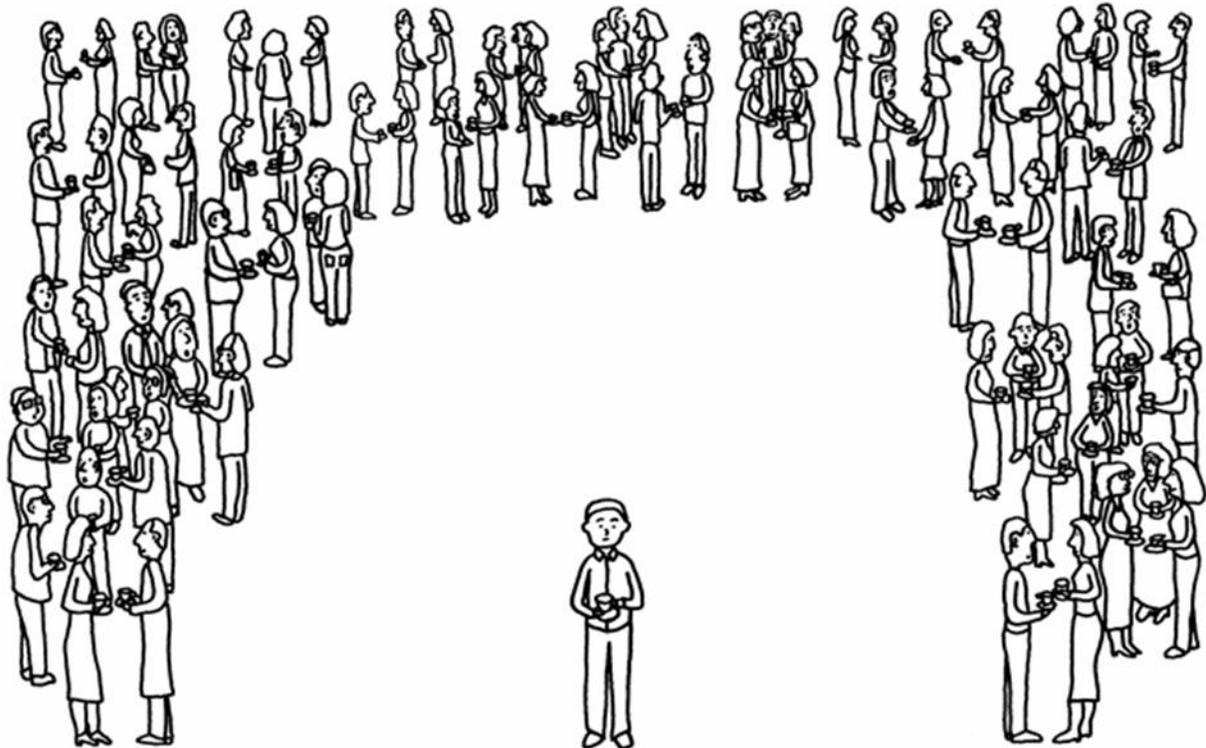
Visitors walk into that parish hall and often see small clusters of people visiting with each other. If no one engages them, how will they feel the encircling love that our parish truly has to offer? Sometimes our opportunity to greet visitors or new-comers is lost if we are visiting within our circle of friends or having "business" meetings during coffee hour.

We need to welcome guests but not overwhelm them, being friendly so they want to come back again. Stuart always reminds us of his 6 ft rule - if you see a new person within 6 feet of where you are then it is your responsibility to greet that person. Remember, every parishioner is a host to the new people and not just another guest themselves.

Submitted by Bryan Cox; thanks for contributions from Janice Skafel, Ros Reycraft, and Daryl Wilson.

AFTER-SERVICE COFFEE

THIS IS THE TIME WHEN NEWCOMERS CAN GET TO KNOW THE CONGREGATION



CartoonChurch.com

Music at St. Luke's

Three Great Evenings of Entertainment Remaining

Telephone 905-634-1826 Email office@stlukesburlington.ca www.stlukesburlington.ca

The 2019/20 series has three evenings of musical entertainment remaining, accompanied by a delicious dinner catered by Champlain Caterers with a cash bar serving beer, wine and pop. Hors d'oeuvres 6 p.m. Dinner at 6:30. Tickets for each event are \$40.

December 7, 2019 - High Strung

Colin Maier (oboe, vocals, guitar, fiddle, saw) and Brock Burford (guitar, vocals) are a high-energy, fun-generating duo who present a huge variety of songs, from sing-a-long harmonies, folk songs and bluegrass toe-tappers to classical. Colin is known for his antics as the oboist in the renowned Quartetto Gelato. Brock is the witty and endearing half of the singing/songwriting duo Sunshine and Broccoli, recently nominated for a Juno for their latest CD. Among their repertoire are Classical Gas by Mason Williams, The Godfather Theme by Nino Rota and Moonlight Sonata by Beethoven. They have received rave reviews for their shows.



February 8, 2020 - The Great Canadian Fiddle Show

The Great Canadian Fiddle Show preserves and celebrates , Canada's rich musical heritage through traditional fiddle and step dancing. It showcases the breadth of Canada's diverse regional styles. You will be captivated by their energy and mastery. Enjoy such favourites as The Canadian Reel Set, The Prairie Two-Step, Waltzing Through Ontario, The French Canadian Set, The East Coast and Messer Sets.



April 18, 2020 - The 12/4 Swing Orchestra

Led by Jim Heaslip and Tony Sciara this rocking jazz band entertains us with Dancers' Greatest Hits. Enjoy the golden era of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Perry Como, Harry Belafonte, Michael Buble and hear hits like Strangers in the Night, Ain't That a Kick in the Head, Moon River and Sway. Bring your dancing shoes or just sit back and enjoy!

FROM CROSS TO CROSS

When I was younger, walking was always a great source of joy for me, and a very natural way of preserving good health. Then, some years ago, I was diagnosed with severe spinal stenosis in my low back area, a condition that resulted in intense sciatic nerve pain whenever I attempted to stand or walk for any length of time. Over time I tried a variety of treatment modalities for this condition: stretching regimes, chiropractic, physiotherapy, Bowen therapy, acupuncture, and osteopathy, and more recently even surgery, but nothing has taken it completely from me, and over the years I have worked my way through various stages of psychological adjustment, to an unwilling acceptance of my condition.

Part of that adjustment entailed looking for the things I could do, rather than remaining frustrated over what I could not, and so I began swimming. I have always loved the water, but other than on vacations, had not really spent much time in it beyond childhood. Losing my ability to walk any appreciable distances, however, led me some years ago to our local community pool, where the water is kept at a very comfortable 88 degrees centigrade. I began in the slowest lane, swimming slow laps for as long as my wind would allow. In the beginning, that wasn't very long, and while still working, I was hit and miss in my regularity, my swim time being 6am, before work. After a couple of years however, I retired, switched my swim time to a much more respectable noon, and became much more regular in my attendance as a result. The regularity yielded good results, and gradually the number of laps I was able to swim increased to the point where I was getting a good 45 minute workout, and enjoying it. Not only did my aerobic fitness return to me, but I became able to swim a full 40 lengths of the pool, a distance of a kilometer. In the water, I was free of most of the constraints I experience on land.

But there is something in the water that inspires me too. I am not sure when I first noticed it, but after years of swimming back and forth in this same pool, at some point I became aware that at the end of each black stripe that designates the swimming lanes, there is a cross. A cross in the water. As a Christian, this had significance for me, because it was a symbol of the partnership I hold dear, a partnership that accompanies me in every aspect of my life, including in the water. It reminded me that I am not alone on this long journey, but accompanied every stroke of the way by Him to whom my life belongs, and in that I found great comfort. Now, as I swim those long lengths, I fill my time with prayer. I begin with The Lord's Prayer. It takes me exactly one length to think through its lines, and I do so twice, slowly, seeking presence with the message of each line. Then, I add those I wish to pray for: family members, friends, my church family, any I can think of who might need my prayers. And lastly, for myself, for any concerns on my own heart. He keeps me company in the water, and I believe He hears my prayers. Sometimes He answers my prayers in a way I can recognize; sometimes I just have to trust that all is working out according to His will whether I can see it or not. I am not perfect in my prayer routine; sometimes I start off praying and then realize that somewhere along the way my mind has begun to wander. Then, just as in meditation, I bring my mind back again, until my prayers are finished. And recently I have become aware of something else. Turning around in the deep end, I noticed just how far it is from the top of the cross to the bottom of the pool, and I thought, this is what it must have looked like for Christ, hanging from the top of the cross, in all His human agony. What a long way down...looking into the faces of those who had condemned Him... in order to fulfill God's plan. By human standards it is an unfathomable miracle, and it is this miracle that I contemplate while swimming, back and forth those 40 times, from cross to cross.

Ministry of Outreach

Contacts: Co-Chairs – Jackie Maver (905 681-6097) and Rosalind Reycraft (905 635-3976)

Mission Statement: Moved by the Holy Spirit and guided by the teachings and actions of Jesus the Christ, the ministry of outreach, in partnership with the community of St. Luke's, responds to the needs of our neighbours, locally, nationally, and globally by enabling, empowering, educating, and advocating.

Thank you for all your support of the Ministry of Outreach projects. With your help we reach beyond our walls to make a difference in the world, near and far.

Advocacy Breakfast Group

Our Advocacy Group continues to support the missions of Outreach through our informative and inspiring Saturday Speaker Breakfast Programme.



The following opportunities are planned for the near future and beyond:

- Saturday November 16th, John Jacobs, a medical doctor working in mental health, will share his personal experiences with Canadian Indigenous Communities. He knows firsthand what the challenges and gaps are as he lives and works in the North to make a difference.
- In 2020, on March 21st, we will be welcoming Melanie Walker Edwards in a presentation concerning Wellness and Support.
- In the Spring, we will have another special speaker.

Further information will be provided in the Church Bulletin as the times approach. Everyone is heartily invited to join us.

Should you be interested in being part of this group please contact Carrie Raybould at 905-681-2816. We would welcome any new members for our team.

Adopt a Christmas Family

This year we are adopting 4 Christmas families plus asking for gifts for teenagers such as gift certificates, gloves, hats, and chocolate.

Without our help, these families and teenagers would have very little or no gifts at Christmas time. Please open up your heart this Christmas and make a difference.

For more information please contact Veronica Richards-Miller at 905 637-6341, 905 466-6031 or at richmill@cogeco.ca

Burlington Ubuntu Grandwomen

This vibrant and active organization continues to respond to social justice needs in support of the Stephen Lewis Foundation Initiative Grandmothers to Grandmothers.

Our Ubuntu chapter joins with many across Canada in offering assistance through this amazing campaign. Through advocacy and fundraising, support is shared with those resilient and brave Grandmothers in Africa.

Regular meetings are held at Burlington Baptist Church on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 pm, from September to June.

Upcoming special events are as follows:

- Dec. 2nd, 2019, UN Orange the World Annual Vigil for Violence Against Women, Burlington City Hall at 5:45 pm
- Feb. 8th, 2020, Fab Feb Market Event at Burlington Baptist Church at 7 pm
- March 15th, 2020, Fundraising Event at Barra Fion Restaurant on Upper Middle Road, (more details to follow)

*** Friendship Pins and Necklaces will be available at the Christmas Market.

For further information please contact Carrie Raybould at 905-681-2816

Church Minders

The Church Minders are a group of dedicated volunteers who “sit” Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 12:30 in order that the doors of St. Luke’s might remain open. We greet not only parishioners and residents of our city, but also visitors to Burlington who have come in to see our beautiful church and learn some of its history. We also welcome those who need a quiet time for prayer and meditation.



Keeping our Church open and accessible is an important part of St. Luke’s outreach ministry and we are in need of new volunteers in order to continue.

Should you be interested in further information, please contact me at 289-795-0401 or sadhon@bell.net

Submitted by: Sharon O’Neill

Community Engagement Facilitator - Downtown Burlington Community Lunches

Join us for a delicious lunch and good conversation. Our community lunches in the Great Hall (11:30-1:30) will continue through the winter on the first, third, and fifth Wednesdays. Here are the dates: December 4 and 18, January 15 and 29, and February 5 and 19. No registration is required except for the Christmas lunch on Dec. 18, when we will have entertainment and a special lunch. **Please contact the church office or Heather White to register your attendance for the Dec. 18 lunch.** Donations are always welcome, but there is no charge for the lunch.

We always welcome new volunteers and have some openings on all the teams, with times in the morning, over the lunch, and into the afternoon, depending on the role and your schedule. Call if you would like more information. We have fun while making a difference to many people.

Heather White

Community Engagement Facilitator

dheatherwhite@gmail.com

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” Matthew 25:35



Concert for Children in Need

Watch for dates in the spring for our annual fundraising concert that will help children in need in our community and beyond. This will be about concert #30 for Outreach to organize!

Contact Janice Skafel 905-332-0837



Looking for something different to give as a Christmas gift while making a difference in someone's life this year? Gifts of clean water, food security, healthy food in Cuba, a cow, a goat, seeds for farmers or a pair of piglets can change not only one person's life but can change a community. These, plus many more ideas, are all available through PWRDF's World of Gifts at www.pwrdf.org. Please check them out.

Contact Jackie Maver 905-681-6097

El Hogar Service Team Trip to Honduras 2020

It is official, the next service team trip to Honduras is booked for Friday, March 27th to Friday, April 3rd, 2020 and we have three new participants joining returning team members.

We are looking forward to reconnecting with our sponsored children Nelsin in the high school girls' residence, Ana Nicolle at the elementary campus, and our most recently sponsored child, Josue Alexander, at the Technical Institute. We will also learn more about Honduran culture with the help of our own Erika Skafel, Coordinator of North American Relations.

Team members and supporters have been busy making gingerbread replicas of St. Luke's, houses, and chocolate bark all in an effort to raise our service team fee and to pay for St. Luke's three sponsorships. All our items will be available to purchase at the Christmas Market and first three Sundays in December at coffee hour or by special order. We hope you enjoy these tasty treats.



Contact Ros. & Rick Reycraft 905-635-3976

St. Matthew's House

Thank you to all those who supported our Harvest Food Drive for St. Matthew's House. That was our last food drive for them as the food bank is now closed. Below is an excerpt from a letter to all supporters, explaining the new focus of their mission on Barton St. in Hamilton.

"After much discussion and prayerful consideration, we will transition from hosting a food bank to creating an older adults' resource and food security centre at our 412/414 Barton St. East location and will be adding 30 spots to our Child Care Centre. The decision to transition from hosting a foodbank to an older adults' resource and food security centre is in response to changing demographics and the complex needs of the community. This will be the first centre of its kind in the area and is welcome news to many of our community partners."

We will be looking at ways to offer our support to St. Matthew's House and their new focus, and we will continue our support for the Adopt a Family/Senior Christmas Program.

Contact: Sandra Tiernay 905-639-0345

Refugee Sponsorship - Family Reunification

The Hajj-Kasems, our Syrian family, will soon have been in Canada three years. They are adjusting well and there has been a lot to learn about as they settle and adjust to living in their new country. They are grateful for their safety and freedom here and the opportunities they are having. The kids continue to adapt to school and are all doing well. They have relatives who are still in Syria and, of course, it is a constant worry for their safety there.



(The three youngest ones love their new tradition of dressing up for Halloween.)

The good thing is that the process has begun to bring the Hajj-Kasem's oldest daughter and her family from Beirut to be re-unified with the family here. Karema was not able to come in 2016 with the rest of her family because she was not a dependent, being married at the time. So she and her husband

Mohamad and their two children, Faten and Ahmad look forward to joining the rest of their family. St. Luke's will sponsor them with a Private Sponsorship agreement. We don't expect them for at least a year as the process takes a long time. It will be an exciting time for them when Wisal and Said can meet their grandchildren for the first time, safely in Canada's welcoming arms and St Luke's will have had a part in that.

Contact: Janice Skafel 905 332-0837

Sew On Fire

This locally-founded group has sent over 350,000 gift bags to undeveloped countries and Canada's north and continues to need many items, baby wear, children and women's clothing, hygiene supplies, school supplies, etc. These items may be left in the white box under the coat rack in the front foyer of the Great Hall.

Thank you for all the donations you have made in the past, they are really appreciated. You may check out Sew on Fire at sewonfire.com or visit their facility at 975 Fraser Ave. on a Monday or Tuesday morning.

For further information call Elsie Haywood 905-336-0105

St Luke's Church

"The Speaker's Lunch"

The aim of the Speakers Lunch group is to foster awareness among parishioners of happenings & endeavours in the wider community that may be worthy of interest & support.

The group meets at 11:30 am on the second Thursday of each month for social time, followed by a "Bring Your Own Lunch" & a talk by the speaker of the month.

All are welcome to join the organizing committee. Please call Doug at 905-637-7009. You can also email tim.tiernay@bell.net for more information about the group.

Once again, for the winter, your committee is arranging a diverse and interesting list of topics and speakers.

November 14th

In keeping with our traditional November meeting, on the 14th we **Will Remember** and listen to **Robert Williamson**, former Commanding Officer of Hamilton's Naval Reserve, as he talks to us about the 75th anniversary of D-Day. We will also have some traditional hymns, with musical accompaniment provided by Jennifer Goodine.

No meeting in December.

January 9th

Our speaker on January 9th will be **Detective Constable Derek Gray** of the **Halton Regional Police**, who will inform us of the various "distraction" thefts and how we can avoid losing our purse/wallet and credit/debit cards to these criminals.

February 13th

February is Heritage month in Burlington and also Black Heritage month, so on February 13th, we hope to have a speaker on one of these topics. More details will be available closer to that month.

We have been pleased at the growing interest and attendance at the lunches and hope that you can spread the word as to the fun and fellowship to be had at our meetings. If you have any suggestions as to subjects or speakers for future meetings please email your ideas to Tim Tiernay tim.tiernay@bell.net

We look forward to seeing you at one or more of these lunches. New committee members are also welcomed.



ST. LUKE'S HAPPENINGS



Archdeacon Suzanne Craven was installed as a new Honorary Assistant at our St. Luke's Day service.

St. Luke's Day Children's Story



St. Luke Icon in Procession



St. Luke's Day Anthem



News and Views from the Adult Library

The library is to enhance the spiritual life of its readers

This year the Adult Library is celebrating twenty years of service to the Parish Church of St Luke. On November 4th, 1999 Anne Crawford (a previous Deacon) and our present Deacon, Sheila Plant, formed a steering committee to look into the possibility of revitalizing the St Luke's Adult library. The Phoenix

Group had formed a lending library that was situated in the upstairs of the old Parish Hall. It had been relegated to a few boxes of books that were stored away. Anne and Sheila sorted through the books and had rescued a worthwhile number that they thought could be used as a starting point for a new library. A steering committee was formed and they got busy immediately. The committee visited other church libraries to see how they operated. It was decided that before we went ahead with further plans, parishioners would be asked at Commitment Sunday "Would you use a Church library?" The committee met again on December 16th to discuss the results of the survey and the information found from other churches. The response from these two sources was positive and the steering committee went ahead with plans for the Adult library at St. Luke's. It was to be housed in a book case in the parlour in the old Parish Hall. There were about eighty books in the collection.



When the new Parish hall was built, the library and the archives were housed together beside the Rector's office. The library's collection has expanded to close to 850 titles, which is divided almost evenly between fiction and nonfiction. Careful weeding of the books allows us to keep the collection up to date and within the space we have. New books are purchased with funds supplied by Vestry, and monetary donations. Donations of books are welcomed as well.

One of the recently donated books is **Powered by Love: A Grandmothers' Movement to End Aids in Africa by Joanna Henry (306.87HEN)**. This book tells the story of the dynamic movement of grandmothers, which started in Canada and has since spread around the world. The organization now encompasses thousands of grandmothers in Africa and other continents who saved their orphaned grandchildren when no one else was left alive. Be sure you come into the library, have a look at this book, and perhaps sign it out.

Adult Library Report continued

The season of Advent will soon be here. I would like to introduce you to five books that are available in our library that provide very suitable reading for this important season.

Preparing for Jesus by Walter Wagnerian (242.23 WAN) This book takes you day by day through major events and characters leading up to the birth of Jesus. It offers a refreshing perspective on the meaning of Christmas, from the first glimmer of Jesus' expected arrival through to the visit of the wise kings from the East. Thirty meditations take you from the beginning of the Advent season on December the first, through the twelve days of Christmas, ending on January the sixth, Epiphany.

The Advent of the Lamb of God by Russ Ramsey(242.3 RAM) This book contains worship resources for Advent and Christmas. There are twenty-five chapters, one for each day in December, ending with Christmas day. This is a book you can read bit by bit as each chapter tell its own story as part of the larger story of Advent.

Advent: The Gift of New Hope by Christopher Weber (242.4WEB) This book is based on the Revised Common Lectionary Scriptures for the church year C. The study includes commentary and reflection on readings from the Old Testament, the Gospels and the Epistles.

All Earth is Waiting by Katie Dawson (252.61 DAW) The sub title of this book is Good News for God's Creation at Advent. To quote a passage from the back cover of this book "The good news of Jesus Christ is good news for all the world-even plants, animals, and the earth itself. All Earth is Waiting invites you to explore the familiar Advent themes of hope, preparation, joy, and peace.

The Wonder of Advent Devotional: Experiencing the Love and Glory of the Christmas Season by Chris Tiegreen(252.61 TIE) This book like most of the others has a week of preparation to the season followed by daily devotions drawn from a biblical text which explores its original context and its meaning for us today.

Jane Milne, Chair

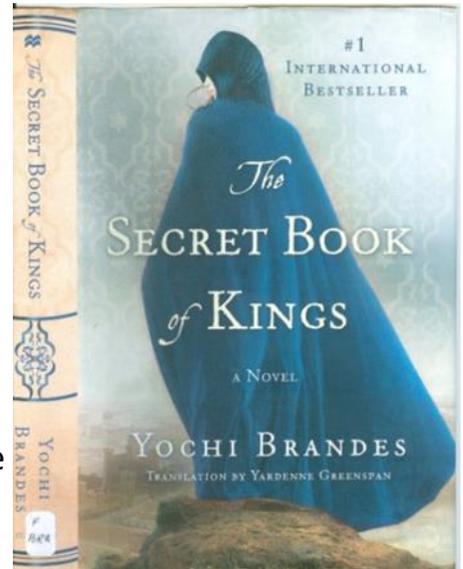
BOOK REVIEW

F BRA Brandes, Yochi. **The Secret Book of Kings**. New York: St, Martin's Press, 2008

Reviewed by Dorothy Kew, Library Committee

I found this book at A Different Drummer and was intrigued by the blurb on the inside cover. Even more intriguing was this introduction by the author in the acknowledgments:

“When I was eight years old, I learned in school that the ancient nation of Israel had split into two rival kingdoms – the great Kingdom of Israel of the ten tribes, and the smaller Kingdom of Judah of the tribe of Judah. Only then, for the first time in my life, did I realize that we, the Jews, are all descendants of the Kingdom of Judah, while the people of the Kingdom of Israel became assimilated and are no more.”



This statement fascinated me, as I have Jewish ancestry through my father, and I was not aware of this fact. So I couldn't wait to read what Yochi Brandes, an Israeli writer with degrees in both biblical studies and Judaic studies, had written in this novel – the secret stories of Saul, David and Solomon, the Kings of the title.

Brandes's premise is that history is written by the victors, that indeed the stories we find in the Books of Samuel and the First Book of Kings were written from the viewpoint of the scribes of Judah, and not from that of the scribes of Israel. In a way it is a subversive take on the stories we know in the Hebrew scriptures of Saul, David and Solomon and their kingdom. Brandes has a soft spot for Michal, the daughter of Saul, who loved David and married him, but despised him when he danced before the ark, as a result of which she was unable to bear children for him. Brandes sticks closely to the Biblical story of David and Saul, but her sympathies lie with Saul and the tribe of Benjamin. In her version Saul, angry that Michal saved David from his wrath, gives her to Paltiel, son of Laish, and in this novel Michal has a son for her new husband. This son, Nabat, fathers Shelomoam, grandson of Michal and great grandson of Saul, and he will eventually rebel against the King and become Jeroboam, the leader of the Kingdom of Israel which will separate from Judah after the death of Solomon.

This is an interesting take on the Hebrew scripture as we know it. I read it as we, members of the Monday afternoon Bible Study group, were reading both Samuel and Kings. Presented from the viewpoint of both Shelomoam and Michal it is a vivid and interesting version of the Biblical story. Brandes is not a fan of David, nor of Solomon, and her version of Biblical history may be disturbing to some of us, but keep in mind that it is a novel and another way of looking at history, -- history that is written by the victors.

ST. LUKE'S CELEBRATES

(photos by Dorothy Kew)



Office Staff Celebration
Welcome Ruth and
Maureen and Happy
retirement to Sandra



Congratulations to Beth and Leonel on their
marriage



A Walk Through Time: Symbols in Stone in St. Luke's Churchyard: Part 2

By Dorothy Kew



North-east side of the churchyard

Continuing our stroll through the churchyard looking at the various symbols on the older stones, I came across one for which I could find no explanation.



Stone of James E. Freeman

This is a bow, with what appears to be roses, and over it, at the top of the stone, the phrase “Gone but not forgotten”.



James E. Freeman stone detail

It is the stone of James E. Freeman, son of James Freeman and his wife, Elizabeth, who died on Jun 24, 1873, aged 17 years, 5 months and 19 days. Through my research on Ancestry I found a family tree for James’s family which included a scan of an item from a newspaper (not identified) which described how James met his death. He worked as a porter at the Wellington Square station of the Great Western Railway and was in the habit of jumping aboard the incoming trains as they approached the station, Unfortunately on this occasion he slipped, the wheels passed over him severing his leg, and he died in Hamilton hospital as a result of his injuries. I could find no explanation for the bow; the flowers, if they are roses, stand for love, hope and beauty.

Another young man buried in the cemetery is commemorated on his gravestone by the image of a sailing ship. This is the stone of Claud Andrew Arnold, son of Richard and Ann Arnold, who died July 6, 1857, aged 17 years and 21 days, in Chicago. The image of a ship on a gravestone may either show that the person buried was a sailor, or, if the image is symbolic, it may represent a journey. As a Christian image it represents the journey from this world to everlasting life.

In the case of Claud Andrew Arnold, he was indeed a sailor, as reported in the Hamilton Spectator, for 1857, found online at <http://www.glanbrookheritage.ca/deaths1857.htm>



Claud Andrew Arnold stone with ship

July 14, 1857

ARNOLD - Died at Chicago, on the 7th instant, Claude Arnold, aged 17 years, son of Mr. Robert Arnold of Toronto, The deceased, who notwithstanding his extreme youth was second mate of the schooner "John Emerald" of Oswego, was a boy of great promise, honest, gentle, and large-hearted, and loved by all who knew him. His death resulted from having his leg broken when entering the harbour of Chicago. His remains were brought down to Wellington Square and there interred.

There are several young children interred in the cemetery. Emma B. Zimmerman is buried on the north-west side of the churchyard. Her stone is practically illegible and bears on the top what is left of the image of a lamb.



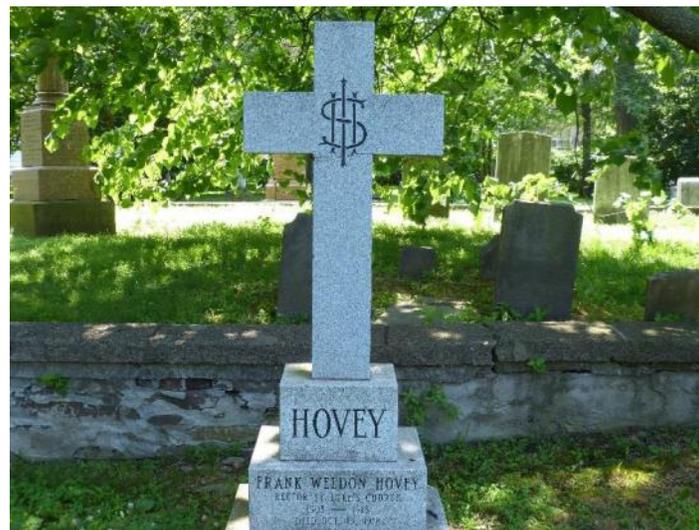
Emma B. Zimmerman stone

Emma was born 13, 1875 and the name on her birth record is given as Emely Belvie Zimmerman. She died September 21, 1882, aged 7 years and 3 months of cerebro-spinal meningitis. The lamb symbolizes innocence and purity and is usually found on gravestones of young children. It also symbolizes Christ as the Lamb of God. Her stone would probably have looked something like this one, before it was damaged.



Lamb symbol on gravestone

Some stones in St. Luke's churchyard bear the HIS monogram, a familiar Christian symbol for the name of Christ.



Frank Hovey stone

No, it is not a dollar sign, but rather denotes the first three letters of the name of Jesus in Greek – Iota, Eta and Sigma, superimposed on each other.

Finally, let us look at a secular symbol, the crown with cross on the stone in the Bates plot, at the east side of the church.



Augustus Bates, Jr. Stone

This is the stone of Augustus Bates, Jr., 1805-1882, the son of Augustus Bates, 1765-1842, and his wife, Elizabeth Blauw, 1772-1848, who are buried to the south of this stone. The Bates family were Loyalists from New York state who settled in Wellington Square. Augustus Bates, Jr. donated part of his land for St. Luke's cemetery. It is possible that the crown with its cross designates that he was loyal to Crown during the American Revolution.

The only plots left in St. Luke's churchyard are for urn burials, and as such are marked by plain rectangular flat stones. Most just bear the names of the person interred and their dates, though some are a bit more decorative such as this stone marking the grave of Thomas and Ethel Finch.



Finch stone

I hope you have enjoyed this walk through time in St. Luke's churchyard and the stories in stone found there.

Parish Archivist

St. Luke's Parishioners who have worshipped and worked in the parish for 50 years or more:

Bill MILNE	Leslie ALLEN	Vicky MICKS
Ruth MILNE	Shirley COOPER	Chris LAMB
Maribelle GOSLING	Cynthia ALLEN	Martha THOULESS
Mary SALAMON	Bill STAFFORD	Laura NEUMANN
Sharon WALMSLEY	Daphne FLICK	Tammy WAUGH
Phyllis BRANDON	Terry RUF	Eileen SPIDLE
Kay RUTTY	Gini BETTGER	Jane MILNE
Larry BRAIN	Diane DUKES	Terry HUGHES
Elizabeth CROUCH	Brenda BRAIN	Betty BRICKER
Ron DANIELSEN	Chris HUGHES	Margaret JONES
Anne KNAPP	Doug FINCH	Bill COOPER
Karen COX	Sydney WALKINSHAW	Anne FARQUHAR
Cliffe WALKINSHAW	Karen STEVENSON	Vivien HACHEY

Is your name missing from the list?

Should your name not be on the list - were you away from the parish so that you have not been here for 50 years or more?

Please contact me at eacrouch@cogeco.ca to make a correction.

Many thanks to those who contributed a longer or a brief description of your time in the parish, and your involvement in various groups.

More descriptions would be most welcome.

Editor's Sense of Humour

Your Reward (or Punishment) for Reading to the End

© Randy Glasbergen
glasbergen.com



"Adam and Eve were not ashamed of being naked until they reached middle age and that's when God told them to cover up."

GLASBERGEN
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"Blog unto others as you would have them blog unto you. Spam not, lest ye be spammed! Though I surf through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no virus..."

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"Please pray for me. I've got this Sunday's nursery duty."

© Randy Glasbergen.
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"Wireless communication is nothing new. I've been praying for 75 years!"



"I don't know all Ten Commandments. The only ones I remember are 'settle down', 'act your age' and 'take that out of your mouth'."

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If you would like to submit an article or photograph for this publication, please e-mail newsletter@stlukesburlington.ca

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