

ST. LUKE'S

NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2024



A Christmas Eve Musical Pageant

Calendar of Events and Services Page 20



Rector's Message

The season of Epiphany is almost over and we are just about to enter into Lent - a time for slowing down, for taking stock of our Spiritual Journey and for making room for something new to start. I invite you to keep a holy Lent. Consider if and how your spiritual life has deepened over the last year. Consider making (or renewing) a rule of life that tries to find a better balance including a more holistic way forward. Pay attention to wholeness of being in body, mind and spirit.



There are many opportunities here at St. Luke's, including educational programs, for bringing this sort of balance into your life:

Our theology student, Rose, is leading a Lenten Bible Study on the book of Ruth on three Lenten Sundays (March 3, 10, 17) in the parish hall at noon following Coffee Time. Bring your own lunch. Please sign up for this by calling the parish office.

There is a Zoom Bible Study on Mondays at 9:30 am. Speak with Deacon Sheila about this. There is a Men's Faith and Fellowship group every Saturday at 9 am. Come in person to our library in the Parish Hall or join by Zoom - your choice.

There is a weekly hybrid meditative prayer group that meets on Wednesdays at 2 pm (come in person or attend by Zoom.)

Our Sunday school has resumed for our children on the third Sunday of each month. Parents will be able to attend Church or take a turn leading the Sunday school lesson.

Other opportunities for spiritual growth include volunteering at one of our Food Outreach programs such as our Community Lunch or Food for Life or joining one of our many groups which do outreach or fund-raising.

Developing a new interest or skill: we've got lots of Parish Groups doing:

- pie-making, knitting, quilting, organizing our library, singing, worship volunteering Helping at our Speaker's Lunch, or other parish life activities (the list goes on...)

This year the clergy are offering an "Inquirer's Course" (especially aimed at our newer members) to learn more about the Anglican Church, St. Luke's in particular, and something about the Bible, Church History and what opportunities there are to get involved. This runs for five consecutive Tuesdays (20 Feb to 19 Mar) from 7-8:30 pm in room 201 and we begin by hearing your questions about everything and anything regarding the Church. Please sign-up through the parish office.

Why not try taking on something new here as one of your Lenten disciplines this year and hopefully by the end of Lent you'll just want to keep going.

Please read the following pages to see more of what we do here at St. Luke's. There's always lots going on.

Your brother in Christ,

Canon Stuart Pike

From the Rev. Michael Coren

I turned 65 recently. I'm officially old. I know that because in a quite startling display of largesse Toronto has given me just over a dollar's reduction on my public transport. I'm an old, white, straight male. Throw in "dead" and I've hit the jackpot! Hardly the most sought-after demographic in the new age of the young and diverse.

None of that bothers me but losing friends to cancer or heart attacks at an exponential rate certainly does. Beyond those I love are the ones I've never met. The deaths of famous people in sport, entertainment, or public life who I revered, who represent stages in my childhood, youth, and happiness. Each death is like another brick in the wall of my being removed and discarded. Will I topple? It sometimes feels that way. And I know that some of you reading this right now will be nodding in agreement.

My parents were both gone by their mid-70s. I lead a healthier lifestyle, don't smoke, and listen to rather than ignore doctors, but genes are powerful indicators. The cold embrace of the tomb and all that. I think about my mum and dad a great deal these days. Fond memories but also deep regret and guilt for the way I treated them. Taking parents for granted is common and not especially wrong but I sometimes cringe at the way I acted.

All rather dark and sombre. But I will not go gently into that dark night, and won't go angrily either. There are problems out there without doubt, but my experience of younger people, through my four children, with students I sometimes teach, and with the St. Luke's community, is rejuvenating rather than depressing. Kids working two jobs so as to pay for college, having a genuine rather than ostentatious concern for the planet and for those around them, and being far more accepting and tolerant than were those of my generation.

Its easy to mock their enthusiasms but with some obvious exceptions they have an authentic empathy with the marginalized and persecuted. Complacency isn't some privilege we're suddenly awarded once our pension kicks in. Learn from the young rather than dismiss them, and be enlivened by the sometimes-stinging but still fresh winds of change. Christ was all about change and his followers have to remember that.

As for our legacy, what we leave behind, we need to be more perceptive. My books and journalism will soon be forgotten, and with a handful of exceptions that applies to every writer. My legacy as a Christian and as a priest will, I hope, be different. It's what I did for others. Every person I've tried to help, every meagre act of generosity, every act of forgiveness, every effort to try to do the right thing, support for those who are forgotten, sacrifices, and attempts to simply make things better. Not grand and usually small, unknown contributions to the timeless and seamless world of kindness and goodness. That's the transformative aspect of the human condition, that's what lives after us.

The doors of antiquity are now open wide, not to despair but to hope and faith. Thank God

for that. Thank God every single day.

Blessings

Michael



Week of Christian Unity Starts at St. Luke's

We held our service for Christian Unity on Sunday afternoon, Jan 21st. It was truly ecumenical, with clergy from the Anglican, United, Lutheran, Coptic, Reformed, Roman Catholic, Ukrainian Orthodox, Convention Baptist, and other churches present. We prayed and worshiped together, and Stuart delivered a deeply moving homily about the essence of Christian love and commitment, based on the story of the Good Samaritan. We had coffee and cookies afterwards and lots of new friendships were made. A wonderful event.



Submitted by Michael Coren

Pastoral Associate's Report

Dear friends,

It is always a joy to greet you all, as your friend and fellow Christian and member of St. Luke's. A long time ago, during my preparation for Confirmation in the Episcopal Church of Cuba, the Anglican expression of the church in my country of birth, I learned of the peculiar place of the parish, and that of the diocese, in the life and mission of the Church catholic and universal.



This is, of course, the Anglican model and paradigm. There are other churches and expressions of the movement of Jesus with rather different notions of how the governance and mission of the Church should be addressed.

But, in the Anglican tradition, the Church is governed by the work of a diocesan synod, and organizes itself around, and is led by, the gifts and ministry of a bishop, who delegates to priests, deacons, and appointed and elected leaders for the care and governance of the local churches.

This also means that parishes and local churches, while visible as such, are not isolated units of the church and agents of the mission of Jesus, but even fellow agents, and local expressions of the life of the Church which is fully visible in the fellowship of parishes within a local diocese, in our case, that of Niagara.

This is a long and convoluted way to account for how I have been serving in other parishes of our diocese, at the request of Bishop Susan Bell, and to note, and give thanks to God for the gracious and generous consent and support of your representatives in our parish governance and, especially so, our rector, Stuart Pike.

Last year, if you recall, I served as interim priest with the Church of St John the Evangelist, in Hamilton, and that appointment concluded just before this past Advent, to be followed by my appointment as rector of the Church of the Ascension, also in Hamilton.

As you would know, these are all changes and pastoral charges, filled with opportunities for me to serve, and to learn, and grow, in both my priestly and overall Christian calling, service and ministry.

At the same time, it also means that I am not around and with you anywhere nearly as much as I wish I could.

The Church of the Ascension is home to a wonderful congregation, seeking to make its ministry viable, amid a very complex, and changing neighborhood. My role there, while that of a priest and pastor, is but a joyous contribution to what the mission of the church can bring to that nearby city, with works of worship, community-building, and service, in the fellowship of very dedicated and gifted lay leaders and ministers.

I remain, of course, available to you all for any form of pastoral care and priestly assistance this congregation of St. Luke's might require, as assigned by our parish rector.

With him, our parish deacon, and my fellow Pastoral Associate, I remain ever your friend and priest in Christ Jesus.

Your friend,

Leonel

Warden's Thoughts for The Spring Newsletter



Thank you to all our clergy, staff, and the many volunteers for this amazing and fulfilling celebration of Christ's birth. Thank you not only for your time and talents, for the inspiring and varied worship services, but also for the community outreach and financial support to our parish. The Christmas Families support, the special community lunch, and, dear to every warden and treasurer's heart, the Christmas donations. It was a great way to end a very good year for our Parish. I hope we all feel inspired to tackle the challenges, or should I say opportunities, of 2024, of which there are many. Our first challenge will be a balanced budget with full clergy staffing, building repairs, and increasing costs on many fronts for operating and maintaining our Parish. Delivering on the various projects in our Mission Action Plan is another challenge as these projects are getting defined and need volunteers and financial support, hopefully with grants and funds that do not drag down our budget. A third and very key challenge is to build our numbers, particularly in a way that has a more balanced demographic of ages. This is key to renewing our volunteer army in support of our outreach and vibrant parish life now and in the future.

Project Updates:

The monthly Sunday Schools are off to a good start, and we all need to help build the momentum by getting the word out.

For the Accessible washroom in the entrance of the church, we finally have a date for the minor variance meeting with the City, Feb 14th. While final approval will likely take another 4 months after that, it should be the last major hurdle, before vestry and diocesan approval. The community survey results are being compiled to identify other community needs we might be able to address.

Church Avenue Committee has been meeting with a number of potential supporters and is building interest. The objective is to develop this valuable green space in the heart of Burlington so it can be better utilized by both the community and our church, potentially with paths, seating, gardens, historical plaques, and meditation space. St. Luke's owns, and will continue to own, this very valuable property and we are hoping to find enthusiastic partners and grants to fund the development.

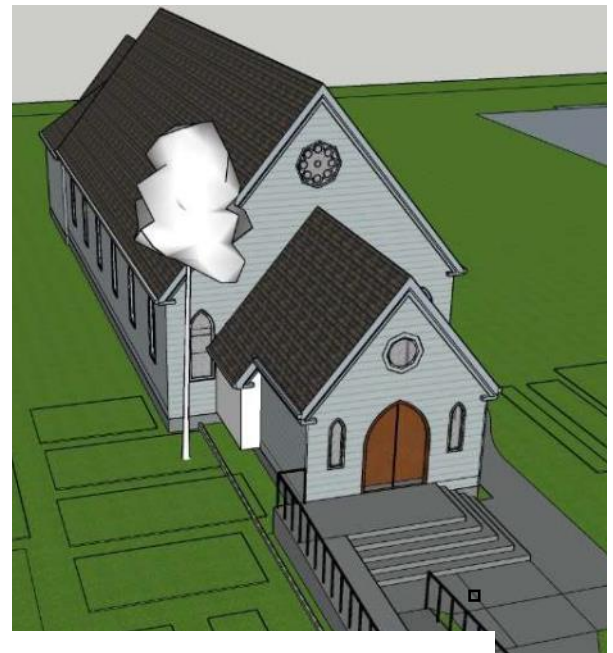
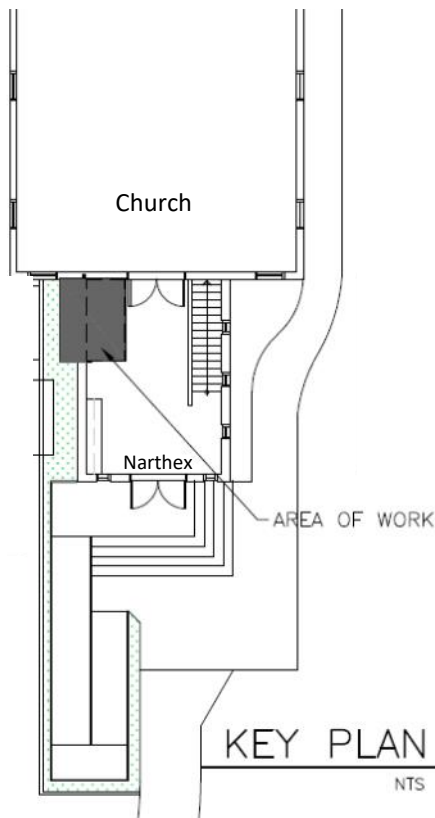
A Fire Safety Plan for the church has been completed and is in the hands of the Burlington Fire Department for approval. Once approved we will share it with everyone and many of us will have a part to play in its implementation. Doug Finch, our St. Luke's Fire Marshall, will lead this. We will need to develop a similar plan for the parish hall.

Rick Reycraft Rector's Warden

St. Luke's Accessible Washroom Project

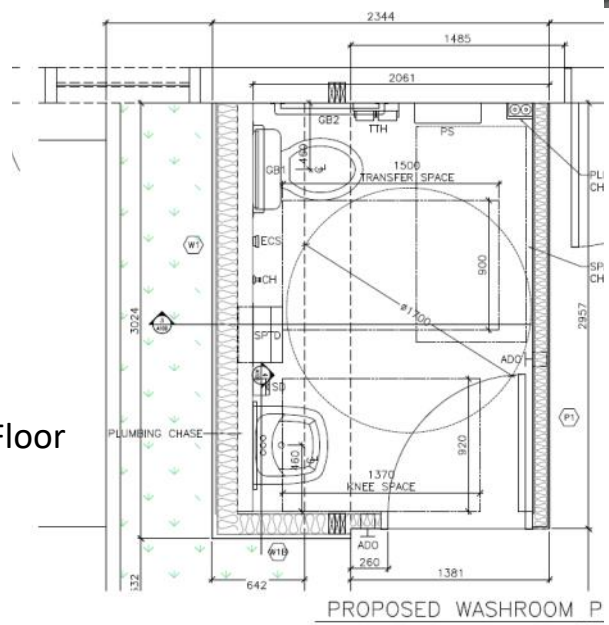
Assuming we get final approval from the Parish, the Diocese, and the City, we hope to start construction in the next six months on this long-awaited facility with an estimated cost of \$105,000. We are delighted that we have donor promises and, if necessary, funds in other accounts sufficient to cover the costs so we will not need a broader capital campaign. The small but wheelchair accessible washroom is planned in the northwest corner of the narthex and requires expanding the narthex but with a two foot cantilever that does not disturb the ground and does not overhang any graves. The architect is designing materials to ensure the washroom will be soundproof, and blend with current materials of construction, an obvious necessity in this location.

Please direct questions or comments of concerns or support to warden@stlukesburlington.ca



There will be a fold down baby change table as well.

Washroom Floor Plan



From the Deacon



Several weeks ago at one of our bible study sessions, one of the ladies showed us a special notebook that she had received from her sister for Christmas. That in itself made it very special. She said that her sister gave it to her so that she could write down notes from bible study or anything else that struck her fancy. That got us into a discussion about writing and how many of us keep journals. Journals can take many different forms and we talked about all the ways we record thoughts and ideas we have, special quotes that catch our fancy or whether each journal has a theme. I have several journals that have a gardening theme. In those journals, I included photos of my garden in different seasons, quotes that I found that had special significance to me or ones that really spoke to how I was feeling. I spent considerable time after bible study that day going back over some of my gardening journals. It reawakened my soul in so many ways! I still journal, but sometimes not quite as often as I should. When I do take the time, it can be very soothing.

“Your mind is a garden; your thoughts are the seeds. The harvest can be either flowers or weeds.”

“Thew soul is a garden enclosed....our own perpetual paradise where we can be refreshed and restored.”

(author unknown)

There is a lot of talk about spiritual growth in popular self help magazines. Many serious books offer ancient wisdom about soul-growing. In the literature of spiritual growth we find that we are growing spiritually when each choice we make nurtures and aligns with our beliefs and our love becomes more and more inclusive. So, how does writing a diary or a journal help a person grow in spirit? Honest, spontaneous and reflective writing becomes meditation on how our actions reflect our beliefs and how we are learning to love. In his memoirs, Daniel Wakefield tells of how he became aware of the integration of actions, spirit, character and keeping a journal of the story of his life. “The journal is a time tested way to look at our actions and the way these actions grow into habits, virtues and character so that we create destinies that are filled with brilliant light and rich love.”

Writing a journal can be healing. Healing means becoming whole or complete. Spiritual healing begins when we live in harmony with our beliefs. A journal helps us keep track of our lives and put the pieces together when we start to become unravelled or overwhelmed. We can adapt the persona of being buoyant, cheerful, never a cross word spoken, always there for others or a constant state of positive energy. But there has to be a balance....this is where the journal becomes the vehicle for us to express anger, depression, and letting out the demons. It is a release. By establishing this balance, we become whole.

Journal writing can be a great release. We can let out our feelings on paper instead of using violent words or actions, or envious rage. This letting out of feelings gives us a way to calm the inner dragons. Journal writing can be freeing. Freedom is our capacity to take part in shaping our life. In order to do that we must be conscious, and conscious living comes through the process of writing.

From the Deacon continued

As we write down our dreams, feelings, fears, hopes, encounters, we more fully understand the wholeness of who we are. When we write things down, we can go back and ponder and understand and then begin to discern more freely how to act. Finally, journal writing honours our connection with the Spirit. As we write about our days, we see the Spirit's touch through people, nature and in ourselves.

We can write anything we want in our journal. No one is going to be watching over our shoulder pointing out spelling mistakes, or giving suggestions on how to make it sound better. Your inner self flows across the page and you write how you feel. Everyone can write—be it simple or complex. Perhaps you found a prayer that had special meaning to you: put it in your journal. Did you see a picture that caught your attention? Cut it out and tape it in. The list for ideas and getting starting is endless and different for all of us. A journal can be our other voice, but it can also be a record of our being, our experiences and most of all our ability to connect. Enjoy your writing!

"The next thing most like living one's life over again seems to be a recollection of that life, and to make that recollection as durable as possible by putting it down in writing."

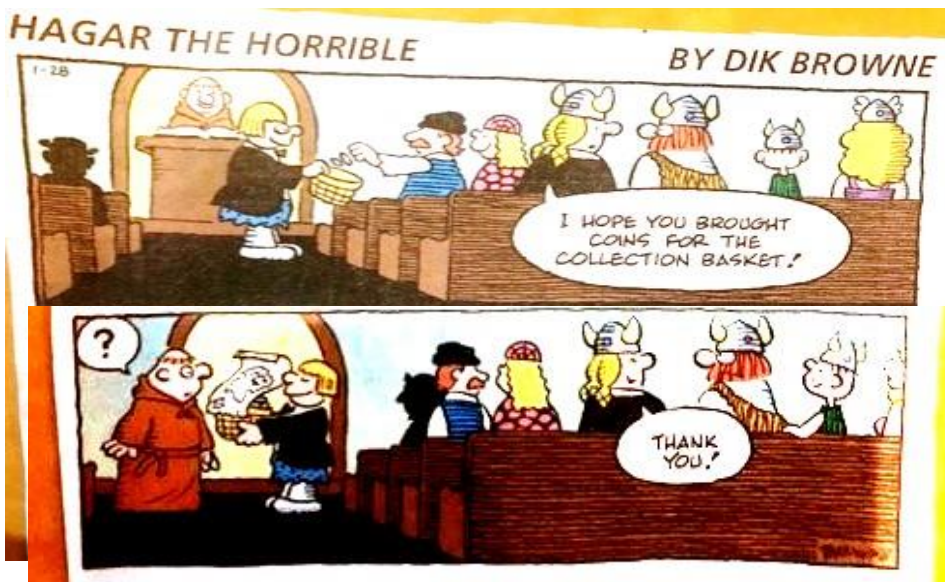
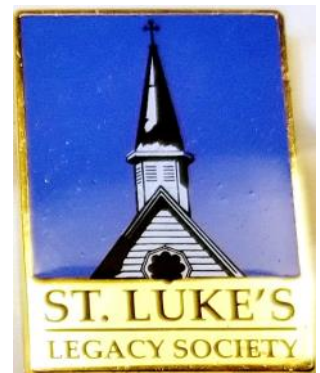
--Benjamin Franklin

Sheila Plant

St. Luke's Legacy Society

"The Legacy Society invites us to consider how we can utilize our assets garnered during our lifetime in a creative and substantive way to support St. Luke's in perpetuity.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sc/fi/45nx26dlaqm7zkv5opmwz/Legacy-brochure2023-final.pdf?rlkey=2eakxw647xo5pxa4xek2yh1oq&dl=0>



Hagar gives his treasure map

Submitted by Don Bettger

A Journey

In his sermon on Epiphany Sunday, Stuart said, "The story of Epiphany itself seems almost fantastical, almost like something written by Tolkien: magi, wizards, kings on a journey from afar, engaged in a great search. They are led by a star which shows the way in a dark world."

Shortly after he gave that sermon, I was doing some reading and came across a poem by J.R.R. Tolkien from Lord of the Rings. It could be called Roads. It speaks of a journey...a journey that might be long or short, but always begins with a single step. This poem is sometimes read at a funeral as it talks about a journey that brings us home as well. We journey towards a light: a light of rest.

A Reading from Lord of the Rings

By J.R.R.Tolkien

*Roads go ever ever on,
Over rock and under tree,
By caves where never sun has shone,
By streams that never find the sea;
Over snow by winter sown,
And through the merry flowers of June,
Over grass and over stone,
And under mountains in the moon.

Roads go ever ever on
Under cloud and under star,
Yet feet that wandering have gone
Turn at last to home afar.
Eyes that fire and sword have seen
And horror in the halls of stone
Look at last on meadows green
And trees and hills they long have known.

Roads go ever on and on
Out from the door where it began.
Now far ahead the Road has gone,
Let others follow it who can!
Let them a journey new begin,
But I at last with weary feet
Will turn towards the lighted inn,
My evening-rest and sleep to meet.*



Submitted by Sheila Plant

EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS - Easter Sunday is March 31st

If you would like to remember a loved one(s) by donating
to our Easter Flower Memorials

Please submit your wording (print clearly) & donation



*** to the **CHURCH OFFICE** marked **Altar Guild – Chris Hughes**

OR

*** **MAIL TO:** Chris Hughes, 1245 Richmond Rd., Burlington, ON L7S 1K5

PLEASE do not put them on the collection plate

(cheques should be made payable to St. Luke's Altar Guild)

DEADLINE for submissions: Monday, March 18

These flowers are used to decorate the church for Easter & most are delivered
to our shut-ins following the Easter morning services.

For more information call Chris Hughes (905-632-9535)

ALSO, A REMINDER - We need your help to deliver Easter plants!

Following our Easter Day services, plants are delivered to our parishioners
in nursing homes or confined to their own homes.

The Altar Guild will be handing out the plants & delivery cards - in the church,
following the last service on Easter Day –

plants can be delivered either that day or during the first part of the week.

A sign-up sheet for volunteers will be available early March.

This is an important ministry of outreach and we receive many phone calls & notes of thanks
from very appreciative parishioners. We hope you will consider helping!

Rose Wang - Journey from East to West: Finding God Between Two Worlds

[\(Rose has joined the clergy team at St. Luke's for 3 months as part of her training as a theology student.\)](#)

In the heart of our community stands St. Luke's Church, a beacon of faith and fellowship. My 11-year-old son, John, and I have been profoundly blessed to be part of this dynamic community. Our journey at St. Luke's beautifully illustrates the strength of spiritual growth and the vital role of community in our modern world. This journey, rich in faith and community, echoes a deeper personal voyage that spans continents and cultures.



Preface

As I stand on the horizon of my memories, I see two worlds: one, the majestic landscapes of China, a place deeply rooted in ancient traditions, and the other, the expansive, dynamic canvas of the West, which offered me a new chapter of life. Both these worlds, as disparate as they seem, guided me to my ultimate purpose: my spiritual awakening and deepening relationship with God. *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."* (Matthew 7:7)

Growing up in China, the concept of God didn't hold as prominent a place as the reverence for ancestors, the cycles of nature, and the teachings of Confucius, Laozi, and Buddha. My family's spiritual foundation was steeped in rituals—the lighting of incense during Qingming Festival, the vibrant Spring Festival celebrations with families, and the enduring tales of loyalty, respect, and balance from ancient scriptures.

Roots in Ancient Oriental Traditions

Now, let's journey back to the beginning. I was born in a small, remote, and impoverished village in Shandong Province, China. In our village, higher education was a rare opportunity. To give you a glimpse of the poverty we faced, I can recall a vivid memory from my youth. One day a fellow villager knocked on our door and asked my mother, "Aunt, can you please lend me 50 cents so that I could buy some salt? I can survive without money, but I can't without salt."

Under those circumstances:

We had no chances to know the Bible.

We had no chances to go to church.

We had no chances to get to know Jesus.

I am from a big family; I have two elder sisters and one elder brother. My father worked as a middle school physics teacher, and my mother was a diligent peasant woman. *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."* (Jeremiah 29:11) Despite numerous challenges and hardships, my parents steadfastly encouraged and supported our education. Thanks to their unwavering dedication and sacrifice, one of my elder sisters, my elder brother, and I were fortunate enough to pursue higher education at colleges and universities.

Theology Student (continued)

Rise from Spiritual Emptiness

Upon completing my studies, I was drawn to Beijing, the cultural, economic, and political epicenter of China, with aspirations to carve out a successful career for myself. With firm determination and countless sleepless nights, my efforts bore fruit. I secured a desirable position as the Executive Assistant to the China CEO of a famous multinational corporation. The job came with a handsome salary, a plush office overlooking the city, and the respect of my peers. It felt as though I had finally grasped the “salt” that was so essential in my earlier life – in a materialistic form.

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Mark 8:36) I found myself trapped in a crippling depression, a darkness so consuming that on more than one occasion, I contemplated ending it all. The very “salt” I believed I had secured in my life seemed to be slipping away, leaving a spiritual void.

One evening, as I sat at my office desk surrounded by the city lights, my phone buzzed with a message from an old friend, Peng. He had noticed my withdrawn demeanor during our recent encounters and expressed his concern. Sensing my desperate mental need for salvation, he invited me to join him that Sunday at a family church.

I remember our discreet entrance into a modest apartment. The windows were covered with thick curtains, shielding the gathering from prying eyes. Inside, a hushed congregation gathered with their reverence palpable. We whispered ancient hymns, and the melodies flowed like a healing balm over my tormented soul. The soft-spoken readings from the Bible seemed to speak directly to my heart, offering solace and understanding.

At the conclusion of one particularly moving service, an elderly lady approached me. With gentle grace, she enveloped my cold hands within her warm, dry grasp. Her eyes radiated warmth and compassion. "Jesus loves you," she whispered with unwavering conviction.

A profound elation, unlike anything I had ever experienced, surged through me. It felt as if a dormant chamber of my heart had been unlocked, releasing a flow of joy and understanding. From that transformative moment, my days adopted a new rhythm. I sought solace in prayer, yearning for guidance and answers. Within the sacred verses of the Bible, I found wisdom and comfort. In moments both subtle and profound, I felt the Lord's presence, answering my prayers and guiding me through life's intricate labyrinth with a sure hand.

Over time, life evolved. Later I embraced the roles of both a wife and a mother; roles that brought me immense joy. Yet, deep within, there was an insatiable thirst for a deeper understanding of the Lord and Christianity. As 2017 dawned, my husband and I embarked on a pilgrimage to Israel during the New Year holiday. This wasn't merely a tour; it was a quest to walk the paths Jesus had trodden, to breathe in the air of a land described as flowing with milk and honey. Among my many aspirations, one held special significance - to be baptized in the Jordan River, the very place where Jesus Christ received His baptism. Throughout our journey, we soaked in biblical stories, visited numerous churches, and in each sacred space, I found a moment to pray. The Lord, in His profound ways, communicated and comforted me.

Theology Student (continued)

Straddling Two Worlds: Generational and Cultural Challenges

Later that year, in the autumn of 2017, a significant decision awaited us. We chose to relocate from the bustling city of Beijing, China, to the serene expanse of Winnipeg, Manitoba. The shift brought a freedom I had longed for; the liberty to worship openly, to raise our voices in hymns and proudly recite Scriptures without fear or reservation.

Observing my fellow Chinese expatriates in Canada, I noticed a shared curiosity. Many were intrigued by the church and harbored a genuine interest in Christianity. However, the language barrier posed a challenge. English sermons, replete with unfamiliar terms and intricate theological concepts, proved difficult to grasp. Thus, many of them turned towards Chinese churches, hoping to find spiritual solace in their native tongue. Unfortunately, many of these establishments were led by priests whose theological education seemed informal and lacked systematic education and depth. Their sermons often echoed outdated or radical perspectives, such as insisting on women's silence in church and declaring homosexual behavior as intolerable, deserving of eternal damnation. From my humble point, there's an urgent need for a more enlightened, contemporary approach to preaching, one that's underpinned by a robust and formal theological foundation.

As a first-generation immigrant, I find myself straddling multiple worlds. Each day presents a tapestry of challenges: cultural contrasts, differing value systems, educational disparities, and religious nuances. Even after half a decade in this beautiful nation, I often feel like a newcomer, attempting to unravel the intricate threads of Canadian life.

From my perspective, the responsibility of the first generation is twofold. Firstly, we must endeavor to integrate seamlessly into Canadian society, acquainting ourselves with its grand ethos and norms. Simultaneously, it's imperative that we ensure our future generations cherish and continue the commendable Chinese traditions we hold dear: our unwavering diligence, the virtue of frugality, the importance of foresight, and our dependable nature. Concurrently, we should inculcate in our children, and ourselves, the laudable values that Canada stands for: inclusivity, a genuine respect for diversity, openness, and creativity.

Take, for instance, my son, John – named after the cherished figure from the Bible. At a tender age of eleven, he often displays a spirit of independence and autonomy, distinctly different from my upbringing. When I try to persuade him to do something or not to do something, often he responds with, "Mom, I have my own way. Do not interfere with me. I have my free will." When I was young, I was taught to be obedient. Now, as a parent in Canada, I grapple with the challenge: how do I blend my traditional upbringing with the democratic ethos of raising my son here?

A Vision for Service and Integration

This cultural interplay fuels my passion to serve as a bridge for the first generation and their families, helping them navigate the complexities of adapting to a new environment in a manner that pleases God. Through systematic study, Bible exploration, and active community participation, I aim to facilitate this transition.

Theology Student (continued)

By enrolling in a well-structured Master of Divinity program at Trinity College and glean-
ing practical insights from my home church, I aspire to be well-equipped to minister effectively
not just to my fellow Chinese compatriots but to other immigrants from diverse backgrounds.
*"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and
of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."* (Matthew 28:19) My goal is to foster a deep-rooted connec-
tion with God and His creation amongst these varied communities.

Moreover, having personally traversed the dark corridors of life and death - mental
struggles - I am keen to extend a helping hand to those grappling with similar situations. *"You
are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is
no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the
light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden."* (Matthew 5:13-16) I am motivated
to bring individuals to God's salvation where, through worship, biblical study, shared intro-
spection, and fellowship, they can uncover and embrace the spiritual "salt" that adds true
meaning to their lives.

Through these diverse experiences, from grappling with cultural differences to embrac-
ing new spiritual perspectives, I've learned the importance of balance, understanding, and
faith. It's a journey that continually shapes my worldview and fortifies my resolve to serve. As
we navigate our unique paths, we are reminded of the unifying power of our shared faith and
the comforting presence of our church community.

As we move forward, let us draw inspiration from the peaceful life we are enjoying, re-
minding ourselves of the pivotal role our church plays in uniting, supporting, and enlightening
our community. In the spirit of St. Luke's, may we continue to embrace diversity, foster learn-
ing, and grow in faith together.



Advent Quiet Day



On Saturday, December 9, a group of 12 ladies gathered for our Advent Quiet Day for Women. We started with a gathering worship followed by Lectio Divina. This is called sacred reading and our passage was from the Book of Corinthians.

After some quiet time, we then took part in several activities. These included individual reading, journalling, prayer walk, and the making of Anglican Prayer Beads. Although this wasn't a quiet activity, it was one that was enjoyed by all who made them. It was so heartwarming to see ladies helping one another in this activity with a resounding, "I did it!" upon completion.

We then gathered for lunch where we had a great time of friendship and fellowship. We continued our activities in the afternoon and concluded our day with closing worship.

The comments from this day were all positive and we look forward to another Quiet Day in the Spring.

I want to say a special thank you to all the ladies who participated. Your enthusiasm and your participation was greatly appreciated. Sometimes we find it difficult to carve out time for ourselves and just "be", but this day was one of those. It gave everyone a change to refresh and recharge before the busyness of the Christmas Season was upon us.



Sheila

Sunday School Start !!

Every third Sunday of the month we have Sunday School, starting with a children's focus in church.



Food for Life



Our Food for Life program continues to operate every Tuesday morning. We are starting to see some new people who come for food, and we are so glad that we are able to help them. Over the past year, we have seen an increase in numbers each week. At the present time, we are providing food for about 50 people.

We were blessed to have received large donations of food from our Montessori School, Maple IDA and Ecole Renaissance just prior to Christmas. The annual food drives from these three sources have made a huge difference as we have been able to stock our shelves with non-perishable food items.

The children at our Montessori School did their annual food drive and collected a huge amount of non-perishable items for us at Christmas time. They were so excited to come downstairs on the Tuesday before Christmas and put it all on the cart and have their picture taken!

Thank you to our parishioners who continue to support our program as we begin our 14th year this year. We keep a box in the foyer of the Parish Hall and barely a week goes by that we don't see food donations in the box. We are so grateful to all who have made financial contributions this year.

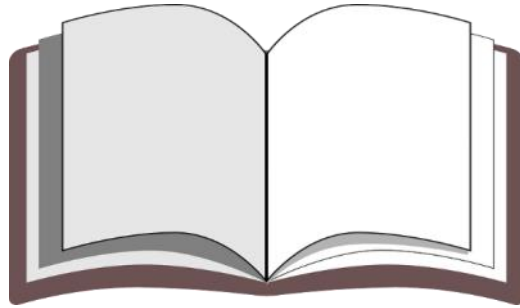
We often find that people come to the office on a day other than Tuesday looking for food items. So, we now have our Pantry Bag Program. We keep several bags of non-perishable food items in bags and we have put them on the shelf outside the office. This means that if someone comes in, then Elaine or Stuart can easily give them a bag of food. This has been very helpful and we have already put them to good use.

Our friends who come each week must now register with Food for Life in order to obtain food. Once they are registered, they then receive a tag which they must show to us when they come on Tuesday mornings. We are aware that some people refused to register, and as a result they have not been back. We are thankful that there are other places in Burlington for them to get food on a regular basis.

My heartfelt thanks go out to our volunteers who work diligently every Tuesday morning. They truly are a blessing.

Sheila

Life Passages



October

Robin Woollard

November

December

Jean Beaumont

January

Howard Howlett

Gloria Belliveau

**We sincerely apologize if any names have been omitted. It is not intentional. As you are aware, we are not conducting funerals in the same way as we were, so we do not always hear about the passing of someone. Please let us know if a name has been left off our page.*

“We can’t know why the lily has so brief a time to bloom in the warmth of sunlight kissed upon its face before it folds into its fragrance and bids the world good night to rest its beauty in a gentler place.”



Blue Christmas Service for those grieving a lost loved one at Christmas

Monday Afternoon Bible Study

A group of ladies continue to meet on Monday afternoons to study the Bible. We meet on Zoom and anyone is welcome to join us. There are presently 10 of us.

We are working our way through the Bible and at the time of writing we are just over halfway through the Book of Jeremiah. Throughout our journey of the Old Testament we have certainly come across some difficult and challenging passages but we work together to understand them.

We use a variety of versions of the Bible—each one giving different wording or meaning. This has led to some very interesting discussions which we thoroughly enjoy.

In his book, “The Rebel Christ”, Michael Coren says, “there are various translations of the Bible and the one I have used most in this book is the NRSV. It’s more gender inclusive than some others., it’s scholarly, and it conveys the passion of the text. Translation matters whatever the book and with the bible this is even more complex this is a sacred work containing stories and accounts that shape lives, cultures, nations and souls.”

We have come to realize that this is so true and we thank Michael for his words of wisdom. Most recently we have found that our readings can be transposed to modern times—the conflict and unrest that we read about is even true in the world today.

We look forward to continuing our journey through the Bible.



“Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

--The Book of Common Prayer, p. 236

Sheila

Calander of Events and Services

There is an 8:15 and 10 am Service Every Sunday

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>SERVICES AND EVENTS</u>
Feb. 13th	5-7 pm	Pancake Supper—Shrove Tuesday
Feb, 14th	10 am	Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharist
Feb. 14th	7 pm	Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharist
Feb. 18th	10 am	First Sunday in Lent & Sunday School
Feb. 25th	10 am	Holy Eucharist followed by Annual Vestry Meeting
Mar. 3rd	10 am	3rd Sunday in Lent
Mar. 8th	7 pm	Taize On Line Only
Mar. 10th	10 am	4th Sunday in Lent
Mar. 14th	11:30 am	Speakers Lunch See Page 27
Mar. 17th	10 am	5th Sunday in Lent—Celtic Eucharist & Sunday School
Mar. 24th	10 am	Palm Sunday—10 am starts in Parish Hall
Mar. 25th	10 am	Holy Monday Eucharist
Mar. 26th	10 am	Holy Tuesday Eucharist
Mar. 27th	10 am	Holy Wednesday Eucharist
	7 pm	Tenebrae Service
Mar, 28th	7 pm	Maundy Thursday Washing Hands with Eucharist
Mar. 29th	10 am	Good Friday - Symbols with Eucharist
Mar. 30th	7 pm	Holy Saturday Easter Vigil
Mar. 31st	8:15 & 10am	Easter Day—Holy Communion/Eucharist
April 7th	10 am	2nd Sunday after Easter
April 11th	11:30 am	Speakers Lunch See Page 27
April 12th	7 pm	Taize On Line Only
April 14th	10 am	3rd Sunday after Easter
April 20th	6:00 pm	Music at St. Luke’s
April 21st	10 am	Celtic Eucharist Sunday School & El Hogar Sunday See Page 37
April 28th	10 am	5th Sunday after Easter
May 5th	10 am	6th Sunday after Easter
May 9th	11:30 am	Speakers Lunch See Page 27
May 10th	7 pm	Taize On Line Only
May 12th	10 am	Ascension Sunday
May 19th	10 am	Pentecost Sunday
May 25th	7 pm	Concert for Children in Need—In the Church See Page 33
May 26th	10 am	Trinity Sunday
June 1st	8 am	Garage Sale See page 22

For schedule of the Community Lunch and Social Hour see page 36.

- Evening prayer twice a week is available online only.
- The Sunday 10:00 am is live-streamed on the church YouTube channel.
- Sunday 10:00 am, Evening Prayer services, Taizé, and other online services can be played **at any time** after the time indicated. Go to www.stlukesburlington.ca and click on “Virtual Service”. You can then click on the picture of the service you want. For services, the words for the hymns and the liturgy are included in the video so that you can follow along.

FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR



Belated Happy New Year!

I will be going into more detail about our liturgical music throughout 2023 (particularly the Christmas challenges) in my upcoming Vestry report. I invite you to read more about St. Luke's music over the past year, as well as special thanks to all involved.

I neglected in that Vestry report to talk about the Easter season, so I will share a few details here. The choir debuted two new anthems, one for Palm Sunday, and one for Easter Sunday. These were on the simpler side due to us still finding our way after "Covid-tide", but their text and melodies were beautiful, and, I hope, were good for the soul. Graham Young, our trumpeter, continued to support us with his wonderful trumpet playing on several occasions, and Rob Laurie continued to contribute wonderfully not only through his singing in the choir, but also through his musical compositions and guitar playing. We had a summer choir potluck as well, back in August, which was a lovely social time for all.

I look forward to the coming Holy Week and Easter celebrations this year, as well as other special services with our faithful choristers and musicians – including our Celtic fiddlers! The choir and I are preparing two new Easter anthems that were originally meant for Easter 2020. Stay tuned for their debut on March 31!

I am still planning on delving into the new Anglican hymn supplement, as well as re-introducing our new service music setting that we had to set aside. I also have been inserting new hymns from Common Praise that we have not yet sung or have sung rarely; there is still a cornucopia of lovely music within our current hymnal!

If you are interested in joining the choir or lending your instrumental talents, please contact me at jgoodine@stlukesburlington.ca. Our choir rehearsals are Thursday at 7 pm in the church sanctuary. We would love to have you join us!

Jennifer Goodine, Music Director.

A Christmas Eve Solo



St. Luke's Anglican Church Parish Hall

1382 Ontario Street Burlington



We need your help with our huge garage sale for St. Luke's

WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

VOLUNTEERS,

Children's Items & Toys, Clothing, Books

General Household Items, Furniture

Garden Plants & Treasures,

Goodies for our Bake Table

**NO COMPUTERS, TVs, MAJOR APPLIANCES, VCR TAPES,
MATTRESSES, UPHOLSTERED OR CHILDREN'S FURNITURE**

PLEASE

**Drop off donations -Thurs May 30th or May 31st, 9:00AM -
7:00PM**

For information or to arrange for pick up call:

Mark Edwards 416-230-1786

Prayer Shawl Ministry

In October, the Prayer Shawl Ministry Team began meeting in-person following a lengthy pause during Covid. We meet on Thursday afternoons in the parlour between 1:30 and 3:00. Since its inception in 2004 we have distributed many shawls to those who are going through a hard time, those awaiting surgery, those who are grieving and those who just need some comfort and support. Some of our shawls have even travelled overseas!!



In looking back over my files on this ministry, we began making shawls back in 2004, so we have been doing this now for 20 years. You can imagine the number of shawls that we have given out during that time.

Each shawl is made with love and prayers. We display some of them in the church on a Sunday morning and Stuart blesses them. We then add a special prayer tag and it is wrapped ready to distribute.

If you are interested in joining us on a Thursday afternoon from 1:30– 3:00, you are most welcome. Whether you knit or crochet, we welcome you. Patterns and needles are provided. We presently have about six ladies who meet regularly and we always share a cup of tea. It is also a time of fellowship and friendship.

Submitted by Sheila Plant

Parish Life

The activities that take place under the Parish Life umbrella at St. Luke's are many and varied, but they all have one thing in common - fellowship - the glue that binds them all together. Some, like the Pie Makers, Garage Sale, Parish Dinner, and Christmas Market combine fellowship with fundraising, to have fun while ensuring that we can keep doing what we do in our church and our community. Others bring us together to mingle while hearing about a subject of interest, like the Speakers Lunch series, or to enjoy each other's company over a meal and some good music, like Music @ St. Luke's. In all these activities, we support and uphold one another in our Christian walk, and hopefully enjoy ourselves while doing so! If you are new to St. Luke's, and would like to get to know the people around you, I encourage you to take a leap of faith and just 'jump in' where you feel you might best share your time and talents.

I am sure we all share in the joy of seeing all our many parish activities come back to full life again following the pandemic. Many thanks to all of you who have given and continue to give so much of your time and talent!

To God Be the Glory!

Yours in Christ, Lesley Emery, Parish Life Chair

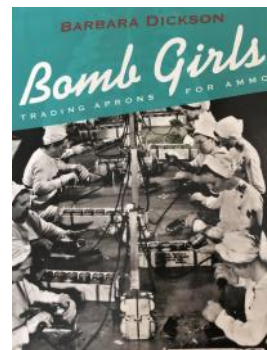
News and Views from the Adult Library

The library is to enhance the spiritual life of its readers

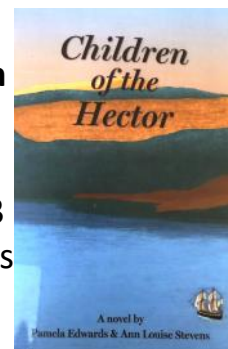
This year the Adult Library is celebrating 25 years of service to the Parish Church of St. Luke. On November 4th, 1999 Anne Crawford (a previous Deacon) and our present Deacon, Sheila Plant, formed a steering committee to look into the possibility of revitalizing the St. Luke's Adult Library. The Phoenix 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 rescued a worthwhile number of books to be used as a starting point for a new library. A steering committee was formed and they got busy immediately. The group visited other church libraries to see how they operated. Before they went ahead with further plans, parishioners were surveyed "Would they use the Church library?" On December 16th, the committee met again to discuss the information found from other churches and the results of the survey. The response from these two sources was positive, therefore 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 approximately 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 currently has 632 titles, with 453 non-fiction books and 179 fiction books. 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. Donations of books have been welcomed, as well.

The most recent book in our collection, "**Bomb Girls**" was kindly donated by the "Speakers Lunch" committee in November 2023. The author of "Bomb Girls", **Barbara Dickson**, was the guest speaker in November, as her book tied in appropriately to Remembrance Day. This book is a fascinating account about the building and operation of the GECO Munitions Plant in "Scarboro" during World War II. This book details the lives of the over 21,000 people, mostly women, who risked their lives handling gunpowder and high explosives, 24 hours a day, six days a week over a four year period in history. In order to aid the troops fighting overseas.



In February, the Speakers Lunch committee is hosting, **Pamela Edwards and Ann Louise Stevens**, co-authors of the book "**Children of the Hector**". This book is a historical account of Ann Louise Stevens earliest known Scottish ancestors making the dangerous voyage aboard the Hector heading to Nova Scotia in 1773, to three subsequent generations challenges in life. The book summary indicates that the authors weave together both fact and fiction, bringing to life a family's struggles, successes and a long lost secret.



We are pleased to offer both of the above books in our library collection. We hope you will visit the library soon, as we are always adding new books to our collection!

Knitters & Friends Giving of Time & Talent

by Mary Taslimi

As always, Knitters & Friends have been busy with a wide variety of projects. Lois Carey decided to knit something “blind”, trying a pattern she found in our storage area for a Pioneer Braid Scarf that had no illustration of the finished item! See the series of photos for a peek at her process.



From the start to a nice zigzag pattern to the finished scarf



Mary Taslimi created a pattern for a bookmark, which she and Lois Carey both test-knitted (thank you to Lois for test-knitting and for figuring out the meterage!). The pattern was inspired by the Paragon Scarf that was all the rage among the Knitters a couple of years ago. Mary used her bookmark pattern to knit Christmas presents for her library colleagues. (see photo) Hand-crafted items make perfect presents for special occasions of all kinds!



Mavis Brown received extra attention and help from a clerk in an art store



on a project she was working on. It turned out the young woman collects toadstools. “I had a design by Alison Cole which was perfect for her collection,” Mavis says. “So I worked it up and it is now ready to give to her.” (see photo) Hand-crafted items make lovely thank-yous!

Two of Mary’s colleagues retired at the end of last year. Channelling Fay Bonanno

and her penchant for miniature creations, Mary found a pattern in a book of tiny patterns and made a teeny weeny gnome for the colleague who particularly likes these folk creatures. (see photos) Hand-crafted items make lovely gifts for special people!

Hand-crafted gifts are a delight any time of year and for any reason!

Knitters & Friends welcomes all friendly knitters and all friendly fibre-workers who crochet or work with yarn, thread, embroidery silk etc.

Come for the crafting, stay for the company! Anyone wishing to join who does not have yarn or needles/hooks is welcome to browse the closet in Room 201 during meeting hours (10am - noon, Tuesdays) and select from donated yarns, tools and patterns.



Delicate Diamonds Bookmark

Difficulty: intermediate

Materials Approx 15m fingering weight yarn with high percentage of wool/other natural fibres (easier to block/relax than acrylic), 3mm knitting needles, tapestry needle, clean hand towel, 1:1 mixture of white glue:water (optional), waxed paper (optional)

Instructions

Cast on 11 stitches. Knit 1 row.

Row 1 (right side): Knit.

Row 2 and all even-numbered rows (wrong side): K2, P7, K2.

Row 3: K2, sl 3 wyif, K1, sl 3 wyif, K2.

Row 5: K2, using R needle, pick up loose strand in front from 2 rows below and knit it with next st on L needle, K5, using R needle, pick up loose strand in front from 2 rows below and knit it with next st on L needle, K2.

Row 7: K3, sl 5 wyif, K3.

Row 9: K5, using R needle, pick up loose strand in front from 2 rows below and knit it with next st on L needle, K5.

Rep rows 3-9 nine times (total of ten diamonds).

Rep row 2.

K one row, then knit 1 more row **on wrong side**.

Bind off loosely knitwise (k2 tog through back loops; slip st from R needle back onto L needle; K2 tog through back loops again; continue, slipping each single new st on R needle back onto L and knitting with next st through back loops until all sts are bound off).

Finishing

With tapestry needle, weave in ends.

To calm curling edges, soak in wool wash, block on clean dry hand towel & let dry. Bookmark will be floppy. If you prefer a stiff bookmark, soak in a 1:1 mixture of water and white glue, squeeze out excess, and let dry completely on waxed paper.

Music at St Lukes

Music at St. Luke's is proud to present The 12/4 Swing Orchestra, back to entertain us by popular demand on April 20. Led by Jim Heaslip and featuring Tony Sciara this rocking jazz band presents the Golden Era of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Perry Como and Michael Bubl , accompanied by a delicious dinner of chicken souvlaki, Greek potatoes, tzatziki, vegetables and carrot cake, all for \$50! Tickets available at 905-632-2918 or blennard@bell.net. Don't forget your dancing shoes.



January Event with Celtic Effect Band



“Speaker’s Lunch”

The goal of the Speaker’s Lunch group is to provide opportunities for St. Luke’s parishioners, guests and others in the wider community to meet in a social setting and to listen to presentations by informed speakers about contemporary issues affecting our community and the world beyond.



The group meets at 11:30am 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. Refreshments, including Sherry are provided - all for a goodwill donation of \$5.

All are welcome - please call Doug Flett (905-637-7009) or Tim Tiernay (905-639-0345) for more information. Your dedicated committee is hopeful that we continue to arrange a diverse and interesting list of topics and speakers.

Our 2024 schedule has gotten off to a fabulous start with attendance being larger than we experienced well before the pandemic. Attendees really enjoyed the light-hearted look at Burlington’s history, while they participated in a trivia game, as facilitated by David Craig and Don Thorpe – two local residents who love history.

In February, an author and descendant of one of the children who journeyed from Scotland in the 1700s on a ship named the “Hector” shared a synopsis of her book, “Children of the Hector”.

March 14th we will hear from a Smith’s Funeral Home representative, who will tell us all about funeral preparation, wills, etc. Not something we think about day-to-day!

On April 11th, we will hear all about Burlington Transit’s plans for Burlington residents, including those of us in the “seniors” category.

Our last luncheon before our summer break will be May 9th, when we will learn what Artificial Intelligence (AI) is all about and what that means to us today and in the future.

Following a rest over the summer, we will return in the fall to a diverse range of speakers/ subjects.

We have been pleased at the growing interest and attendance at the lunches. Please continue to spread the word as to the fun, fellowship and interesting subjects at our meetings. If you have any questions, suggestions as to subjects or speakers for future meetings, please contact;

Tim Tiernay (phone: 905-639-0345; email: tim.tiernay@bell.net).

Also, we are looking for new members to join our Committee. It is not much work and your help and ideas would be welcomed.

Lastly, if you have not provided your email address or text number in the past, please do as we will then be able to alert you to upcoming meetings and any changes.

We look forward to seeing you at one or more of these lunches in the future.

Speaker's Lunch continued

Photos From Winter Lunch Speakers



David Craig on January 11th, 2024
– Burlington History Trivia



Don Thorpe on January 11th, 2024
– Burlington History Trivia

Pie Makers

Thank you to all our customers for making 2023 a very successful year. All profits from the sale of our tourtières go to St. Luke's general operating funds.



We are back in the kitchen for another year and will be holding 3 sales during the year, prior to the Christmas Market. The first sale will be Sunday, March 17th in the Parish Hall following the 8:15 and 10am services. Let your friends and neighbours know so that they can give you their orders! We had to raise the prices slightly in 2023 because of the rising cost of groceries. A large family size is \$25 and the small is \$9 or 3 for \$25.

We hope to see you on March 17th. You can celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a French Canadian meat pie!



Our Church Directory is Coming Online!



Once it is complete you will be able to view our updated church directory online or via a Free mobile app.

We will soon be sharing how you will be able to view the directory online after signing in to create a login.

The free mobile app will be available so that you will have the information conveniently at your fingertips on your phone.

We will need your help to approve the information you would like displayed in the directory. In this digital age, phone numbers & emails are so necessary & helpful.

You will be able to upload your own picture although we can make arrangements to have your picture taken if you would prefer.

We realize that not everyone will be able to upload their own information so Wendy & Ros are willing to do that as well as take your picture.

Also, for those who cannot view the directory online, there will be an option to have a printed copy made available.

For more information please contact:
Wendy Murray at wmurray4@cogeco.ca or
Ros Reyecraft at rosreyecraft@hotmail.com

“Gone Too Soon”: Child and Youth Mortality as Represented in St. Luke’s Churchyard

By Dorothy Kew

View of St. Luke’s from Ontario Street

This year St. Luke’s is celebrating its 190th Anniversary, and a committee is already in place and planning a year of events to celebrate this significant commemoration. A great number of changes take place in 190 years and some of these can be observed in a walk-through of St. Luke’s churchyard. One thing that stands out is the frequency of childhood deaths in the earlier years of the church’s existence, as shown in several stones which record early mortality. I wanted to find out what were the causes of death among young people back in the 1800s.



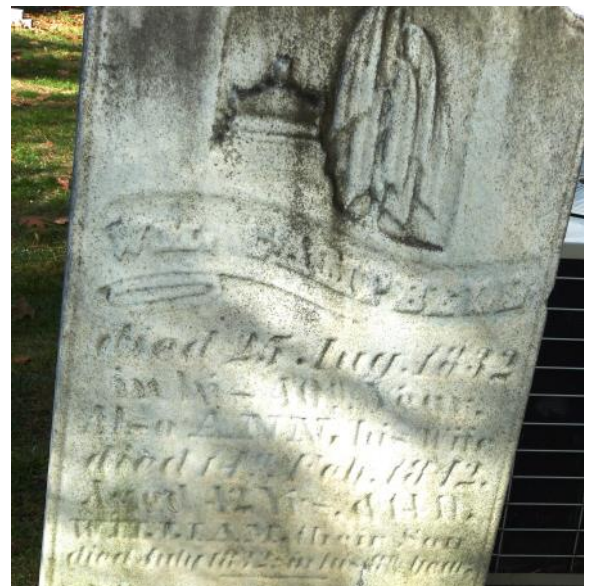
One of the earliest stones in the churchyard is the William Campbell stone, which is presently leaning up against the air conditioner on the west side of the church.

The inscription reads:

Wm Campbell died Aug 25, 1832 in his 40th yr.
Ann, his wife died Feb 14, 1842 aged 42 yrs 14 days.

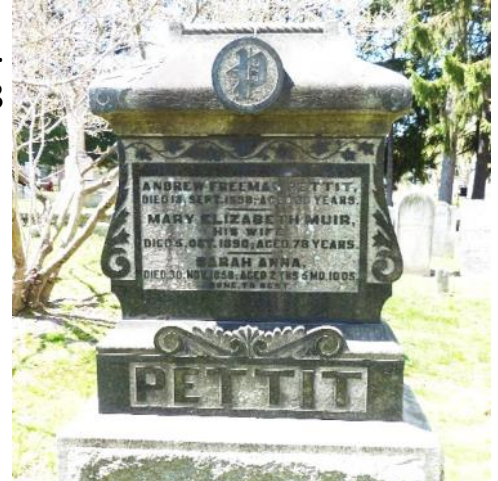
William, their son died July 1832 in his 8th yr.

What is curious about this is that St. Luke’s church was not built until 1834, and the earliest burial record is dated 1835. We cannot therefore assume that either William, Sr. or his son, William, Jr., are buried there, presumably only the widow, Ann, while the stone records all three.



This is the Pettit stone. The inscription reads:

Andrew Freeman Pettit died Sept 13, 1898 aged 90 yrs.
 Mary Elizabeth Muir, his wife died Oct 5, 1890 aged 78
 Sarah Anna died Nov 30, 1858 aged 2 yrs 5 mos 10 days.



The stone commemorates Andrew Freeman Pettit, his second wife, Mary Elizabeth Muir, and daughter, Sarah Anna, who died in 1858 at two years old.

Finding the cause of death in these earlier records is difficult. Civil registration of births and deaths in Ontario was not instituted until 1869, two years after Confederation, and was not actually mandatory till the early 1900s. In order to find out more about the earlier deaths I looked at copies of the baptismal register, but found no causes of death. For some background on the period I turned to Claire Emery Machan's book, **From Pathway to Skyway Revisited: the story of Burlington**. (Burlington Historical Society, 1997). She points out that in the early years of the 19th century there were few doctors in the area. Diseases such as cholera, the "ague" (perhaps malaria), and smallpox were endemic. Later with the advent of inoculation for smallpox and better sanitary conditions, the general health of the township improved.

Ancestry.com. Ontario, Canada. Deaths and Deaths Overseas, 1869-1949

It was easier to find causes of death once civil registration began, except for a few occasions where the doctor in question did not record it, for example, the death record of Edward R. Lowe, son of Lawrence Lowe, a blacksmith, who died in 1888, aged fifteen years. The Lowe Stone, a tall monument, is located on the west side of the church, near to the ramp.

Name and Surname	When Died	Sex - Male or Female	Age	Rank or Profession	Where Born	Certified Cause of Death and Duration of Illness	Name of Physician, if any	Signature, Description and Residence of Informant	When Registered	Religious Denomination of Deceased	Signature of Registrar
G. C. Bastedo	March 29 th 1888	Male	51 years	Chk. of Bir. Com. B.	Nelson Township		Dr. Wm Richardson	Wm Richardson Burlington	March 31 st 88	Presbyterian	Wynelles
Edward R. Lowe	Jan 1 st 1888	Male	15 years		Burlington	4 months	Dr. Wm Richardson	Lawrence Lowe Burlington	June 2 nd 88	Church of England	Wynelles
Agnes Ellen Bay	June 11 th 88	Female	5 Mos 16 Days		Burlington	Pneumonia 3 Days	Dr. Bastedo	Wm Bay Jr Burlington	June 12 th 88	Presbyterian	Wynelles

The attending doctor, Dr. William Richardson, did not provide a cause of death, though he did include the duration of the illness.

Probably there is no sadder blow to a family than to lose two children to the same disease. Such was the case with two Greene children, the son and daughter of Thomas James Cecil Greene, the son of our first rector, the Reverend Thomas Greene. Thomas J. C. Greene, his wife, Catherine Angel Greene, and their children, Catherine LeGeyt Greene, Philip Cecil Greene, and Marjorie Frances Greene, are all buried in the Greene plot. Catherine died February 9, 1883, aged 10 years and 6 months, and Philip died March 7, 1883, aged 8 years and 7 months. The cause of death for both was diphtheria.

Marjorie Frances Greene died September 8, 1886, aged 6 weeks, but I could not find a death record for her, so it may not have been registered.

The family of the Reverend George Tebbs, our fifth rector, also suffered the loss of a young son, Maurice Oswald Tebbs, who died January 18, 1922.

The cause of death was given as pulmonary tuberculosis. Maurice was 18 years and 9 months old. I found him in the 1921 census as a patient at the Mountain Sanitarium in Ancaster, where he remained for three years till his death.



There are probably more children buried in the churchyard that have no stone to commemorate them. The north-west corner of the cemetery has no stones, nor does the 1894 survey show any plots. In 1999 a ground penetrating radar survey was done of that area which “recorded signal anomalies that the contractor interpreted as likely to be existing graves”. At the same time the contractor, Geophysics GPR International of Rexdale stated that there was no guarantee that these anomalies were in fact burial plots. (My thanks to Michael Skafel, Chair of the Cemetery Board, for this information.)

St. Luke’s churchyard was recorded by the Halton Peel Branch of Ontario Ancestors (the Ontario Genealogical Society) in 1982. At that time the burial records showed over a dozen children’s names for which there were no stones. There may be more young children buried in the churchyard for whom we have little or no information.

References:

- Ancestry.com. Ontario, Canada. Deaths and Deaths Overseas, 1869-1949
- Halton Peel Branch, Ontario Ancestors (the Ontario Genealogical Society). St. Luke’s Anglican Church Cemetery, 1982.
- Machan, Claire Emery. Form Pathway to Skyway Revisited: the story of Burlington. Burlington: Burlington Historical Society, 1997.

Special Concert for Children In Need !!

Save this date:

Saturday May 25, 2024

They're back!



We are so pleased that the Harlequin Singers will be back to present a spring concert at St. Luke's to be able to support programs that help children in need. They have begun the year with an enthusiastic group of singers and a well selected repertoire to please all concert goers. The Harlequins, who bring fun, talent and fine entertainment with their repertoire of pop and Broadway musicals, jazz and the big band era music will delight and entertain you so be sure to mark this date!

Watch for details of tickets and program.

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Christmas Celebrations at St. Luke's



Christmas Eve Celebrations and Pageant





A Bettger Family Project



Stuart at the Christmas Market



A Reycraft Family Project



Community Christmas Lunch

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.



The members of the Ministry of Outreach are still meeting via Zoom, But remain enthusiastic and very busy reaching out to make a difference in many different ways to our community.

Here some of our members are pictured doing Sunday coffee hour duty. Lots of fun!

ADVOCACY BREAKFASTS

This division of our Outreach Ministry has held a strong, informative and productive role at St. Luke's.

Plans for 2024's Spring Presentations are in the development stages and will be shared through the Parish Bulletins and via other online formats at the appropriate times.

We are very grateful to all our fellow parishioners and friends of St. Luke's for the loyal support shown throughout the long history of Social Justice Programmes we have been able to share.

Submitted by Carrie Raybould on behalf of the Advocacy Team, Jackie Maver, Dave Beck, Ros Reycraft and Janice Skafel

DOWNTOWN BURLINGTON COMMUNITY LUNCH

The Community Lunch is hosted by St. Luke's, and we partner with three other churches. Join us for a tasty meal and conversation. We are open on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Wednesdays of the month 11:00-1:30, October to May. All meals are free with a free will offering basket available if guests wish to contribute towards the cost of the food. Guests are mainly seniors from Burlington and include members of our congregation, our partner churches, and our community. Coffee and tea are served from 11:00-12:00, and lunch starts at 12:00.

Our spring lunches are on the following dates:

February 7, 21

March 6, 20

April 3, 17

May 1, 15, 29

Our lunches pause for the summer at the end of May. This is a picture of our Dec. 20 lunch.

Heather White, Community Lunch Coordinator

dheatherwhite@gmail.com

905-632-1025



BURLINGTON UBUNTU GRANDWOMEN

The Burlington Ubuntu Grandwomen are preparing for their Spring Events and will be sharing information through their website www.thebug.ca.

This group continues to meet regularly monthly at Burlington Baptist Church. Ongoing information about the work of the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign and the activities presented by various other chapters in our local area are shared regularly.

Stay tuned to learn of future events.

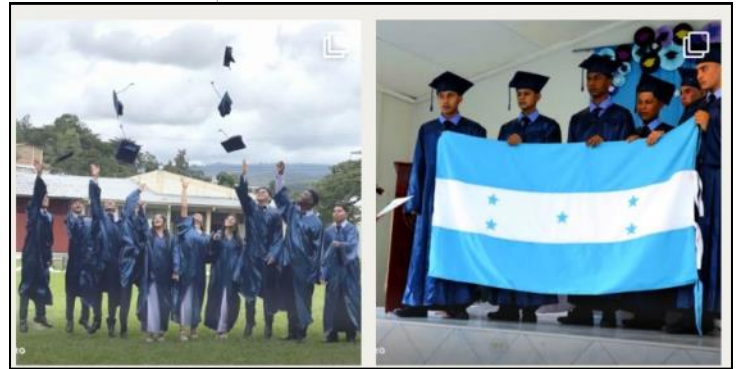
Submitted by Carrie Raybould

EL HOGAR SERVICE TEAM



Thank you so much for your support of our gingerbread, bark, coffee and maple syrup fundraiser for our beloved children of El Hogar. It was an outstanding success yet again — a sellout!

Our work continues with our next fundraising effort which will be our famous chocolate covered fondant Easter eggs. We will be sharing details soon and again it will be done on a pre-ordered basis. We are always so excited about working to support El Hogar's children. Thank you so much for your part in that!



Exciting Graduation Events Nov 2023



We have a team! Our team consisting of 5 St. Luke's parishioners, a family member & 3 friends will be heading to El Hogar on April 6th through April 12th. The format will be different from the past but the team will learn so much about Honduran history and culture. They will also have time to interact with the elementary students, the high school girls and boys at the Technical Institute & see that indeed we can learn so much from each other & make a difference in each other's lives.

Please plan on being at church on Sunday, April 21st to hear the team's presentation during the church service & afterwards in the Parish Hall.

Please check out the website www.elhogar.org

For more information please contact Ros. & Rick Reycraft 905 635-3976
rosreycraft@hotmail.com or Janice Skafel 905 332-0837 janice.skafel@outlook.com



NEWCOMER FAMILY —



The Alalam family celebrated the 2nd anniversary of their arrival to Canada on December 22 and Karima’s parents and siblings celebrated their 7th anniversary in Canada on December 15! They all have many things of which they can be proud, in their adaptation to making a life here. They have been truly inspirational. Wisal and two daughters got their Canadian Citizenship in the summer and are very happy!

After the Christmas holidays, the Alalam family are back in a routine again with the kids back in school, Mohamed at work and Karima continuing with her courses to be in medical administration work. She just shared that she got 93% in one of her recent courses. Remember of course, that she is doing all this in English, so she is working very hard and loving the academic work.

We have plans to get the kids into swimming lessons in the spring. It is important to the family that their kids learn to swim like all Canadian kids do!

In the meantime, we wait the long process of the next family arriving from Lebanon. This is Mohamed Alalam’s sister and family and the process is always long and unpredictable. We look forward to their arrival.

Submitted by Janice Skafel

CLIMATE JUSTICE

Climate Justice Niagara, at the diocese, shared a poster that helps remind us of small projects with **big impacts** we can do, which equally apply to 2024...

1 Plant Trees. St. Luke's has planted eight good sized trees in the last two years as part of our requirements under the City private tree by law. We are always looking for new opportunities.

2 Conduct an Energy Audit. While we did a Green Audit, we need to update that, but need a small group to step up and take on this straight-forward project to address reducing our carbon footprint.

3 Plastic Free. The parish is a *single-use plastic free* site. We are continuously educating parishioners on this issue and recycling of all recyclable materials.

4 Building a Community Garden. While we have not done this, we established a Pollinator Garden in 2019. It has matured nicely over the past four years, but now it needs some extra care. This season is the time to assess its condition and make any improvements. This needs some keen gardeners.

5 Speak up for Climate Justice. The diocese has good resource material on this subject. Visit: <https://niagaraanglican.ca/climatejustice>

Please contact Michael Skafel if you can help on any Climate Justice subjects: mgska-fel@outlook.com, 905 332 0837

TruEarth Products

It has been quite some time that we have been directing parishioners to the TruEarth website to purchase eco-friendly laundry products. Many Outreach members recommend the Platinum version of the laundry strips as they clean more thoroughly than the regular strips and still have much less impact on our environment than regular laundry detergent. They are also great when you are travelling. Other products are offered as well. They are now offering products from a sister company which has products such as for food storage in many varieties.



With our St. Luke's project we receive 20% of the amount paid for an order which goes to PWRDF's Mishamikoweesh Water Partnership in Northern Ontario and Manitoba. Last year we were able to send \$172.64 US.

Please check out the project. For more information you can contact: Rosemary Armstrong at rosemarymarmstrong@gmail.com



CELL PHONE COLLECTION

Did you get a new phone for Christmas and don't know what to do with the old one? **We do!**

Outreach is collecting old cell phones to be made available to those in shelters who don't have a phone with which to communicate. They will be passed on to a doctor and a group of people that work in the shelters to distribute to anyone who needs them.

Please either get them to Michael Skafel (905 617-3696) or drop them off at the office during the week. If possible, please make sure that they have a charger with them.



PRIMATE'S WORLD RELIEF DEVELOPMENT FUND



In Katete district, Zambia, a PWRDF-supported project aims to reduce child marriages, promote sexual and reproductive health for adolescents and empower girls to realize their full potential. PWRDF is supporting the Zambian Anglican Council Outreach Program (ZACOP)'s *Raising Adolescents' Voices for Change* project with a total \$150,000 over three years. This project builds upon the successes, lessons learned and best practices established during the Ending Child Marriages project, which began in 2020 and concluded in 2023.

Child marriage is the marriage of a person under the age of 18. Currently in Zambia, there are approximately 1.7 million child brides. Child marriage deprives girls of their reproductive health rights and prevents them from reaching their full potential; the education, health, dignity and quality of life of adolescent girls are all diminished through child marriage. Without these basic rights, girls cannot grow into healthy, skilled, productive, independent and responsible adults. The practice has become less common in Zambia in recent decades.

According to Zambia's Demographic and Health Surveys, child marriage rates declined from 42% in 2002 to 31% in 2014. Currently, 29% of all young women aged 20-24 married before the age of 18, while 5% married before the age of 15. Additionally, 3% of boys in Zambia are married before age 18. Despite the decline, the progress has not been rapid enough to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of eliminating child marriage by 2030.



PWRDF continued

“Partnering with teachers, church leaders, community leaders and government officials is helping to address the high percentage of child marriages in Katete district. When these Influential people are involved in projects addressing long standing cultural practices like girls and boys becoming married before reaching age 18, their engagement has significant impact on changing the attitudes and beliefs of students, parents, parishioners and community members.”

Through the previous PWRDF-supported Ending Child Marriages project, 5,088 children, including 3,132 girls and 1,956 boys, participated in sensitization sessions run by peer groups with the support of school and church leaders. In addition, 1,723 girls and boys participated in events recognizing [16 Days of Activism](#) and [Youth Day](#), while 1,345 adolescents attended soccer and netball sporting events where they learned about SRHR, GBV and child marriages. Reporting procedures to identify perpetrators of child marriage, including parents marrying off their daughters, were implemented by community leaders and teachers, through which 45 cases of GBV were identified during household visits and reported.

Poverty can be a contributing factor in child marriage. To address this and work towards a sustainable solution, the Raising Adolescents’ Voices for Change project will include business and entrepreneurial skills training for adolescents and will offer start-up grants so girls and young women can begin their own small businesses.

To support this work use the envelopes in the pews and make cheque payable to St. Luke’s Church and on the memo line write PWRDF Zambia. Thank you.

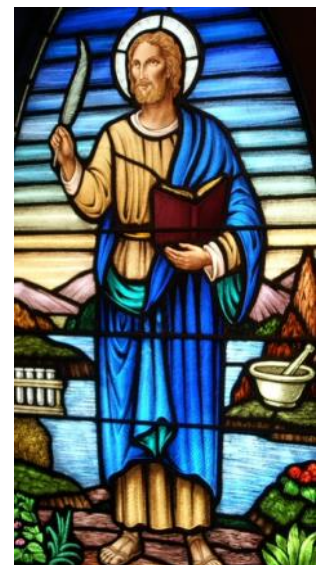
Submitted by Jackie Maver 905 681 6097 or hew.maver@sympatico.ca

CHURCH MINDERS

Have you ever come to the church when it is open for meditation and reflection or to have time to see the beautiful interior of the church and its stained glass windows? If you have, you know it is a wonderful experience. The church is open each Thursday morning staffed by 2 volunteers.

We would like to be able to offer Tuesday mornings as well but currently need more volunteers to do so. Please consider being a volunteer. You will learn a lot about the history of the church as well as provide a much needed opportunity to members of our community who wish to stop by.

Please contact Avril Drake. She and the rest of the team would love to hear from you.



Editor's Sense of Humour

Your Reward (or Punishment) for Reading to the End



At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings.

Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs

Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and she said, 'Johnny, what is the matter?'

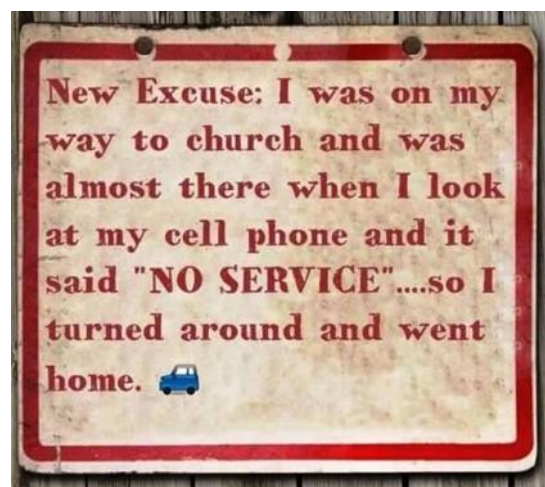
Little Johnny responded, 'I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife.'

Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers.

The first boy says, 'My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him \$50.

The second boy says, 'That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him \$100.'

The third boy says, 'I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!'



More of Editor's Sense of Humour

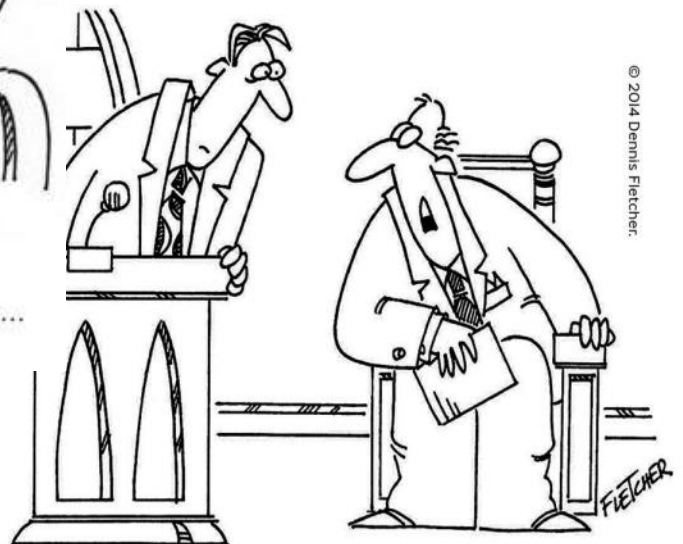
Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, 'Why is the bride dressed in white?'

The mother replied, 'Because white is the colour of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life.'

The child thought about this for a moment then said, 'So why is the groom wearing black?'



"We're looking for a church with a vibrant, active congregation... that we can quietly observe from the back pew."



"We need to reach a younger demographic ... use an illustration about that Lady Goo Goo person."

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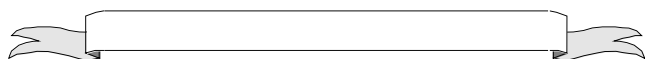
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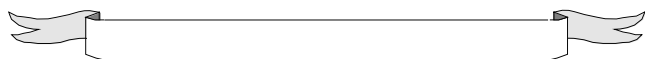
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If you would like to submit an article or photograph for this publication, please e-mail newsletter@stlukesburlington.ca

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