



community link

St Luke's Anglican Church, Peterborough
Advent 2018 • Volume 1 Issue 1

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and responsibility*



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Ownership and responsibility in challenging times

Engaging in planning and options for St Luke's

EVERY CHURCH is facing significant challenges in this day and age. St Luke's is no exception. In the last few years, the parish has experienced shifting ground. Now that things have become more stable, it is time to be intentional in engaging in the next steps of planning and looking at options.

"This is a process that touches every person in our parish and it calls for our active engagement in facing the challenges," The Rev'd Glenn Empey, Parish Priest, said. "It is crucial for us to take responsibility in looking at the reality of our current position and, with that in mind, to choose options for our future. We need to undertake this process with a fresh point of view", he added.

The parish has set up a *Planning and Options Group* comprised of people representative of the parish and who bring particular skills to the tasks at hand which generally are these:

- to study and report on current resources and trends in order to project a picture of the next two to three years for finances and people-power
- to brainstorm and "dream" creatively about what St Luke's can become, including how we serve the community, future ideas for property and facilities



- taking into account the projections and "dreams", to propose a plan for the next two to three years
- to ensure our plans collate with the teachings of Jesus and his call to us as disciples

While the *Planning and Options Group*, with the Churchwardens, will take the lead, the over all process is one of parish responsibility and ownership. It models shared leadership for ownership throughout the parish.

"We need to formulate an intentional plan to be moving forward in an appropriate and realistic manner based on our capacity as a parish. Everything we do through our budget planning, the projects of various groups, and all parish initiatives should be focused on the plan and coordinated to that goal," Churchwarden and Senior Lay Reader, Bill Nicholls explained. •

Highlights from 2018 to celebrate

The community of St Luke's has been working together to reach out and build community



St Luke's is family

Each person counts and makes a difference — including you

NO MATTER HOW YOU'RE CONNECTED in the St Luke's family, you make a difference.

Not able to get out

We know that a number of our people are no longer able to attend church due to health and age. We celebrate your accomplishments and contributions to the church over the years. Thank you!

Please know of our continuing prayer for you through the ministry of our Prayer Group and through our intercessors and cycle of prayer on Sundays.

Our Pastoral Visiting Teams and The Rev'd Doug Woods maintain contact with those of our parish who are shut-in at home. We always look forward to having time with

you and to being in touch by telephone. We hope the new *community link* newsletter will keep you up-to-date on parish life. Please keep the parish and its ministry in your prayers.

Life is busy: can't make it out regularly

Hey, we miss you! We also hope that you will find the *community link* useful, plus a 'link' to what's going on at St Luke's and a taste of parish life these days. We invite you to re-connect. You will always receive a warm welcome.

Your support and commitment to the parish especially now and in the next few years are important. We welcome your engagement in the process of planning and envisioning what St Luke's can become. •

Some facts and trends

Large percentage of the 'unchurched' open to being invited

ACCORDING GALLUP, OVER 60 PER CENT OF CANADIANS have not attended a church (or other place of worship) in last six months; but, if the statistics are similar in Canada to those of the US, over 80 per cent of them say they would respond favourably to an invitation to church from a friend, co-worker, or neighbour. That means in Peterborough 39 thousand people are open to an invitation. Now, how many people, who attend a church, actually do invite someone to join them? The answer, according to Lifeway Research, is a mere two per cent! Let's do the math. •

The *community link* is the official newsletter of St Luke's Anglican Church, Peterborough

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PDF version of newsletter
available on website for
enhanced type size

Advent and Christmas at St Luke's

Advent II Sunday 9 December 1030 am
Special Family Service with Advent Carols

Advent II Sunday 9 December 2 pm

- East City Churches
- Advent Lessons and Carols
- Choirs from Immaculate Conception, Mark Street, and St Luke's

Advent III Sunday 16 December 1030 am

- Pageant of the Christmas Story

Advent IV Sunday 23 December 1030 am

- Traditional Christmas Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve 24 December

- St Mark's Chapel—Old Keene Road
Holy Eucharist 2 pm
- St Luke's, Peterborough
Family Eucharist 4 pm
- Candlelight Eucharist with Choir 7 pm

Christmas Day • Holy Eucharist • St John's Peterborough 10 am • St Matthew – St Aidan Buckhorn 10 am

Creative dreaming

A few thoughts from Glenn+

Taking ownership and responsibility are key steps in effective planning. Owning the situation means understanding current resources, trends, projections, and challenges. Taking responsibility means engaging in developing a workable plan to deal with the challenges in order to reach our goals. The expected outcome of this process is to provide a realistic and workable way for us to move forward as a parish over the next two to three years.

The parish leadership team plays a key role in the process. Our new *Planning and Options Group* will also take on a leadership role. Still, every member of the parish shares in the task of ownership, responsibility, and creative dreaming for our immediate future.

Creative dreaming is a term that I've coined to describe a process of discovering options and possibilities—without inhibiting the thought process by stopping to evaluate, compare, or critique. That comes later. It is considering all the “what-if’s” and then sifting through all those possibilities to assess which ones fit into the reality of our current situation. Ownership and responsibility, along with creative dreaming, form a crucible for developing a workable and meaningful plan for the next few years. Beyond the next few years, the combination of ownership, responsibility, creative dreaming and assessing possibilities

creative dreaming is a crucible for developing a workable and meaningful plan

will also begin to reveal a picture for further down the road. Creative dreaming can help us to ponder how St Luke's can contribute to the community beyond that time-frame. That has to do with how St Luke's can continue to put the Gospel message into action. It is all a question of having a workable and realistic plan for the next few years and to be looking beyond that point into the longer-term future and to what, some day, we would want the legacy of St Luke's to be.

The reason we are engaging in this process is that we have been asked by the Diocese to formulate an intentional plan. We're also doing it because it helps us remain sharp. It helps us to take a serious and disciplined look at who we are, and at who and what we want to become.

This is a new way of assessing our current situation, considering our resources and taking trends and projections into account in formulating a plan focused specifically on St Luke's.

It offers us the opportunity and challenge to assess how we put the teachings of Jesus and his Gospel into action now and how we will do that over the next few years. It also presents the challenge of looking beyond the next few years to how, based on our projected resources and people-power, we can realistically make dreams become a lasting reality. •

CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY — SOME EXAMPLES



- St Luke's provides a Food Cupboard through parish volunteers. It's open every Friday to offer food to those in need. The Food Cupboard operates in affiliation with Kawartha Food Share with contributions from parishioners. Each week about 30 families are served. In 2017, **8,307 kilograms** of food were distributed.
- The Thrift Shop is open on Fridays and Saturdays. A wide assortment of quality clothing is available at minimal or no cost. Items are often shared with other clothing agencies to replenish their inventory.
- Each month, (except in summer) 100 or so members of the local community gather at St Luke's for a home-made spaghetti supper and community time together. The cost is minimal and no one is turned away.
- St Luke's facilities are used by community groups during the day and on every evening of the week:
 - beavers, brownies, cubs, guides, pathfinders, and scouts
 - Al-Anon
 - Over-eaters Anon
 - exercise groups
 - other community groups and functions