

The Beacon

The Newsletter Vol. II, No. 1, March 2005

Laidlaw Memorial

United Church

The United Church of Canada

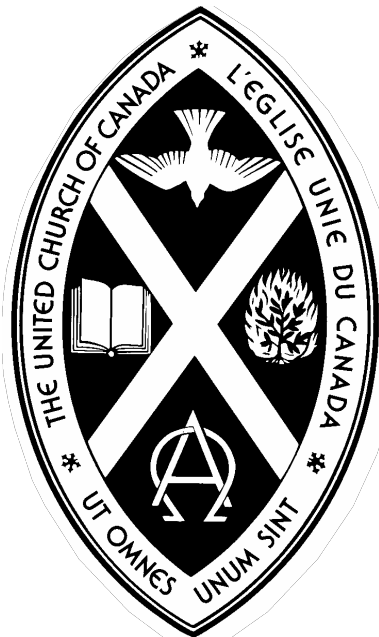
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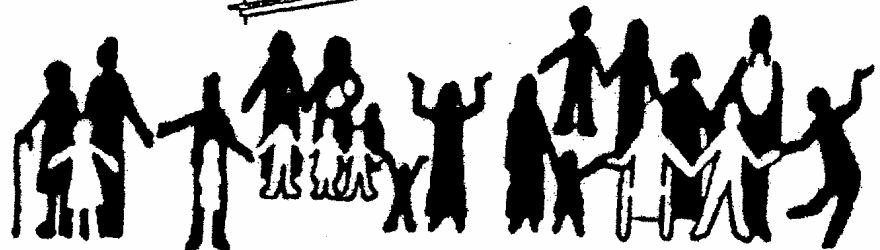
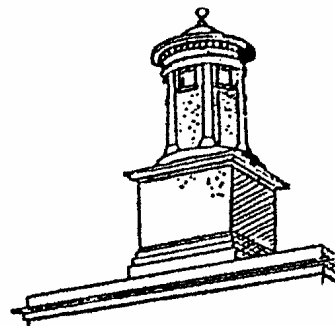
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Laidlaw Memorial United Church

with respect, cooperation and joy, through acts of love

building each other up as a community of faith serving God

we seek to share the light of Christ as a Beacon in East Hamilton

A Pastoral Approach to the One Tonne Challenge

HAVE YOU HEARD about the One-Tonne Challenge? Our United Church Creed affirms our desire to 'live with respect in creation'—who ever thought the day would come when the home fires would heat up the planet? Who ever imagined we would find a way to catch all the cod on the East Coast? Who would ever have imagined our Government would be paying Rick Mercer good money to rant at us about reducing our Green House Gases?

We've taken up the One-Tonne Challenge at Laidlaw Memorial United Church. Recently the Property Committee arranged to install programmable thermostats in the main areas of the Church, and lowered our natural gas consumption by approximately one-third from December to January—not that the dollar amount of the bill was any less, given the increase in gas rates!

But I got to thinking, we could do better. Shirley and I have a programmable thermostat at home, and we have it set to lower the heat on Sunday morning until early afternoon—we know we're going to be at Church.

But imagine if everyone on our membership list came out to Church one Sunday morning, and brought their whole family, and turned down the heat at home by 6 degrees while they were gone! Wow! We would collectively save a great deal of natural gas—imagine if that became a weekly habit?

Who would have ever thought that coming to Worship on Sunday at Laidlaw Memorial United Church would become a way to save the planet?

There are, of course, already many other good—some spiritual—reasons to be a part of God's gathered people at Laidlaw Memorial United Church on a Sunday morning, but it's always good to gather up all the good reasons we can think of, in case one reason or another falls out of our basket.

I hope one good reason you will find to join us is the opportunity to celebrate Easter—Our Great Holy Day—the one that can't seem to sit still. It wanders up and down the calendar, one year it's early, another year, it's late. There's a complicated explanation for the way Easter wanders. It has to do with the Jewish calendar marking time by the orbit of the moon around the earth instead of marking time by the orbit of the earth around the sun like the current Roman calendar. But when I wrote that up, my editor told me it wasn't much of a read.

This year Easter will be on Sunday, March 27. We'll celebrate the Day at Laidlaw with a Sunrise Service at 9 a.m., followed by Breakfast, followed by Easter Communion at 11 a.m. Please make plans to join us!

Come and find out how our Church is full of life and hope. There's excitement and enthusiasm, and new people and new ideas are being welcomed along side the wisdom of long timer's and cherished traditions.

There's only one thing better than reading about what's going on at Laidlaw these days: Being a part of what's going on!

We hope you'll find something interesting in this edition of the Beacon that might encourage you to seek what you need from your Church, and give what you can to your Church. When all of us work together and keep in touch with each other, Easter is here, and Jesus is alive among us!

Rev. Doug Moore

We're Celebrating Easter at Laidlaw—Please Join Us!

Sunday, March 20, 11 a.m.—Palm/Passion Sunday



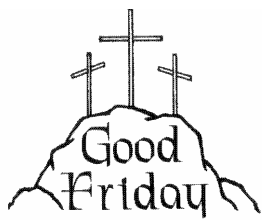
Join us for a Palm Parade with the children, and a celebration of the Passion of Jesus.

Thursday, March 24, 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service



This joint service of Laidlaw and Delta United Churches will be held at Laidlaw United Church, and will be led by Rev. Doug Moore and Rev. Linda Stemp of Delta United Church. We will celebrate and remember the roots of our Communion in the Lord's Supper.

Friday, March 25, 11 a.m. Good Friday Service



This joint service of Laidlaw and Delta United Churches will be held at Delta United Church, and will be led by Rev. Rev. Linda Stemp and Rev. Doug Moore. We will remember with Scripture, hymns, meditation and prayer the death of Jesus Christ as we prepare for Easter—

Sunday, March 27, 9 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service



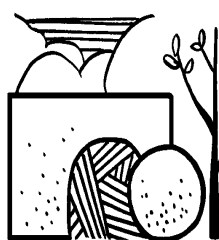
Join us in the Sanctuary at Laidlaw United Church for an early celebration of the Easter Sunrise and the traditional lighting of the new Christ Candle, as well as the traditional Easter renewal of our Baptism!

Sun. March 27, 10 a.m. Easter Breakfast



Stay after Easter Sunrise, or come early for Easter Service and join us for a free Continental Breakfast in the mezzanine—brought to you by the members of our United Church Women!

Sun. March 27, 11 a.m. Easter Service



Join us for the traditional celebration of Easter—with a mini Cantata by our Choir, and a presentation by the Easter Youth Band! Be a part of celebrating new life and joy!

A Message from our Council Chair

Let me take this opportunity to extend good wishes for a Happy Easter to all my Laidlaw Friends.

We had a great Annual Meeting—a beautifully prepared Annual Report—thanks, Shirley—and the usual good lunch prepared courtesy of our United Church Women!



There are some upcoming Fund-raisers and Fellowship Opportunities as well as Coffee Hour each Sunday after Worship—Opportunities to meet each other and get to know one another better.

Please read your weekly bulletin, and this newsletter, and join in the activities. Let's continue the tradition of friendship and mutual respect that has been a foundation for Laidlaw Memorial United Church.

Easter Blessings, Dorothy Brown

**SUMMER
WORSHIP
SCHEDULE**

**New at Laidlaw This Summer—
Open Every Sunday!**

*At our Annual General Meeting this year it was approved that:
**Laidlaw Memorial United Church will Worship Together
Every Sunday at 10 a.m. in July and August of 2005***

Plan to join us when you're not away on holiday!

***Remember—the generosity of our members past and present
make it possible for us to Worship in Air Conditioned Comfort!***

We will have a children's class available!

Be a part of Summer Worship at Laidlaw Memorial United Church

Potluck of Food and Games Night

Keith had a good idea, and the Church Council agreed!

Let's have an evening together to enjoy each other's company!

We'll put up a sign up sheet, and invite everyone to come!

It will begin with a Potluck Supper at 5:30 p.m.

Then comes Potluck Dessert! Then comes a Potluck of Games!

There was Dominos, and Euchre, and Blokus and Battleship and karaoke, and Ha! and Untie the Knot...

It was great! The food was plenty and good—

The minister dealt himself a perfect euchre hand.

One grandmother was told—“This is great—can we do it again?”

Yes, we can—Join us Saturday, April 2, at 5:30 p.m. in the Mezzanine!

A sign up sheet is in the mezzanine—or just show up with food and games!



United Church Women Coming Events

The United Church Women of Laidlaw Memorial United Church welcome all women to be part of their fellowship, service and study. The United Church Women meet in two units, Unit 3 on the Third Monday evening of the month at 7:30 p.m., Unit 14 on the Second Thursday afternoon of the month at 1:30 p.m. Call our UCW President, Myrtle DiBartolo at 905 572 7016 for more information!

Monday, April 18 at 6 p.m. is the Annual Friendship Dinner.

Monday, June 20 is the Annual Night Out with Husbands and Friends.



Plan to be a part of these great events!

Fire Relief Concert at Laidlaw

Presented by the Ottawa Street Merchant's Association
and Laidlaw Memorial United Church

for Ottawa Street Merchant Marylin Black



Gene Louis

and the 'Spirit of Life Band'

Saturday, April 9, 2005 at 7 p.m.

At Laidlaw Memorial United Church, Hamilton, Ontario
On the corner of Ottawa and Cannon Streets

Tickets are \$10 each

For Tickets Call:

Frank at Laidlaw Memorial United Church—905 578 0224

Patty at the Ottawa Street Information Centre—905 544 5822
Office Hours are Mon-Fri, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sat. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Please support this effort by our Outreach Committee to reach out in partnership with the Ottawa Street Merchants and be a helping part of our Community on Ottawa Street—meet new people, enjoy a wonderful, original musical presentation! We hope this effort will help Laidlaw Memorial United Church increase our positive profile on Ottawa Street as a caring Church helping neighbours in need!

Get your tickets early!

Plan to be a part of this great event and good cause!

Notes from the Finance Committee

We need your help! Your Finance Committee is hard at work tending to the day to day needs of our Church so that we can fulfill the ministry that God has given us. You'll see a new logo on the front of this newsletter that reflects some of our efforts to get the message heard—Laidlaw has a great past, a wonderful present, and a bright future. This newsletter is part of that effort.

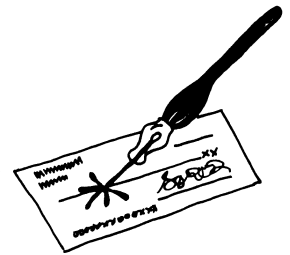
Part of our message is that we need help—our church exists only because generous people give their time, talent and money as an offering to God through this Church we love.

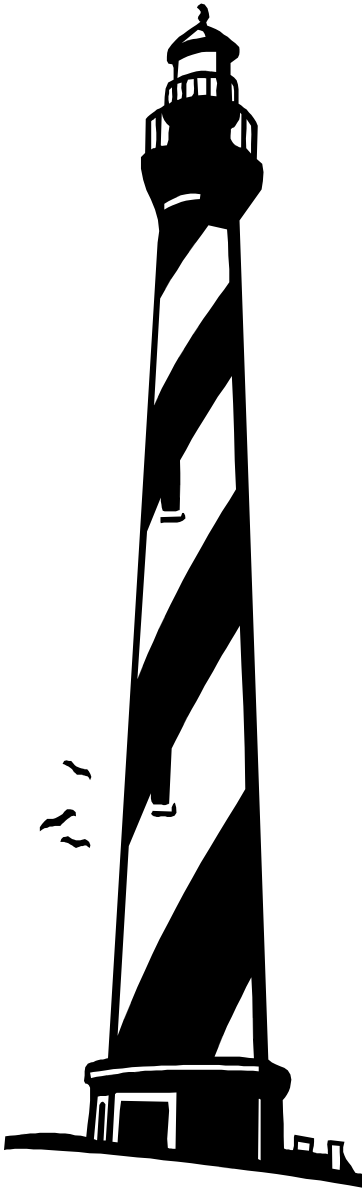
There are lots of ways to help! There will be a Penny Sale in September—we will need donations of items for the sale, help to staff the sale, and people to come and browse and buy tickets! There is a Book Korner once a month at Coffee Hour—we need books and readers to buy them—proceeds support the Food Voucher program administered by the Outreach Committee—did you know that over \$4,000 was given in 2004 to people who came to our Church asking for assistance to feed themselves and their families? Did you know that they also received help, encouragement, counsel and an invitation to join us for Worship?

Our Annual Meeting revealed that we face a great challenge this year—with the gifts to our Church at the present level, we are projected to take \$50,000 from investments to cover expenses this year, and that can't continue for long. We have assessed the work our Church is called to do, and the staff and facilities needed to do that work, and that is what we have asked for, and what our Congregational Meeting has approved.

How can you help?

- ➔ Consider increasing your offering by \$1 or \$2 per week—it will help!
- ➔ Become a PAR giver—speak to Don Wood and make a regular contribution by direct deposit from your Bank Account to support your Church—11 of our members are on PAR, why not join them!
- ➔ Invite a friend to join you for Worship—that's by far the way most people find their way to Church.
- ➔ Have a really good idea—think about how to make it work—write it down—ask the Council to think about helping you see it happen—fundraising and fundrasing are both important!
- ➔ Pray for your Church, our Staff, our Members—keep in touch with people you know—offer a ride to Church to someone who needs one.
- ➔ Plan a Bequest for your Church, or an Guaranteed Income Annuity—if you don't know what that is—speak to Don Wood—it's amazing how you can help yourself to a high interest rate and guaranteed income by helping your Church!
- ➔ Use the Easter Offering Envelope that came with this newsletter—if you contribute regularly, make a special gift! If you don't make a regular contribution to your Church—this is your opportunity to be part of ensuring a bright future for the Beacon at the Corner of Ottawa and Cannon Streets!





Help us make the Beacon Shine!

Thanks for reading The Beacon, Volume II, Number 1! There are plans to publish a Beacon Pre-Easter, Pre-Summer, Pre-September and Pre-Advent. We hope this will allow us to let everyone know what is going on, and give you every opportunity to be a part of what is going on. It will become another way we can keep in contact with each other, especially with some of our members and friends who are not able because of health or distance to enjoy the privilege of being together on Sunday Mornings, Coffee after Church, and other Church Events.

If you have news from home or away that you would like to share, or inspirational bits that might help others, or an issue, event or question to share, please submit these to the Church Office, in person, by phone or fax, or email them to revmoore@execulink.com.

With your help, the Beacon will shine!

My Easter Gift for Laidlaw Memorial United Church

Something new—an envelope for everyone—because everyone—all of us—have a part in the future of Laidlaw Memorial United Church—this envelope is your opportunity—we hope you'll use it!

Our lifestyle and commitment to giving need to travel in the same direction. We need to remember that it all comes from God. We need to remember that our decisions about what to keep and what to give away really stem from a single question - "How is God leading me to use what God has given me?"

Giving is life giving. It is a form of resurrection. Thanks be to God who, in being generous with us, teaches us to be generous. We thank you for the gift you offer to God through our Church, and we pray that you will find the freedom and joy of Christian giving!

Thank You!

