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# THE NEWS ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE

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DECEMBER 2009

## *"Unto us a child is born - a Saviour who is Christ, the Lord."*



Dear Friends in Christ,

Society portrays Christmas as a happy, carefree holiday filled with Santa parties, family and good times. It is a magical time for some - just watch children's faces which become more excited as the "big day" approaches.

It is not always so easy for those of us who are struggling with the losses in our lives: a loved one, a job, a relationship, a serious illness and so on. However; in reality, even in the midst of the pain and sadness over life's challenges, we, as Christians can still rejoice in the incredible gift of our Saviour Jesus Christ: a gift that offers us hope, forgiveness and eternal life! What a blessing for you and me!

At this time, Bob and I want to wish you and your family a joyous and Christ-filled Christmas season and a New Year filled with God's richest blessings.

In Christ,

The Reverend Chris Horne

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# A WORD FROM YOUR ASSISTANT CURATE

*by David Bryant*

As Christmas draws near and we mark the end of another year, I give thanks for the many blessings that I have received during the last 12 months. It was a year that marked my ordination to the diaconate, after years of study and evaluation and it is the year that God brought me to St. Luke's. I give thanks each day that I have found myself in such a loving community – a community that “seeks to know Christ and make him known in word and deed”. I have seen Christ, and he lives at St. Luke's!



I want to thank each of you for sharing your ministry with me, for your love and support. As Assistant curate I am grateful for your encouragement and understanding as I continue to develop into the priesthood that I feel God has called me to. Your care and guidance will shape the priest I will be for the rest of my life, and for that I am truly thankful.

I hope in the coming year we can together continue God's work in our community, finding new and exciting ways to reach out to our neighbourhood and share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I wish you all a blessed Christmas season and together as we face the New Year, may we do so confident in God's love and mercy for each one of us.

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## ST. LUKE'S MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group met on Saturday, December 5, 2009 at REMARKS – the newest restaurant to open on Coxwell just north of the church. Everyone enjoyed a delicious breakfast, and Terrance Peniston was the winner of our raffle in support of the Christmas Caring program here at St. Luke's.

The men discussed a number of possible ideas for future events and agreed to meet again for breakfast at REMARKS on Saturday, February 6, 2010 at 10:00 am. At that time we will decide on a schedule for the New Year.

**All men of St. Luke's are invited to join – mark February 6<sup>th</sup> on your calendars.**

## JOURNEY TO THE LIGHT

by Bob Long

On December 20<sup>th</sup>, St. Luke's Choir and the Rising Stars will present ***Journey To The Light, A Celebration of Advent***. Journey to the Light contains seven musical selections or anthems which are woven into a program with narration. The music was composed by Don Besig and the words are by Don Besig and Nancy Price. You may have noticed that we have often performed anthems written by this team.

The choir has been preparing for this presentation since September by working on its various pieces alongside of the Sunday by Sunday anthems. There have even been additional sectional rehearsals by some of the choir members.

Two of the musical selections are set up to have congregational participation. The first, "Candles of Advent", which we have been using each Sunday in Advent following the lighting of the Advent Candles, has a refrain which we have already been using. The second, "Walk in the Light" (the last selection on the program) has been set to have the congregation join in the last verse. We will include the music for the congregation with the program. There will be a short congregational rehearsal before the service.

This will be the first combined effort on behalf of the Choir and the Rising Stars and we hope you will enjoy it.

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### Mother Teresa

People are often unreasonable, irrational and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some true enemies. Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and sincere, people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway.

What you spend years creating, someone could destroy overnight. Create anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, will often be forgotten. Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough. Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.

## WARDENS' REPORT

2009 is rapidly drawing to a close and for us it has been a fruitful, although hectic, experience.

A mandatory appraisal and inspection of the church and rectory involved us in a lot of major repairs and updating of both premises, most of which have been completed and paid for.

To name a few:

**Rectory** - Replacement of the roof on the house and garage, repairs to all windows and screens, replacement of the concrete walkway at the main entrance.

**Church** - Repairs to the electrical and plumbing systems, re-leading of stained glass windows, replacement of cracked windows, overdue repairs to the roof, and removal of some outside wall ivy.

We have witnessed great strides in our prayers and worship ministries over the year. The efforts of these respective committees coupled with the arrival of our curate, Reverend David, in May have inspired this growth.

Overall, we expect to end 2009 within budget and none of the above could have been achieved without the financial and physical support of our parish as a whole.

Thank you for your continued support.

## CHRISTMAS CARING FOR OTHERS

*by Carol Bent*

A small gesture from us can make a big difference to someone else. Last year 42 seniors at the Woodbine Heights Foodbank were thrilled to have the opportunity to have a meal in a restaurant or to have coffee and treats from their local Tim Horton's. Youth at Touchstone were happy to be able to purchase a few things from Shopper's Drug Mart.

**Your gift cards made that possible.** We look forward to doing the same this year. Your donations are very much appreciated.

On December 17 we will be providing a light Christmas luncheon to those who attend the foodbank on that day. This is another way of sharing the blessings of Christmas, and reminding our friends at the foodbank that the parishioners of St. Luke are thinking of them.

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## A Selkirk Grace by Robert Burns

Some hae meat but cannae eat  
an' some wad eat that want it,  
But we hae meat and we can eat  
an' sae the Lord be thankit.

# THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING WELCOMING



*by Marjorie Hunt-Platt*

Dear Sisters and Brothers, I have been asked to take on the role of Welcoming Co-ordinator, and with God's help I will strive to do my best. However, we do need others to help in this ministry. After all, we each play a role in how we make visitors, and those looking for a church home, feel here at the church of St. Luke.

*Why do we put so much emphasis on the role of greeters?*

Greeters are our front line "troopers", welcoming God's guests. Greeters are able to recognize visitors, by their body language and unfamiliar faces, and are prepared to respond to their needs and questions. Greeters are trained to offer simple directions about seating, order of worship and hymnals etc., used in the service.

When someone has made the effort to visit, the very least they deserve is to be recognized and respected. I know from my own experience because it was the attention and warmth of greeters here at St. Luke that drew me into this church.

## Two Little Boys

After a hardy rainstorm filled all the potholes in the streets and alleys, a young mother watched her two little boys playing in the puddles through her kitchen window.

The older of the two, a five year old lad, grabbed his sibling by the back of his head and shoved his face into the water hole.

As the boy recovered and stood laughing and dripping, the mother ran to the yard in a panic.

"Why on earth did you do that to your little brother?!" she asked as she shook the older boy in anger.

"We were just playing 'church' mommy," he said. "I was just baptizing him.....in the name of the Father, the Son and in the hole-he-goes"

# THE WILD AND WONDERFUL BOOK CLUB

by Laurel Angeloff

With an ever-increasing attendance and many good laughs and discussions, the St. Luke's Book Club is certainly a terrific club to be a part of. Popular best sellers such as Maeve Binchy's *Whitethorn Woods* or *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards are just a few of the fiction books that were enjoyed this year. Also, non-fiction books such as A.J. Jacobs *The Year of Living Biblically* and Anne Lamott's *Grace Eventually* sparked very lively discussions amongst the members.

By getting together only once every two months, the club has found that this schedule allows the members enough time to get their books out of the library and read them without the pressure that a monthly meeting can give.

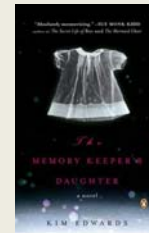
The 2010 line up of books is now being formulated so if you enjoy reading and want a truly enjoyable outing, do come out to the St. Luke's Book Club.

Our next Book Club Meeting is on January 20 2010, and we are reading ***The Shack*** by Wm. Paul Young. This novel has been on many bestseller lists for months.

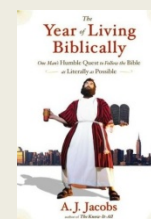
*"In a world where Religion seems to grow increasingly irrelevant THE SHACK wrestles with the timeless question: Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain? The answer Mack gets will astound you & perhaps transform you as much as it did him."*

**Please look for this book, read it, and join us at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, January 20, for a full and frank discussion of this thought-provoking book.**

## WE'VE BEEN READING...



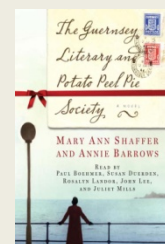
*The Memory Keeper's Daughter*  
by  
Kim Edwards



*The Year of Living Biblically*  
by  
A.J. Jacobs



*Not Wanted on the Voyage*  
by  
Timothy Findley



*The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*  
by  
Mary Ann Shaffer  
&  
Annie Barrows



**\*\*January 2010\*\***  
*The Shack*  
by  
William P. Young

## TEENS @ ST. LUKE'S

The young people of St. Luke's met on November 22 for a spaghetti dinner and to make plans for the future. The group decided that they would like to meet once a month (**ON THE LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH**) to share a meal, enjoy fellowship, to worship and decide on up-coming events.

Since December is such a hectic month, we decided to defer our December meeting, so the next meeting will be **January 29<sup>th</sup> @ 6 pm** downstairs in the parish hall. Watch for some exciting events in the New Year!

### BE POLITE

We may not always like it,  
We may not think it right,  
but it is much easier to be  
polite,  
and it is so much happier for  
every one concerned,  
to have a friendly feeling that  
no bridges have been burned.  
Perhaps our pride is hurt,  
and maybe there were some  
comments critical or curt.  
But when we are together,  
we should strive to put away the  
anger and jealousy we harbored  
yesterday.  
And even if we feel we are  
completely in the right,  
At least our common decency  
should make us be polite.

-Submitted by Pat Murray

## THE 2009 BOLIVIA AND PERU MISSION

*by Beryl Beard, member of the dental team in Bolivia.*

As perhaps you have seen from the article in the November copy of *The Anglican*, the mission to Bolivia and Peru was an outstanding success.

Thanks to your contributions of eye glasses, suitcases and financial support, etc., we were able to treat over a thousand eye patients in Peru and in Bolivia we took and donated eye glasses to hospitals.

Our luggage included a wheelchair, two dental chairs and suitcases full of medical and dental supplies for both countries. The children's teeth were in dreadful shape. We had to remove second teeth from eight year olds, tell them not to eat candy and give them toothpaste and toothbrushes and teach them how to brush.

We were active in the children's orphanages, and in the one for babies and toddlers affected by HIV and AIDS. We helped street kids and families, assisted financially and in the construction of a temporary sanctuary to house the congregation of La Trinidad Cathedral in Cochabamba and treated 300 medical patients.

As usual, we served in the areas of deepest poverty, seeing terrible conditions and meeting kindness and helpfulness everywhere.

# SAD ENDINGS BRING NEW BEGINNINGS

by Barbara Smith

This is a story with a sad beginning but a very happy ending. As some of you know, I had a cat named Tangerine who I have had since she was born in my apartment 20 years ago.



Unfortunately she passed away on a Thursday morning due to old age and her body not being able to work anymore. She was a real fighter up until the end.

When I went home, my house was so empty I did not know what to do. I knew it was only a matter of time before I would have another cat in my life and I knew that Tangerine would want me to give another animal a chance at life like I did with her mother Victoria who, by the way, lived until the ripe old age of 21. Which, if anyone knows about cat age, you times their age by 7.

My friends talked about how long they thought it would take me to get another cat. Three weeks nearly to the day when I saw a face that would melt my heart.

I was going through several agencies on the internet that helps stray/abused animals. I came across the Toronto Cat Rescue and when I looked at the site I was impressed by what they do and believe in.

Amelia the cat is one I saw. She is a one year old female cat who was sitting in a cage at a shelter waiting to be rescued. Toronto Cat Rescue went in and got her before it would have been her time to be put down.

She will win your heart at first glance. When I called them about her they said that there was another couple who had shown some interest in her. I was happy that someone wanted her but I was hoping that it could be me.

Before you adopt a cat you have to have an interview over the phone with someone from the agency to make sure you have the same beliefs as they do concerning care and welfare of the cats. I had no problem with the interview and we seemed to be on the same page concerning these issues.



They also told me that she would really like to have a playmate with her and they have one that she is friendly with now, named Jack, which would also be a good one to adopt. It was great as I wanted to have two cats as they would be company for each other when I am at school or at guide camp.

He is an orange Tabby as well but he is long, dark orange and has the longest tail you have ever seen.



After talking to the lady on the phone, I was given the name and number of the foster parent who I could arrange a meeting with to see the cats. I was told that if the other couple got there first they would be the ones to get her.

I called right away and went with my friend to see the two cats. It was a wonderful experience as I was greeted at the door by a Black Lab dog and five orange tabby cats. What a house! I sat on the floor and was greeted with many rubs and kisses from the cats. We talked about the two cats, on which she had put collars so I would know which ones I was looking at to adopt. After being there for several hours, I left feeling so happy that I was going to have the noise in my house again that I have been missing for the three weeks since Tangerine had been gone.

A few days later, when I went to pick them up, I was so excited I could not contain myself. One of my students brought me in some treats for the new cats which came in handy on the trip home. Jack likes to make himself known in the car while Amelia could not be bothered with anything.

Now after only one week, my house is abuzz with action. New toys on the floor and the sound of the patter of little feet on the stairs makes my life complete again. Now, when I come home from work, I am greeted at the door by Jack who, I am sure, only wants his

food from me. But in the evening when I am sitting on the couch, I am greeted with all the love and attention you could ask for.

Tangerine and Victoria have both been cremated and are on my mantel until the summer when they will both be placed in the backyard together again.

I have to say I have been greatly blessed by having such lovely creatures in my life.

Thanks Be to God!



Amelia finding her place.



Jack feeling right at home.

# TA-DA!!!! THE ST. LUKE'S RISING STARS

by Victoria Martin

The "Rising Stars" is a group of actors from 12 to 70+. Our purpose is to support our Parish Mission Statement:

**"To know Christ and make him known in word and deed."**



We present chancel dramas, dramatic readings, short plays and skits to bring to life the great stories of scripture and the moral issues of the day. We use drama and comedy to tell our Good News in many ways throughout the church year.

Most recently, the Rising Stars performed a chancel drama called *With Friends Like These*. Based on the Book of Job, we explored the nature of relationships, especially friendship. Job's wife and friends berate him or offer advice as he sits bowed beneath all the loss and grief his life has brought him. While his human relationships disintegrate, Job holds fast to his relationship with God. The congregation was challenged to think about the nature of friendship.

Watch for our spring production of *The Prodigal Son*, as retold by Garrison Keillor. We will need help with staging, costumes and make-up, so if you think you can help please let me know. I can be reached at 416-424-3074 or [v\\_martin@rogers.com](mailto:v_martin@rogers.com). All are welcome and experience is not required... just a willingness to step into new shoes, commitment to rehearsals, and the urge to stretch yourself a bit.

# OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

by Iris Pereira



Barbara Smith and Iris Pereira with 154 boxes



Iris and a friend at the Thinking Day Parade at St. Luke's in 2007

I am a Pathfinder. For my final community service event, I took on the Operation Christmas Child campaign.

Operation Christmas Child is an organization where people send shoeboxes to needy children all over the world for Christmas gifts.

The gift-giving process does not simply involve packing shoeboxes. The empty shoeboxes must be taken to the place for distribution (in our case, the Church of St. Luke). Then the shoeboxes are distributed with pamphlets. When the shoeboxes are brought back filled, they are checked to see if they are properly labeled and contain appropriate gifts. Then they are taken to a drop-off centre where they are packed into large boxes and are then sent to a processing centre. At the processing centre, shoeboxes are inspected even more carefully and prepared for overseas shipment. Every year, over sixty-five thousand volunteers help at the processing centres.

Each and every person who helps with Operation Christmas Child helps aid children in different countries. These boxes will be donated to children in over fifteen countries to wish them a Merry Christmas!

This year, St Luke's collected 154 shoes boxes to send to these children. Thank you to all who helped make this campaign a success. Just think of the smiling face you have created with your box.

God Bless



## Letters to St. Luke

Hi There,

I hope you guys remember us. My name is Steve Madden. My son, Joshua, was baptized at St. Luke's in 2004. I really enjoyed going to church there, and just wanted to say "Hello" to everyone who was so very kind to us. Joshua and I live in Innisfil, where he is in grade one. He just loves music and being outside. He's a handful, but he's a joy :)

Joshua is full of happiness and really seems to enjoy living with his Daddy.

I appreciate everything that you all did for us.

Take care and God bless you all :)

Sincerely,  
Steve and Joshua Madden



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## GOD'S CAKE

Sometimes we wonder, "What did I do to deserve this?" or "Why did God have to do this to me?" Here is a wonderful explanation! A daughter is telling her mother how everything is going wrong, she's failing algebra, her boyfriend broke up with her and her best friend is moving away.

Meanwhile, her Mother is baking a cake and asks her daughter if she would like a snack, and the daughter says, "Absolutely Mom, I love your cake."

"Here, have some cooking oil," her Mother offers.

"Yuck" says her daughter.

"How about a couple raw eggs?"

"Gross, Mom!"

"Would you like some flour then? Or maybe baking soda?"

"Mom, those are all yucky!"

To which the mother replies: "Yes, all those things seem bad all by themselves. But when they are put together in the right way, they make a wonderfully delicious cake!"

God works the same way. Many times we wonder why He would let us go through such bad and difficult times. But God knows that when He puts these things all in His order, they always work for good! We just have to trust Him and, eventually, they will all make something wonderful! God is crazy about you. He sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning. Whenever you want to talk, He'll listen. He can live anywhere in the universe, and He chose your heart.

## CAR HUMOUR



This is what can happen if you park in front of a hydrant



In the back seat: 10 bags of cement (80 pounds each) and 6 cases of beer. On the roof were many 2"X4"s, 4"X4"s and drywall sheets. The weight was estimated at 3000 pounds.

The back tires were ruined, the shocks pushed up through the floor. It is (was) a VW Jetta from Quebec

As of January 1, 2010, in all provinces the newly designed seat belt take effect as a result of extensive testing by the National Highway Safety council. Results show that accidents can be reduced by as much as 45% when the seat belt is properly installed. The correct installation is shown at the right.



# MORE HUMOUR

## A GOLFER'S BLIND FAITH

A pastor, a doctor and an engineer were waiting one morning for a particularly slow group of golfers ahead. The engineer fumed, "What's with these guys? We must have been waiting for 15 minutes!" The doctor chimed in, "I don't know, but I've never seen such ineptitude!" The pastor said, "Hey, here comes the greenskeeper. Let's have a word with him." [dramatic pause] "Hi George. Say, what's with that group ahead of us? They're rather slow, aren't they?" The greenskeeper replied, "Oh, yes, that's a group of blind firefighters. They lost their sight saving our clubhouse from a fire last year, so we always let them play for free anytime." The group was silent for a moment.

The pastor said, "That's so sad. I think I will say a special prayer for them tonight."

The doctor said, "Good idea. And I'm going to contact my ophthalmologist buddy and see if there's anything he can do for them."

The engineer said, "Why can't these guys play at night?"

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## WHAT YOUR PERFORMANCE EVALUATION WORDS ACTUALLY MEAN:

1. **OUTGOING PERSONALITY** - Always going out of the office
2. **GREAT PRESENTATION SKILLS** - Able to bullshit
3. **GOOD COMMUNICATION SKILLS** - Spends lots of time on phone
4. **WORK IS FIRST PRIORITY** - Too ugly to get a date
5. **ACTIVE SOCIALLY** - Drinks a lot
6. **INDEPENDENT WORKER** - Nobody knows what he/she does
7. **QUICK THINKING** - Offers plausible excuses
8. **CAREFUL THINKER** - Won't make a decision
9. **USES LOGIC ON DIFFICULT JOBS** - Gets someone else to do it
10. **EXPRESSES THEMSELVES WELL** - Speaks English
11. **METICULOUS ATTENTION TO DETAIL** - A nit picker
12. **HAS LEADERSHIP QUALITIES** - Is tall or has a loud voice
13. **EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD JUDGEMENT** - Lucky
14. **KEEN SENSE OF HUMOUR** - Knows a lot of dirty jokes
15. **CAREER MINDED** - Back Stabber
16. **LOYAL** - Can't get a job anywhere else
17. **PLANS FOR PROMOTION/ADVANCEMENT** - Buys drinks for all the boys
18. **OF GREAT VALUE TO THE ORGANISATION** - Gets to work on time
19. **RELAXED ATTITUDE** - Sleeps at desk

## CANADIAN.... Eh !

So, What Do We Canadians Have To Be Proud Of?

1. Smarties
2. Crispy Crunch, Coffee Crisp
3. The size of our footballs fields, one less down, and bigger balls.
4. Baseball is Canadian - First game June 4, 1838 - Ingersoll ,Ontario
5. Lacrosse is Canadian
6. Hockey is Canadian
7. Basketball is Canadian
8. Apple pie is Canadian
9. Mr. Dress-up beats Mr. Rogers
10. Tim Hortons beats Dunkin' Donuts
11. In the war of 1812, started by America, Canadians pushed the Americans back past their White House. Then we burned it, and most of Washington. We got bored because they ran away. Then, we came home and partied..... Go figure.
12. Canada has the largest French population that never surrendered to Germany.
13. We have the largest English population that never ever surrendered or withdrew during any war to anyone, anywhere. EVER. (We got clobbered in the odd battle but prevailed in ALL the wars).
14. Our civil war was fought in a bar and lasted a little over an hour.
15. The only person who was arrested in our civil war was an American mercenary; he slept in and missed the whole thing. He showed up just in time to get caught.
16. A Canadian invented Standard Time.
17. The Hudson's Bay Company once owned over 10% of the earth's surface and is still around as the world's oldest company.
18. We invented ski-doo's, jet-skis, Velcro, zippers, insulin, the paint roller, roller skates, duct tape, the jolly-jumper, air conditioned vehicles, the Zamboni, the barcode, the Blackberry and the telephone. Also short wave radios that save countless lives each year.
19. The light bulb was actually invented by a Canadian (Henry Woodward patented it in 1874). The patent was bought by some obscure American named Edison who improved upon the design and took credit for inventing it.
20. We all have frozen our tongues to something metal and lived to tell about it.
21. A Canadian invented Superman.
22. We have coloured money.

**BUT MOST IMPORTANT !**

The handles on our beer cases are big enough to fit your hands with mitts on.

*OOoohhhh.... Canada !!*

-- Oh yeah... And our elections only take one day.

# PARISH PHOTO GALLERY



Parking Lot sale – May 30, 2009



Baptism – May 31, 2009



Our gardeners – May 31, 2009



Outreach Walkathon – June 6, 2009



Fund Raising Car Wash – June 13, 2009



Youth Pool Party and BBQ - June 19, 2009



Senior's Luncheon - August 19, 2009



Baptism - August 30, 2009



Clean up day (under the stage) - September 12, 2009



Book Sale - September 19, 2009



Screening in Faith Seminar - September 9, 2009



Back to Church Luncheon - September 27, 2009



Blessing of the Animals - October 4, 2009



Lighting repair - October 5, 2009



Rectory re-roofing - October 10, 2009



Confirmation - October 18, 2009



Church of Christ the King Band - Oct. 25, 2009



Senior's Luncheon – October 28, 2009



Dead Seas Scrolls Presentation–November 1, 2009

## Christmas Services Schedule

No Wednesday services on December 23 and 30, 2009

Christmas Eve Family Service – December 24, 2009 at 6:30 pm

Christmas Eve Eucharist – December 24, 2009 at 9:00 pm

Christmas Day Family Service – December 25, 2009 at 10:30 am

No 9:00 am service on Sunday December 27, 2009

No Wednesday service on December 30, 2009

## PARTING COMMENT



God Bless Everyone at this Holy Christmastime

