



# THE LEADER

WINTER 2011

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## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES & EVENTS

<b>NOVEMBER 27</b>	<b>ADVENT 1</b>	<p><b>Fairtrade Coffee &amp; Tea Sales</b>  <i>Stock up on coffee, tea, and other items that will make wonderful gifts for family and friends</i></p> <p><b>Art Show &amp; Sale</b></p>
<b>DECEMBER 2</b>	<b>FRIDAY 7:30 PM</b>	<p><b>“LEARNING TO WALK IN THE DARK”</b>  an extended sermon by Barbara Brown Taylor and a musical exploration of Sacred Darkness by Brian Pearson and the Soul Food Band. Tickets \$25 at the door or you may order them from the church in advance. Free for children and youth. This service is brought to you by the Wisdom Centre and takes place at Christ Church.</p>
<b>DECEMBER 4</b>	<b>ADVENT 2 10:30 AM</b>	<p><b>COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE AT CHRIST CHURCH</b>  As part of the Wisdom Centre event with Barbara Brown Taylor we will be having a combined St. Laurence/Christ Church service at Christ Church. Our Sunday school and youth group will join with theirs. Barbara Brown Taylor is undoubtedly one of the best preachers out there and you will not want to miss her. Christ church is located at 3602 8<sup>th</sup> St. SW</p>
<b>DECEMBER 11</b>	<b>ADVENT 3</b>	<p><b>Rev. Don McLeod will preside &amp; preach</b></p>
<b>DECEMBER 14</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY 6:00 PM</b>	<p><b>HARD TO BE MERRY SERVICE</b>  <i>(Supper provided)</i></p>
<b>DECEMBER 18</b>	<b>ADVENT 4</b>	<p><b>LESSONS &amp; CAROLS with PAGEANT</b>  <i>(Light Lunch, Crafts, Entertainment)</i></p>
<b>DECEMBER 24</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 PM</b>	<p><b>CHILDREN’S SERVICE with HOLY EUCHARIST</b></p>
<b>DECEMBER 24</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE 8:00 PM</b>	<p><b>HOLY EUCHARIST</b></p>
<b>DECEMBER 25</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY 10:00 AM</b>	<p><b>LAY SERVICE with RESERVED SACRAMENT</b></p>

# ANNA'S LETTER

Shine in the Dark

*A poem by Luci Shaw*

From a dark dust of stars  
kindled one, a prick of light.  
Burn! Small candle star,  
burn in the black night.

In the still, hushed heart  
(shadowed as a black night)  
shine! Saviour newly born,  
shine till the heart's light.

In a very short time the Christian year will draw to a close and Advent, the season of anticipation and hope, will again be upon us. One of the highlights of this Advent season will be the December 2-4<sup>th</sup> Wisdom Centre event with Barbara Brown Taylor. Taylor is hands-down one of the best preachers and speakers of our time. Many of you enjoyed reading her book [An Altar in the World](#) and it is a real gift that she has agreed to come to Calgary. Her Saturday workshop on writing as spiritual practice is full but do make sure you join us both for her Friday evening exploration of "Learning to Walk in the Dark" and for her Sunday morning sermon at Christ Church. More details inside. Please note that Sunday December 4<sup>th</sup> is a combined 10:30 am St. Laurence/Christ Church service at Christ Church. There is no service at St. Laurence on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. You will not be disappointed by how wise and accessible Dr. Taylor is as a person and as a teacher and speaker.

Back at St. Laurence on December 11<sup>th</sup> we will continue the Advent season with Don and I, as well as the choir, working together to create a special Advent service focussed on Mary, Mother of Jesus. Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> we'll enjoy both Lessons and Carols and a pageant with our children and youth. Lunch, games and crafts to follow the service which is a wonderful way to prepare for the Christmas season.

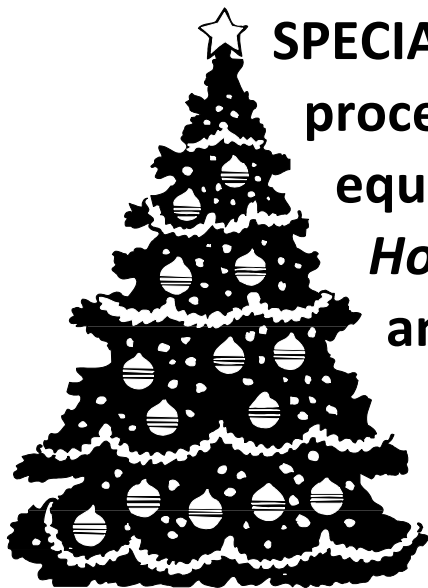
Looking beyond December and into 2012 there are a number of things ahead of us. First of all, at a parish level, next year promises to be the year when we really will renovate. We've entered into a contract with the LeBlond Partnership and are pleased to see things moving again. The Project Oversight Committee anticipates being in full build mode next summer. Many of us, myself included, had hoped that we would have both an elevator and a renovated sanctuary well before this but the change in architects has slowed us down. Thank-you to all of you who have so generously supported this project and are patiently waiting to see your generosity translated into action. If the remaining pledges come in as promised we should be in a good financial position going forward. Please read Melanie Jantzie's report for further details about the project.

As many of you also know 2012 will also bring changes at a Diocesan level. Bishop Derek Hoskin has announced that he will retire as of December 31<sup>st</sup> 2011. This means that in May or June we should expect the election of a new Bishop. Being a Bishop is a difficult position and it will be important that we as a Diocese discern who can best navigate the challenging task of leading the church in these changing times. Even more importantly, once the new Bishop is elected, it will then be our task to see how we can best support and work with them. This Diocese needs to better learn how to work cooperatively and creatively as a Diocese--supporting one another in our shared work and mission.

The Diocese also, at a recent synod, adopted a new Constitution and Canons. Among other things this also means that the governing body we have long called 'vestry' will, as of next year, be known as 'parish council.' We are currently in the process of seeking individuals who would be willing to stand for 'parish council' and also to serve as 'wardens.' If you are interested please speak with myself or with Melanie or Linda. We all have gifts and are all called to serve.

I continue to be grateful for the depth and breadth of gifted and generous souls at St. Laurence. Advent signals a new 'cycle' in our shared journey with God and one another. May God continue to bless and surprise us – always reminding us of the beauty and mystery of the Incarnation. God is always so much closer to us than we could ever ask or imagine.

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**SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING**  
proceeds will be divided  
equally between *All Roads Lead Home* (for homeless families)  
and the *Food Bank*.

# WARDEN'S REPORT

Melanie Jantzie

Since the last leader the Project Committee has been working toward choosing a new architect. We issued a Request for Proposal during the summer and four firms responded. After reviewing the submissions we had face to face presentations by three of the four firms. Melanie Jantzie, Janet Pedersen, Anna and Steve Koning heard each of the presentations and we scored each firm individually. We then met together as a group to discuss our findings. Each of the firms would have been suitable for our project, so it was not an easy decision. It came down to a combination of experience, suitability and price. The firm that we decided to choose was The Leblond Partnership. This decision was approved by vestry in September.

Since that time we have had a kickoff meeting and are close to signing a contract agreement. The loose timeline is that we should be well into our renovation throughout next year. If you have any questions regarding this process that we went through to choose Leblond, please don't hesitate to ask. Please refer to the treasurer's report for a financing update.

We have heard from the Anglican Foundation and they have agreed to provide us with a grant of \$15,000 and a loan of \$80,000 at 5% interest, repayable over 15 years. Thanks to Steve Koning and Deb Barron for putting this application together.

As we enter the winter season we will be preparing the budget for next year. Without the revenue from the rectory and garage sale, we will require an increase in commitment to continue our work with our parish and our Outreach initiatives. Please prayerfully consider increasing your pledge.

## SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE

Lillian Rallison, Chair

### Spiritual Practices

A service dedicated to environmental issues, *The Mass for Healing of the Earth*, was held in September. This service was well received and there are plans to do a variation on the service in the future.

The Spiritual Practice newsletters and many of the worship services this year will include various aspects of the spiritual practice of prayer. This includes body prayer, intercessory prayer and prayer as writing. Thank you to Geri Urch and Spencer Stevens for their thoughtful submissions for the October and November newsletters.

### Poetry Workshops

A workshop titled *Praying our Poems* led by Stuart McKay was held at St. Laurence on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Juleta Severson-Baker offered a three-week course in November on how to engage more fully with a poem in order to discover the soulful meanings within and maximize our understanding of the art form. The proceeds from this course will be donated towards a fund to bring Marcia Falk to the Banff Centre in 2012 where she will mentor Juleta through the writing of a suite of new prayer/poems for worship.

### Book Discussion

A discussion of the book *The Cellist of Sarajevo* by Canadian author Steven Galloway was held after church on November 6<sup>th</sup> during Conversations. It was felt that the theme of this book fit well with the Remembrance Sunday which we also observed that Sunday.

### Studies at other churches

St. Laurence, St. Martins and the Good Shepherd parishes are committed in sharing in various study sessions. In October, a four-week bible study was held at Knox Presbyterian Church organized by St. Martins and the Good Shepherd hosted a two-week session on the short films by Rob Bell titled *Nooma Nights*.

### **Yoga and Christian Meditation**

A gentle Yoga and Christian Meditation session led by Gayle Andrews was held on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am to 11:30 am.

### **Inclusive Language**

The committee continues to promote the use of inclusive language in our worship services affirming the 1983 *Guidelines for Inclusive Language* developed by the Anglican Church of Canada.

### **Christian Meditation/ Contemplative Prayer**

Contemplative prayer services will continue on the fourth Monday of every month at 7:30 pm and the first and third Thursdays of the month at 9:30 am.

### **Library**

Several new books have been added to the St. Laurence library collection. Please feel free to browse after church and sign something out. Contact Spencer Stevens or Barb Brydges if you have questions about the library.

### **Wisdom Centre**

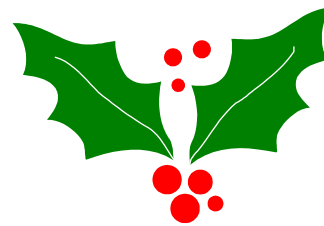
Barbara Brown Taylor, author of *An Altar in the World* will be at Christ Church on December 2-4. The Friday evening session "*Learning to Walk in the Dark*" will include an extended sermon by Barbara Brown Taylor and a musical exploration of sacred darkness by Brian Pearson and the Soul Food Band. The Saturday workshop on *Writing as Spiritual Practice* is sold out. St. Laurence will be joining Christ Church on Sunday morning for the worship service at 10:30 am.

Rita Nakashima Brock will be visiting on May 3 and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012 to lead a workshop on *Saving Paradise on Earth: Faith for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. A three evening study will be held prior to this event about theories of Atonement. This will be co-led by Don McLeod, Natasha Brubaker Garrison and Anna.

Check out the Wisdom Centre website for more details of upcoming events.

### **Committee Chair Position**

Carolyn Herold has graciously agreed to take on the chair position for 2012/2013. Thanks Carolyn.



## **FAMILY EVENT CELEBRATION**

### **DECEMBER 18**

**After the Lessons, Carols & Pageant Service there will be a light lunch served. Come and join in the fun.**

**Entertainment  
Carols  
Crafts**

**Please bring your children, grandchildren, friends, and neighbours.**

# Financial Reports

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*Steve Koning  
Parish Treasurer*

The financial report to the end of September is included in this issue of the Leader. Also included is a separate report showing the September 30<sup>th</sup> status of the Future Facility Fund.

The Operating Fund is showing a year-to-date deficit of \$11,642 mostly due to envelope donations being approximately \$5,000 below budget and building expenses being about \$5,000 over budget. It is hoped that by year-end, this fund will be closer to the budgeted annual deficit of \$4,635.

In the Capital Fund, the cash and investments balance of \$976,202 is actually a combined total of approximately \$8,000 in a bank account, \$150,000 in a guaranteed investment certificate (GIC), \$400,000 in a bond index mutual fund, and \$417,000 in the Parish's rectory account invested in the Diocese's Consolidated Investment Fund. The first three accounts are held in accounts at the Parish's bank and the account at the Diocese is held with an investment manager in Calgary. The bank transfers from cash to the GIC account and the mutual fund account were made during September and it is expected that these investments will generate considerably more income for the Parish than the previous arrangement with relatively little additional risk. The rectory account at the Diocese contains the net proceeds of the sale of the rectory that occurred in June of this year.

Although it is not shown on this report, it should be noted that the Diocese has approved a grant to the Parish's renovation project of \$40,000 and a withdrawal from the Parish's rectory account of \$350,000 provided that \$35,000 is repaid to that account within 5 years. In addition, the Anglican Foundation has approved a grant to the Parish of \$15,000 and a loan of \$80,000 repayable at 5% interest per year over 15 years. When combined with the Parish's own fundraising efforts, these approvals mean that the renovation project is on track to be completed within the next year with a budget of approximately \$1,200,000.

The Future Facility Fund Summary report indicates that, as of September 30<sup>th</sup>, the donations received totalled \$529,672. This compares to a pledged amount of over \$680,000 leaving about \$150,000 of the pledged amount that has yet to be collected. As the renovation project moves into construction next year, it will be extremely important to have these pledges fulfilled as soon as possible.

As always, please contact me if you have any questions or comments about these St. Laurence financial reports.

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## LAY ASSISTANTS

*Yvonne Krieger*

We have a dedicated group of people, seven men and 11 women, and three spares who administer wine and sometimes bread to the congregation at each Eucharist service.

We are just setting up the Roster for the upcoming Year, Jan / June 2012....

We are sorry to say that two of our very faithful servers, George Pinsky & Gilda Michaels have decided to retire because they are just so busy with other functions in the church. Please thank them when you see them for their faithful service.

It is nice to have two volunteers who have come forward to fill the positions - so please welcome Rosamonde McKay and Barbara Hames as they will be starting in the New Year.

If you feel "called" to be a lay assistant - we would welcome any of you with open arms - as then we would not have to serve as often.

There is Training coming up soon - so if you feel "called" - please contact me at 249-3932 or [Yvonne.k@shaw.ca](mailto:Yvonne.k@shaw.ca)

Just a note to all who do take wine at the service. It would be most helpful to the servers, if you would take the cup from the server or guide it by cupping it with both hands

Again a big Thank you to all who serve.  
Blessings

## Christmas Eve Youth Choir

Calling all young singers!

If you are interested in singing at the early Christmas Eve service, please speak to me on Sunday or call me at 403-246-6165.

Deb Koning  
Music Director





# FAIRTRADE, GIFTS FOR MISSION AND PWRDF

*Carol Gardiner*

As we move toward the celebrations of Advent and Christmas, I hope you will consider buying items that give pleasure to your loved ones and the gift of abundance to those who are less fortunate than we at St. Laurence. The purchase of fairtrade items or gifts for mission will help our world become a kinder, gentler place.

On **November 27**, following the service, I will have fairtrade coffee, tea, jams, chutneys and other items for purchase. Many of you have found these to be a nice addition to Christmas packages or excellent hostess gifts. I trust that this year will be no exception. This year, November 27 will be the only sales date.

I would commend to you the small booklet that we all received in the Anglican Journal which is titled Gifts for Mission. This guide has a wealth of gift suggestions that support the ministries of the Anglican Church of Canada at home and around the world. For those on your list, who are blessed to have everything they need and want, please consider sharing joy with those less fortunate. You will find extra booklets on the small table at the bottom of the stairs before you enter the lower hall. Please use the booklet and return it to the table when you are finished. (I will provide extra copies of the order sheets and envelopes, if needed.)

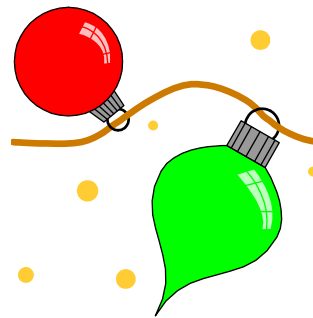
It is a pleasure for me to represent PWRDF at St. Laurence where so many of you make a conscious effort to support those who are in need. Thank you.

*Blessed Christmas and Peace in the New Year.*

# STEPHEN MINISTRY CAN HELP

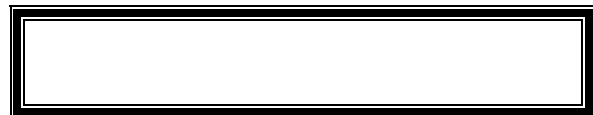
**H**ow many times have you wished that you had the skills to: help a friend in need, assist a teenager experiencing difficulties at school, give sound advice to the spouse of a loved one affected by Dementia, support someone grieving the loss of a loved one, encourage a friend through difficult times, support someone who has lost a job, be a listener to a friend who needs to talk his or her way through a crisis, etc. **Stephen Ministry Can Help.**

Consider joining the new class for Stephen Ministry that will commence in January 2012. Phone Carol Bell (253-4221) or Wendy Both @ St. Peter's (281-5657) for information on the days/evenings being planned.



## CALLING ALL ST. LAURENCE ELVES

We are looking for volunteer elves to help decorate the downstairs hall **November 30 and December 1.** Contact Barbie Hames (403-243-7332) if you are interested.



# OneBody News

## **SENIOR HIGH ONLY EVENT**

Bare at Pumphouse Theatre (**8 pm**) on **November 26<sup>th</sup>**. Debrief at fellow youthling's house to follow. This play is very graphic and deals with mature content. Looking for chaperones.

## **BARBARA BROWN TAYLOR/SOUL FOOD BAND**

Christ Church, Friday, **December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 PM**. Come out for a unique service like no other!

## **CLOTHING SWAP – DECEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup>**

All three churches will be invited to participate in the clothing drive/swap. Youthlings who want to help with the swap should be dropped off for 10 AM at St. Laurence. The swap will be open to public from **12 – 2 pm**. All extra clothing will be donated.

## **UGLY SWEATER CHRISTMAS GALA!**

Watch for details on Google calendar and Facebook. There will be a dance with DJ Density! Awesomeness.

## **SORRENTO FOR AN AWESOME WEEKEND**

of camp fun on the May long weekend – May 18-21, 2012

You will note an “ad” in this issue for an “Art Show & Sale”. This is a first. The event is designed to help our artistic church members to display and sell some of their works. The event is also designed to connect with the people of our local community.

We placed ads in the October issue of Lakeview News, November issue of “North Glenmore Community News” and other papers.

Please bring friends on **Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup> 2 – 5 pm**. Enjoy a coffee as you peruse and admire the works of art.

Unsold items will be on display and for sale on **Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>**, after church.

See you there. (Bring your cheque book, in case you fall in love.)

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## **CANADIAN TIRE MONEY**

We continue to collect Canadian Tire Money which supports the Refugee Committee for the Diocese. The “tire bucks” purchase supplies for refugee families as they adjust to Canadian life.

# Art Show & Sale

## VIEWS FROM THE PEWS –

### Makes you Think, Eh?

*Wayne Stewart*

**F**inding myself in Boston with a few days unallocated to vacation, I wandered up to the Episcopal Divinity School (EDS) where I spent a wonderful four months three years ago. My objective was to reconnect with those from whom I learned so much during that experience.

Rev. Dr. Christopher Duraisingh was the professor whom I have often quoted in the words “if the church is not ‘mission,’ it has no reason to exist.” So it was with great anticipation that I knocked on his door last week and accepted his invitation to attend one of his ‘introduction to theology’ classes. Today, I had the pleasure of attending a speech by Bishop Spong on “Shifting the Paradigm- from Rescue to Expanded Life” (one of the joys of hanging around EDS is that the things to think never end). More about John Spong some other time but for now, back to Christopher.

While teaching an introductory course for (mostly young) people whose career aspirations are for parish ministry, he provided lots of things to think of in a world of increasing religious diversity. I have long wondered with the author of a book on the subject “What do we say to our Muslim neighbour.” What is our Christian obligation as we encounter those whose conception of the divine does not accord exactly with our own?

Christopher explains this by emphasizing the critical nature of story--our Christian story and the story the other tells of their religious tradition. By telling our story (made me think we better be able to do so,

authentically and consistently), we encourage the other to share theirs. In his words “when I tell my story, I open a space for another to tell their story.”

“I listen to the other story so that my story can be expanded,” he goes on. What a thought producer. Rather than avoiding exposure to the other religion (the practice of many Christians, perhaps in fear of contamination), Christopher would have us intentionally seek out the other to hear their story so as to reinforce and expand our understanding of our own.

He goes on with other statements that made me think. “The moment I turn my story into a ‘truth statement,’ it becomes ideological and turns the other off.” Sure made me think of the attempts we Christians make to avow that our story is the one true story (even within our religion, we have some who think they alone represent the ‘one true church’).

This latter statement is the conclusion one must draw from his “mission is not a ‘truth’ affair; it is a love affair. As such, it accords with God’s mission.” Not only made me think, it seems to make so much sense. Back for just a moment to Bishop Spong for reinforcement in his words: “you miss the story if you literalize the text.”

Lots of things make me think in Boston, with its history, and in Cambridge, with the many opportunities to learn, to reflect, to grow and to think thoughts of significance as we learn to live with our neighbours whose religious traditions are different from our own.



# Theological Triflings of a Layman

## Easter Comes Before Christmas

Dave Lovatt

The time of year from Advent through Christmas represents the Church's annual high water mark for attendance, boosted in part, by a substantial number of visitors. Could it be that some who visit are open to, looking for, or even teetering on the edge of, faith? To which side will they fall after a Christmas visit to St. Laurence? Will what we do encourage or discourage them from coming to the Church in January?

Will our visitors, coming in from an outside world that has so effectively co-opted Christmas for commercial interests, have cynicism stoked by incredible stories of a virgin giving birth in a manger attended by ancient humbled kings? Will they be given a post-modern take on Christmas in which the intervention of God in human history is downplayed? Or maybe, just maybe, will we grasp a golden opportunity and take our visitors beyond the seemingly fantastic or banal to give them the gift of a justified faith?

Failure, as it's often said, isn't an option. *The Great Commission*, to go and make disciples, ranks right up there behind *The Great Commandments*. Failure, whether stemming from our inability to connect or ambivalence toward the opportunity itself, has the inevitable consequence of extinction. Thankfully though, every Christmas presents a brand new chance to connect with people in a profound way.

Making that kind of connection means going beyond simply putting Christ back into Christmas with stock recitals of the incredible events of Christmas past. A deep and abiding connection requires us to genuinely reveal something of ourselves and

the compelling reasons we have for the faith and commitment that underlie our celebration of Christmas.

Of course, our Christmas celebration isn't based in isolation on the birth of a lowly baby in fantastic circumstances. His birth is worthy of celebration because of the things we believe He has done since the undeniable revelations of the first Easter. It's Easter that provides the essential and pivotal link, informing with hindsight the significance of this baby's birth and then supporting two thousand years of faith that He is with us still. We can't hide and should never avoid the fact that the credibility of the Gospels and our faith all hang on the events of Easter.

Indeed, without the context of Easter, Christmas would be just another hollow day; a vacuum ripe for the infilling rush of all too eager worldly interests. Only the substance of Easter can forestall them. Only the illuminating significance of Easter, explained with conviction, can pierce the cynicism of this world to reveal its Saviour.

Talking a little about Easter at Christmas might take our visitors by surprise, but then again, that's how the best gifts often come. Instead of the usual and seemingly fanciful Christmas fare we could help our visitors understand the solid foundations of our justified faith. That might even turn out to be the proverbial gift that keeps on giving as it would be a faith built to share convincingly and to endure.

This Christmas may all who spend time at St. Laurence come to know us as a community standing on the faith of Easter inspired by the humility and generosity of Christmas. May they leave, not with the imagery of blazing stars and bewildered kings but the rock and substance of faith. May they be surprised with the gift of a new calendar in which Easter comes before Christmas.

## ART SHOW & SALE



SATURDAY,  
NOVEMBER 26<sup>th</sup>  
2 - 5 PM

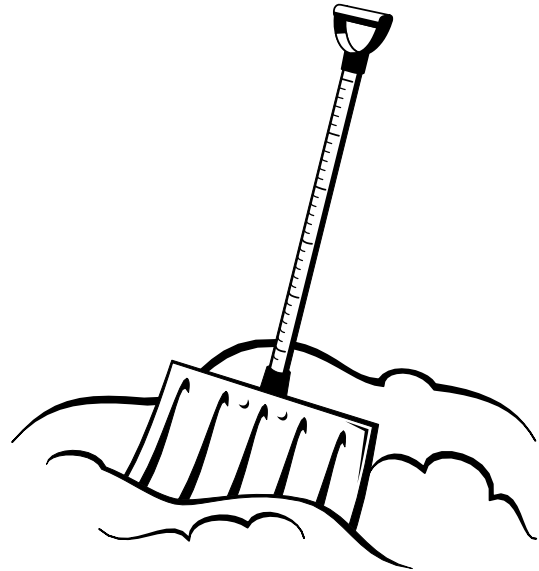
*works by Alice Graham, Bob  
Farquharson, Nina Smith, Elizabeth  
McLennan, Verna Reid and other  
St. Laurence artists*

Coffee  
Bring your Friends

AND after church  
Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>

If you would like to participate or  
assist, please talk to Alice Graham  
or Arnold Wright

## BEWARE THAT LAKEVIEW DRIVE IS A SNOW ROUTE



Snow route parking ban applies  
when there is 5 cm or more of snow  
then there is **NO PARKING allowed**  
for 72 hours.

The City 311 department suggests  
parishioners listen to their radio and  
television as to whether there is a  
“snow route parking ban in affect”.