



# LORNE PARK BAPTIST CHURCH Newsletter

Winter 2025

Volume 43 • Number 1



## ***MOVING FORWARD 2025***

**"...by faith and not by sight" (2 Cor. 5:7)**

1500 INDIAN ROAD  
MISSISSAUGA, ONTARIO L5H 1S7  
905-278-7833  
office@lpbc.ca  
www.lpbc.ca  
Rev. Laura Sellakandu, Lead Pastor  
laura@lpbc.ca



# Message from Our Pastor



Rev. Laura Sellakandu

## WWJD?

WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?

A FEW DECADES AGO, “What Would Jesus Do” (WWJD), was a very popular Christian slogan. There were T-shirts, bracelets, bookmarks, mugs, pens, bumper stickers and more inscribed with the acronym WWJD. This four-word slogan inspired many to think before they acted. Youth leaders made extensive purchases of products inscribed with WWJD for their youth, in the hope that they would be constantly reminded of their actions and essentially share their faith with inquisitive minds.

Reflecting on the message of WWJD, I acknowledge that this slogan is as relevant today as it was then. We should constantly ask ourselves, “What would Jesus do? when situations arise, rather than asking after the fact. I invite us to remember WWJD and Proverbs 3:5-6, “*Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*”

This maxim applies even when situations might appear to be insignificant. It might be as simple as WWJD in this situation at work, or with that pain I am experiencing in my body. How about when there is a misunderstanding with a family member or church member? WWJD?

Jesus said, “...*I do nothing on my own, but speak exactly what the Father has taught me. He who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, because I always do what pleases him,*” (John 8:28-29).

Jesus always did what pleases the Father. Can we say the same as children of God—that we always do what pleases God? Doing what pleases God will be a constant struggle if we never stop to ask, “What Would Jesus Do?”

May we be inspired to embrace this challenge of first asking WWJD before we act.

Laura Sellakandu, Lead Pastor

## Just a click away

The digital version of this newsletter is interactive. That means, for instance, that if you want to send an e-mail to the church, you only need to place your cursor on the church's e-mail address at the bottom of the cover page, click, and a pre-addressed e-mail will open up for you, all ready for you to enter your message and send. Or, if you see a service opportunity that you would like to volunteer for or if you wish to respond to anything in this issue of the newsletter, simply click on the website or the contact person's name and an email will pop up ready for you to send.

GraphicStock.com



## Kitchen Confidential

AFTER LONG HOURS, many delays and very hard work, our kitchen refresh is finally complete. In addition to a generous anonymous donor, we would like to thank those who put in many hours of hard work: Rod, Wendy, Lona, Ernest, Eric, Kathy, Daphne, Marilyn, Helen, Noëlle, Aloysius, Sunday and others. Thank you all! It couldn't have been done without you.

Lona Ockenden



# Message from Our Executive Council Chair

## Revitalizing Our Church

EMBRACING THE GREAT COMMISSION THROUGH A MISSION AUDIT

IN A WORLD where churches face dwindling numbers and a disconnect from their communities, revitalization has become a vital focus for many congregations. A crucial step in this process is conducting a church mission audit, which is an evaluation of the church's mission, considering the Great Commission and the teachings found in Scripture.

The Great Commission, as outlined in Matthew 28:19-20, calls Christians to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to obey everything Jesus commanded. This mission is not just a directive but a foundational aspect of the Christian faith, urging believers to actively participate in God's plan for humanity.

A comprehensive mission audit helps a church assess how well it is fulfilling this commission, where improvements can be made and how effectively it is reaching its community.

The information collected to complete a mission audit includes not only observations obtained during prayer walks in the community, reflection on historical events of the church, evaluation of

communication channels and protocols, and felt needs within the community, but also the review of demographic considerations including census data. This information will help the church to answer the question, “What are the ethnic, social and economic compositions, religious affiliations, occupational patterns, concentrations of the elderly, young professionals, singles and other groups in the community? How is God leading us to serve these constituents in our community?”

Central to the mission audit is the focus on community. Churches must ask themselves: How are we showing God's love to all we meet? Engaging with the community is not merely an obligation; it is an opportunity to reflect Christ's love in tangible ways. This can involve organizing community service projects, hosting events or partnering with local organizations to address needs within the community.

In 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 we find a powerful reminder of the diversity and unity within the body of Christ. Paul writes, “*For just as the body is one and*



Sandra Anglin-Caldwell

*has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.*” This passage emphasizes that every member of the church plays a crucial role, regardless of their gifts or position. The church functions as a body, with Christ as the head. Each member has unique gifts, as outlined in verses 4-11, contributing to the church's overall mission. Yet, Paul reminds us that “*the eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you,’ nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’*” (1 Corinthians 12:21). Every part is essential, including those we may consider the weakest.

The idea of weakness is particularly poignant in this passage. Instead of viewing weakness as a liability, we can see it as an opportunity for growth and interdependence. Paul writes that “*the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable*” (1 Corinthians 12:22). This calls us to change our perspective: every member has a role to play, and sometimes it is the seemingly weaker parts that provide the most significant support and strength to the church mission.

In the context of a church mission audit, this principle is vital. When revitalizing a church, it is essential to recognize and empower every member of the church, especially those who may feel marginalized or overlooked. Every-

## Steps for conducting a mission audit

- First, church leaders should engage the congregation in prayer, seeking God's guidance and wisdom to discern His plan for the church.
- Next, the church should evaluate its current vision and mission statement, programs and outreach efforts against various data it collects and reviews, both internally and from the community.
- And finally, the church discerns through prayer whether the current programs are aligned with The Great Commission and God's plan for the church. Is it effectively reaching the community? The church must consider where there may be room for improvement and what, if anything, the church needs to do to better achieve its vision and mission.



one has a role in the Great Commission, and their gifts are crucial for the church's health and effectiveness.

Unity within the body is essential. Ephesians 4:3 encourages believers to “make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” When the church operates in unity, it can more effectively carry out its mission. By embracing the diverse gifts and callings of its members, a church can create a vibrant community that reflects Christ's love and mission.

To get the whole church working together, intentional steps must be taken. First, church leaders should cultivate an environment that encourages participation, making it clear that everyone has a role in fulfilling The Great Commission. Regular, repetitive and proactive communication is essential to bringing people along for the transformation. Regularly organizing events that require collaboration, both within the church and with other congregations, can strengthen relationships and reduce isolation. By partnering with neighbouring churches for outreach initiatives or community service projects, the church can work collectively, amplifying its impact.

In the book, *Come Back Churches*, by Ed Stetzer, the authors emphasize that everyone should be involved in three ways: serving, sharing and growing. This framework promotes holistic participation in the church community. Additionally, it is important to foster a culture of prayer and encouragement which is vital to transformation. When members support each other spiritually, they become more invested in the church's mission.

To improve collaboration, we can start by identifying the unique gifts of our members and encouraging them to share these with the broader community. Regular meetings that bring together representatives from different ministries can facilitate communication and foster a culture of teamwork. Also, creating opportunities for inter-church gatherings can strengthen relationships beyond our own congregation.

Together, with a renewed commitment to the mission and each other, we can thrive and impact our community for Christ. Let us embrace our diversity and work together, showing His love to all we meet and allowing God to work through us in profound ways.

Sandra-Anglin Caldwell 📷

## Bible Studies

**AT LPBC** we want to be faithful to God and to discern His will for us as a congregation and in our personal lives. We focus on what the Scriptures have to say in our pulpit ministry and in various opportunities offered for group Bible study. There's a place for you to plug in. Choose from several opportunities. Some people attend more than one!

**Youth** • Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm

Use LPBC Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/9326242374?pwd=OUJTSkRocjdVNU5sbVRzRGpzbn04Zz09>

Alpha Bible Study - First and third Wednesdays. See Youth article on page 5.

**Men** • Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm

Men's Bible Study Fellowship. If you are interested in studying the Bible with this group, please contact Rodney Wozny at [rodneywozny@hotmail.com](mailto:rodneywozny@hotmail.com).

**Ladies** • Wednesdays at 10:00am

Join this in-person group in the Fellowship Room for a study on the book of Jeremiah.

**Corporate** • Thursdays at 7:30pm

No need to leave the comfort of your home. Currently studying/discussing the video series on the book of Hebrews by Mike Mazzolongo. Use LPBC Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/9326242374?pwd=OUJTSkRocjdVNU5sbVRzRGpzbn04Zz09>

**In-Person** • For an in-person Bible study, join us every Monday evening in the Fellowship Room at the church. The current study topic is the Book of Hebrews. If you would like to be part of this study group, connect with Pier Thurling at [pthurling33@gmail.com](mailto:pthurling33@gmail.com). 📷

## Ladies' Bible Study

At the ladies' Bible study end-of-year get-together on December 11, Carol Randall gave a brief presentation on her recent trip to Morocco, which was interesting and informative. We look forward to continuing our study of Jeremiah in the New Year.

Glacia D'Cambre



## Youth

**WE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED** a Youth Alpha Program at LPBC! The program runs every other Wednesday (the first and third Wednesdays of each month, from 6:30-8pm at the church. We have a homemade meal together, watch the Alpha Youth video with discussion questions followed by some fun games or an activity. Benjamin Sellakandu has become an invaluable volunteer and we are having lots of fun! If you would like to provide a homemade meal (a simple soup/stew) or a dessert, please let me know (416-809-8834; [kjospeh@yugta.ca](mailto:kjospeh@yugta.ca)). That would be super helpful.

We are also doing a youth-focused Bible study every other Sunday (first and third Sundays) during the sermon. This will allow the youth to have some Bible teaching in a more casual, interactive setting. We are using the prayer room for these sessions.

Some of our group will be going to Today's Teens on February 22, which is a great, day-long training conference for student leaders, volunteers in youth ministry and youth pastors. We are also planning a fun outing during March Break, so watch for more news about that soon.

I'm also working behind the scenes on a community assessment along with one (and soon to be two) Youth Unlimited Interns. They are doing key research on our neighbourhood and I look forward to presenting some of our findings to the church and coordinating this with the Revitalization work. I look forward to the opportunities that will open up as we seek to be God's presence in our neighbourhood, bringing the light and hope of Jesus to those who do not yet know Him.

Please continue to pray for our young people and the ministry we are developing, that God would move in a powerful way not only to bring youth to our community, but also touch their hearts that they might come to know Him through our work.

Karen Joseph 📷



Rev. Karen Joseph



Our youth had fun building a gingerbread house at their Christmas party. At the Youth Alpha sessions involving a homemade meal, video and discussion, followed by a fun activity, the young people are interested and engaged.

Photos: KJoseph



# Laura's Ordination

IT WAS THE CULMINATION of a lot of planning and effort by our Executive Council, the Ordination Committee, Kathy Yu and the choir members, and the many behind-the-scenes folk who looked after food, sound equipment, setting up and taking down chairs and tables and most of all for Laura herself as she prepared and presented her Statement of Faith and met all the requirements of CBOQ's Ordination protocol.

The Ordination Examination Council was held on January 12, attended by representatives from Toronto Area Baptist Churches. Pastor Laura presented her Statement of Faith, which had been previously circulated to our own church as well as to participating churches. She ably fielded questions from those in attendance before being asked to retire from the room for the ballot vote. The result was a unanimous motion from the voting delegates to proceed with an ordination service on February 2.

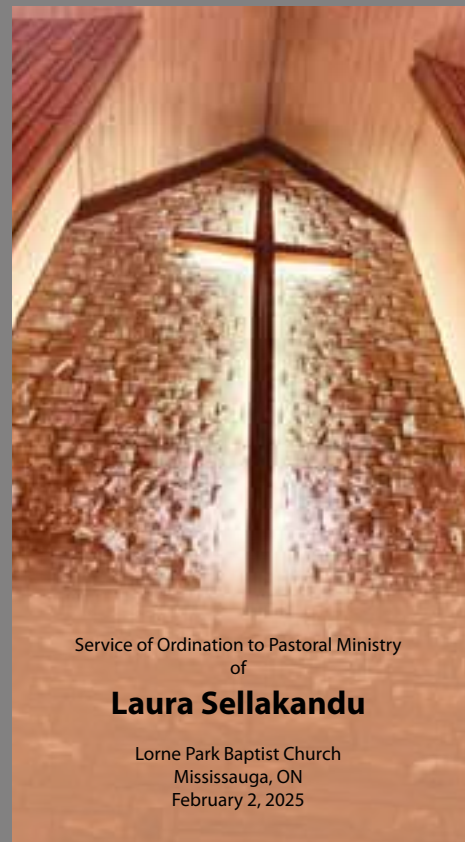
The highlight, of course, was the service of ordination, with guest speaker, Rev. Julie-Ann Morton who challenged Laura and our church to Fulfill our Ministry. This event was well attended by our LPBC family, former members, representatives from other Baptist churches as well as many of Laura's friends and family members. Those who were unable to be present for both events, were able to join via Zoom.

A special thanks is extended to Auntie Janice who provided a delicious hot meal for all those who chose to remain at the church between the Sunday morning service and the Ordination service.

The choir excelled themselves with special music, including a quartet of our Ugandan friends—Abbey Nalukwago, Lilian Angalika, Damalie Kirumira and Steven Senyange, especially written for the occasion. Special thanks also to Elsa Hsieh, who provided wonderful piano accompaniment for the entire service.

God has indeed blessed us. 🙏

Photos: Donna Lee Pancorvo, Gustavo Pancorvo, Teri Overton, Wendy Wozny





## Musical Notes

by Janet E. Boyd



## Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Written in 1747 by Charles Wesley and John Zundel

*HIS DIVINE POWER HAS GIVEN TO US ALL THINGS THAT PERTAIN TO LIFE AND GODLINESS, THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM WHO CALLED US BY GLORY AND VIRTUE. 2 PETER 1:3 (NKJV)*

HELLO AND WELCOME to the Winter edition of Musical Notes. I have chosen this hymn because it talks about God's love. Since February is the month of Love, it seems appropriate.

There is human love which is wonderful, but God's love is more amazing than any human love that we can fathom. He is there for us through everything that we go through in life. From the good times to the bad times, He is there for us. One of the lines in the hymn is: "Jesus, Thou art all compassion; Pure unbounded love Thou art." God/Jesus is compassionate beyond anything that we can experience in our human relationships. We can go to Him with anything that's on our minds or is bothering us and He will listen and help us with whatever we're going through. He is our constant friend and guide.

In another old favourite hymn we sing, "What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry, Everything to God in prayer!"

I hope that you know Him and go to Him with everything. He will never leave you.

This is the history about Charles Wesley.

Taken from, *Then Sings My Soul Volume 2* by Robert J. Morgan, page 43. The quotation from *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* was taken from the same book, page 130.



Charles Wesley

"After their marriage, Charles and Sally Wesley set up housekeeping in Bristol, England, heading up the Methodist activities there. Later they moved to London so Charles could work more closely with his brother, John. All the while, however, he was writing hymns. There are few stories behind specific hymns because Charles was always writing them. He didn't need events to inspire him or quiet stretches of meditative time in which to develop his thoughts. He was just always writing hymns, and afterward he had few if any dramatic stories to tell about the occasions for writing them.

Biographer Arnold Dallimore says about his poetry: "He had inherited this gift from his father and although it had undoubtedly been resident in him since childhood, his conversion unlocked it and set it free. During [his] early ministry he says little in his journal about his composing hymns and, indeed, this is true throughout his life. But he had within him virtually a treasury of poetry. He constantly experienced the emotions of the true poet; his mind instinctively invested words with harmony, and hymn after hymn flowed from his pen."

Henry Moore, one of his friends, later described Charles like this: "When he was nearly eighty he rode a little horse, gray with age... Even in the height of summer he was dressed in winter clothes. As he jogged leisurely along, he jotted down any thought that struck him. He kept a card in his pocket for this purpose, on which he wrote his hymn in shorthand. Not infrequently he had come to our house in City Road, and, having left the pony in the garden in front, he would enter, crying out, 'Pen and ink! Pen and ink!' These being supplied, he wrote the hymn he had been composing."

How many hymns did Wesley compose? No one has been able to count them. In all, Charles wrote over nine thousand literary texts of one kind or another, but not all of them should be classified as hymns. Experts put the number somewhere between three thousand and six thousand. Among all of them, "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" is the favourite of many.

Charles's last hymn was dictated to his beloved Sally as he was on his deathbed, in March, 1788. It was short, simple, and picturesque. Predictably, it, too, became a popular one-verse song among the Methodists:

*In age and feebleness extreme, /Who shall a helpless worm redeem?  
Jesus, my only hope Thou art, /Strength of my failing flesh and heart,  
Oh, could I catch a smile from Thee /And drop into eternity!"*

I hope that you have enjoyed reading about Charles Wesley's hymn writing. Until the Spring edition, have a good winter. 🐭

## Men's Breakfast

Saturday, January 18 saw our first men's breakfast of the year. The number of men is encouraging, especially as there were four regulars who were either away or unwell. Fifteen men sat down to croissants with ham and egg, orange juice and coffee. After an opening prayer, we had 90 minutes of lively discussion. The time was appreciated by all of us.

There is no set program for these events, as requested at our first planning meeting.

Ernest Ockenden 🐭

Photo:EYao



## Church Mouse



I'm so thankful that John and Rod found out that there were heating issues in the sanctuary and lower auditorium. Both issues have been resolved by a heating professional and now I can be warm inside the building once again.

*If you would like to communicate with the Church Mouse, you may do so through our Newsletter editor, Donna Lee Pancorvo at [dl@pancorvo.com](mailto:dl@pancorvo.com).*

## The Magic of Winter



Photo:JLarizza

THOSE WHO attended the special concert held in our sanctuary on December 15 were moved by the performance presented by Nova Music & Art, a group that has been renting practice space in our church. Proceeds from the performance and the silent art auction that accompanied it, were in support of The Compass Food Bank.

The evening included a youth violin orchestra, a ladies' choir, a vocal soloist, a pianist as well as solo numbers performed on the organ by the conductor, Anton Yeretsky. He and his wife, along with the choir members and some of the young violinists are refugees from Ukraine. It was personally moving to me to realize that, despite all that they have been through, they wanted to do this to give back to this local community.

Another concert is planned for around Mother's Day. You won't want to miss it.

Donna Lee Pancorvo 🐭



## Prime Timers

THE PRIME TIMERS' annual Christmas dinner at the Mississauga Golf and Country Club was attended by 31 seniors. The three-course Christmas dinner was great, as usual. Birthday celebrations were included in this event for Jane Hutt and Stan Anglin along with a cupcake for each one. Thanks again to Fred Pamenter for facilitating this event.

The Prime Timers' Christmas carol sing in December included three more birthday celebrations for Auntie Janice, Cheryl Hughes and Kay Hobbs.

*Ernest Ockenden*



The topic for our Prime Timers' January meeting was "Talking Trash." Jess from Peel Region Waste Management gave a very informative presentation on how best to help the environment by properly utilizing available resources for garbage collection, recycling and composting. The session was very well attended and everyone went home with new ideas about waste management.

*Glacia D'Cambre*



## Family Album



We all recognize the talents of our Seams Nice quilters whose work is on display in the lower auditorium and in the fellowship room. In fact, visitors to our church in recent weeks have admired and commented on them. This quilt is the proud achievement of Daphne Brown, photographed by Noëlle Reaburn. If you would like to find out more about Seams Nice Quilters, contact Lona Ockenden at 905-822-9363.

In December, Barb Yates and Joe Larizza delivered items collected at our church to Scott Mission in downtown Toronto. ►

The Larizza-Yates family also shared this photo of their extended family's Christmas celebration at Terra Cotta Inn. ▼



Photos: BYates



## Remembering Barbara Neal



**Barbara Neal**  
September 20, 1931 - January 13, 2025

**BARBARA BREATHED HER LAST** at home in their living room in a hospital bed under excellent palliative care. Many of her family had surrounded her in the days beforehand, sharing prayers and memories.

Barbara began life in Winchester, Ontario, elder daughter of two from Eldon and Nellie Fennell. Barbara met Bruce Neal at McMaster in the Fall of 1949. Both were smitten, and married in August of 1953, a year after Barbara's BA graduation. She went to work for the Hamilton Children's Aid Society while Bruce completed his studies in McMaster Divinity College.

Barbara worked alongside Bruce as he pastored three churches: James Street Baptist Church in Hamilton for seven years, Walmer Road Baptist Church in central Toronto for 12 years and Lorne Park Baptist Church in Mississauga for 11+ years. Since then they have become part of Kingsway Baptist Church in Etobicoke.

Barbara's capacity to love, to share, to give is legendary, not only with her family and close friends, but to all who knew her as a pastor's wife.

She and Bruce have five children—Susan (Rev. Dale Soble), Janice (Rodney Stephen), Jeffrey (Ellen Toompou), Sharon (d. Scott Gregory), Jennifer (Darrin Smith); 10 grandchildren—Nicholas (Erin), Katie (Gary), Nathaniel (Krista), Maggie (Andrew), Trevor (Nina), Kelsey, Adrian (Spencer), Ian, Ada, Adelaide; and seven great-grandchildren—William, Henry, Beckett, Spencer, Amelia, Declan and Naomi.

Her husband Bruce declares that "she was the love of my life, a wondrous gift of God's grace. What a privilege to share a whole lifetime with her!"

*Adapted from Barbara's obituary written by Dr. Bruce Neal* 🕊️



# Words Worth Repeating

For our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019, members of our congregation were invited to write devotionals for a two-volume booklet. The first booklet was published, but due to the onset of Covid-19 and the cancellation of in-person services, the second volume was never printed and was distributed only in PDF format. In this and in future issues of our newsletter, we will repeat selected devotionals from that second volume.

## Read: Philippians 4:8-13

*"I can do everything through him who gives me strength."  
– Philippians 4:13*

IT'S A THREE-STEP PROCESS. The formula is simple but the process isn't. It requires a transformation of mind and heart, and a focus on where that strength comes from. Paul gives us these step-by-step instructions on how to achieve and cultivate an "attitude of gratitude" and not get bogged down when life situations threaten to derail us.

- *Think excellent and praiseworthy thoughts.*

Of course negative thoughts of anger, selfishness, greed and malice cannot come from a well-ordered mind filled with thoughts of whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable. Paul even sets himself as an example for the Philippians to follow whatever they have received, heard from or seen in him. He promises that the God of peace would be with them.

- *Be content in the sufficiency of God*

This one is harder because it involves placing our trust and confidence in something unknown or unseen. We are all prone to worry or fear about the future. Paul's life-tested assurance that he had learned to be content in any situation is an affirmation of his faith in God.

- *Strength through God*

The bottom line is that it doesn't depend on us. God does the heavy lifting and the only thing we have to do is trust.

*Pray: Bless us, O Heavenly Father, with eyes to see, and ears to hear, and hearts that just jump for joy because this world, Your world, is just full of You. Amen.*

by Donna Lee Pancorvo 

## LPBC Newsletter

Editing/Design: Donna Lee Pancorvo (dl@pancorvo.com)

Coordinators and Reporters: Ernest Ockenden (etypewriter@gmail.com) and

Janet Boyd (musicaljanet@rogers.com)

Submissions and suggestions welcomed.

E-mail to any member of our newsletter editorial team.