



THE GRAPEVINE

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FALL 2007

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From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

This summer my family and I took advantage of the great opportunity we had to relax and connect with one another during our summer vacation. As many of you know, we traveled to the UK and visited with members of both sides of our families and we also had some time—just the four of us—to vacation on the European continent.

Mandy and I have mentioned to different people since our return that one of the things that really struck us while we were away was the slower pace of life and the importance of family, particularly in France and Greece. Families didn't typically sit down for supper much before 8 or 9pm and when they did, eating the meal was spread out over a long period of time. People weren't rushing to finish their meals so that they could move on to the next thing on their busy agendas; instead, they took their time eating and almost seemed to hold on as long as possible, being in one another's company. Family time was important time. It was a time for people to reconnect with one another. It was a time to listen to others, and have others listen to you. It was a real treat for our family.

When we were in Greece, meals in restaurants were slow paced. Although orders were taken quickly and food delivered promptly there was never the impression given by the staff that we were to get on with the meal and quickly move on. We have been in restaurants in Canada where we've barely finished our last bite before our plates have been whisked away and we've been made to feel as though if we weren't having dessert, it was time to go. In Greece that wasn't the case. The meal could be eaten slowly, and once the meal was finished it was clear that we could stay as a family and chat at the table for as long as we wanted. It was clear to us the connecting with family and friends was important to both the French and the Greek people.

Connecting with family is important. Yet for so many of us once we get back to our regular day to day lives, that connecting so often it seems to take a back seat to the other things that we are doing. We pack our lives with all sorts of activity.



It feels as though our lives are so busy. For some people today, connecting with your family seems only to happen sporadically. We live in a hectic world and life for many of us feels hurried and harried. We need to slow down.

Not only is it important for us to slow down and look for ways in which we can connect with our families, it is also important for us to look for ways in which we can connect with our other family—our church family. In Acts 2 we read that one of the hallmarks of the early Christian community was their desire to meet with one another and to share fellowship—family was important. People made the effort to set aside some time so that they could connect with others. Perhaps we need to look for ways to make that happen today. How can we create time and space so that we can connect with our Christian brothers and sisters? What are the things that are really important in our lives and what things are we doing that aren't really helping? What things need to be cut out of our lives in order to give us a bit of breathing space? How can we show our brothers and sisters in Christ that they mean something to us?



I can think of a few things that we might consider trying. We might arrange to meet someone for coffee somewhere every one or two weeks, to check in with each other and to provide the opportunity to encourage one another in faith. We might come to church earlier on a Sunday morning or make the decision that each Sunday we're going to stay behind for coffee so that we can talk with others and continue to build relationships with the people of our church. We might make the decision to join one of the church's small groups that meets on a regular basis. We have a number of these groups that meet for fellowship, study, encouragement and prayer. In our small groups we can be ourselves and get to know others in a deeper way than we might normally get to know them and through these relationships we can grow closer to God.

Perhaps it doesn't really matter what we choose to do, but rather, that we choose to do something. Family is important and we need to create space so that relationships can be nurtured. So this Fall, I encourage you to look for some ways that you might be able to connect with your Christian family. Slow down, create some space and make the effort build relationships. By doing this, I am sure that you will benefit, and our family will be strengthened.

Yours in Christ,

Stephen

HOLY TRINITY CONTACTS

Holy Trinity Staff:

Pastor: Stephen Hambidge 275-3630

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Sheila Scarlett 274-9801

Church Administrator:

Sheila Scarlett 274-9801

Church Board Members:

Pastor's Warden:
Scott Murayama 274-1279

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Alice Dutrisac 420-1099

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Greg Hawn 238-1078
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Holy Trinity Couples Tie the Knot

Over the past few months two Holy Trinity couples have gotten married. We offer our congratulations to:



Jennifer Byrnes & Randy Nicolai who were married at
Nakoda Lodge on April 7th

Alex and Lori Renaud (Guenther) who were married in
Winnipeg on August 11th

An Email from our Mission Partner, Dave Matthews

Hello Everybody!

I'm back from China and the summer!

I am back from China and from my brief stint in Canada and now in the wonderful world teaching people about the bible who want to be taught. Yeah! I am in Tyler Texas now working with the School of the Bible still with YWAM. We have a group of 18, hoping for it to still rise to 20 as there are two people, one from Liberia and another from South Africa who are on their way. Please pray for these two people that they would be able to join us or have some finality to their journey. They are having trouble with Visas as well as finances.

I had such a great time in China that I am looking to go back! For 4 weeks this summer I had the opportunity to minister there and sow seeds of the gospel there. We as a team of 5 individuals taught an intensive bible school and ESL classes. We had many opportunities in these groups as well as in other settings to share the love of Christ and the Kingdom of God. I am hoping, as I mentioned before, to return to China later this year or at the beginning of the next to once again share and this time lead more of a bible training course. God did amazing things over there through us as well as through the people we were teaching. It is said that a teachers' greatest joy is being surpassed by their students. Although this may be cliché I was on the edge of my seat as I listened to one of my students share with me of how she heard God speak to her and how she responded by going out and sharing the gospel with great success throughout her city. She did this in response to a teaching we had on listening to the voice of God and although it was stretching for the Chinese students, God exceeded our expectations by a long way.



I hope you are all doing well and this email finds you well. I would love to hear how you are doing. I have regular internet access while I am in Tyler. God bless.

Yours In Christ,
Dave Matthews

Dave Matthews is a member of Holy Trinity, Calgary currently serving with Youth With a Mission. If you would like to send Dave an email you can do so by sending it to: dcrrmtot@hotmail.com

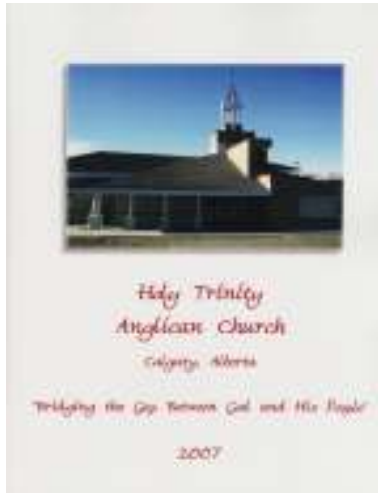
Searching for an Associate Pastor—An Update

As many of you know, during the summer we started advertising for an Associate Pastor for Holy Trinity. This is an update to let you know that the process is still ongoing. The advertising deadline has now passed and applications have been received. These applications will be short-listed and if appropriate, a candidate or candidates will be invited to come for an interview. The group that will be interviewing the potential candidate(s) will consist of the Pastor and the Wardens (at Holy Trinity we have 4 Wardens—two of which are elected by the parishioners of the church, and two of which are appointed by the pastor—you can see their photos in the Foyer). If you have a question that you think should be asked during the interviews, please pass it on to Pastor Stephen or any of the Wardens for consideration. And please keep the whole process in your prayers, that God will lead us in His will.



HOLY TRINITY PHOTO DIRECTORIES

Back in January the people of our church were invited to make an appointment to have their family photograph taken for our Church Photo Directory. Many people of our church came for their photo to help us create a visual record of the people who are part of our church community. The photo directories have finally arrived! Now you will be able to refer to your photo directory when you have forgotten the name of the person who sits beside you in church each Sunday. Each individual or family that had their photograph taken receives a free copy of the photo directory. To get your copy, please see Scott Murayama any Sunday after church.



HOLY TRINITY 101

Starting on Sunday, October 14 we are once again going to be offering Holy Trinity 101—our course for newcomers to Holy Trinity. This course will be held at the church from 8:45a.m. to 9:45a.m. on Sundays and will run for three weeks. Muffins and coffee will be provided so that you won't have to worry about breakfast on those mornings. Childcare will also be available.

Participating in Holy Trinity 101 is a great opportunity for those who are new to our church hear more about the work and ministry of Holy Trinity and give people an understanding of what is offered within our church community that might be of interest. During our time together there will be an opportunity to meet some other new people, we will share some of the exciting things that God has been doing within our church and there will be the opportunity to ask questions that you have been longing to ask.

If you are interested in attending this short course, please sign up on the sheet provided in the foyer.

Members of the church who are interested in assisting at HT 101 are asked to contact Pastor Stephen.

NEWCOMER PROFILE

Where, o where, do the Wares worship?

By Rob Petkau
For Grapevine

The family that prays together stays together.

That's the philosophy of Douglas and Valli Ware, who came to Holy Trinity last October, and were baptized along with their children – Taliah, 7, and Brennan, 5 – in the spring.

"I wasn't baptized as a child and I wanted my children baptized," Valli explains. "I wanted to set an example and show my children what it means to me, and I thought, 'Why not get baptized with them?' I felt in my heart it was the proper thing to do."

Valli was raised in a secular household, and wanted something different for her family.

"I always wanted my children to have faith and believe in God – or at least learn about Him. I wanted to at least introduce them to religion," she explains.

Brennan attended Kidz Choice preschool, which is an arm of Holy Trinity, so it was natural that the family try out the church for their spiritual home as well.

"When I was a kid, we did attend church a few times. Our religion was Catholic, and I wanted to be part of something more modern," she says.

"I like Holy Trinity because you can just go and have fun and be yourself. I feel very comfortable here. The music is modern, and it really inspires my children. And Pastor Stephen's sermons are really interesting and real. He bases them on real-life topics you can relate to and learn from."

Douglas was baptized in an Anglican church as a baby, but his family wasn't religious. Although his work as a welding company owner keeps him away from church most Sundays, he supports Valli and the children in their spiritual life.



Born in Toronto and raised in Calgary and then British Columbia, Douglas returned to Wild Rose Country in the 1990s to work in the oilpatch. Work took him to locales across the province, including Taber – where he met a pretty, young restaurant server named Valli. "I served him dinner, and I've been serving him dinner ever since," Valli says with a laugh.

Today, Valli is a busy full-time mom. Although a newcomer to the church and Christianity in general, she has already taken a few steps into ministry.

"Over the summer, I did teach a few Sunday school classes. I'm not super-knowledgeable about the Bible, and I was afraid these kids would know more than me, but I tried it anyway," she says.

"For me, it was putting my energy into the kids and being there for them. It actually went really smoothly. We had a great time!"

Living in Community

By Stephen Hambidge



A few years ago I was asked to write something for *The Grapevine* that might be helpful to our congregation as we worked out some of the implications of being a church of such diverse ages—particularly with regards to worship. During the past few months I have been a part of a few conversations on this same subject and so the Vestry (our Church Board) asked me to share some further reflections in this issue of *The Grapevine* so that we can all do some further thinking.

One of the real blessings of our church community is the number of children that we have. I find it a joy on a Sunday morning to see as many children as I do, and more importantly to see the smile on the faces of so many of them. It is good that children feel at home in church because that has not always been the case.

I'm sure that many people can recall a time when they were growing up and they were expected to "behave" in church. Usually what that meant to our parents was that we were expected to be like little adults and do everything that they did. Since the adults in church were quiet, the children were expected to follow suit. I wonder if that is one of the reasons why so many of those children left the church in later years—unrealistic expectations were placed on them. Church became a place where they couldn't be themselves. It wasn't a happy and joyful place.

I am grateful to the people of Holy Trinity for having the flexibility of allowing children some of the freedom to be themselves. One of the reasons why Mandy and I felt it right for me to apply to be the pastor of Holy Trinity more than thirteen years ago was because this place had such a large number of children. It was important to us that we be part of a place that welcomed and celebrated people of all ages—including children. In too many places when I was growing up, children were to be "seen and not heard." I wouldn't want to be in a place where children were meant to feel like that. To my joy, I've heard stories of many young children in our church community who really enjoy coming to Holy Trinity. Some enjoy it so much that they keep asking their parents "Is it church day yet?" Isn't that wonderful?! I'm sure that must bring a smile to God's face. This is a place where many children enjoy coming and that says so much about our community. It is important for us to look for ways that we can allow the children of our church the freedom to meet with God in a warm and loving community. We need always to remember not to put unrealistic expectations on young children or their parents—many of whom make great efforts to get things organized each Sunday so that they and their children can worship with us. I admire parents who will make that effort. I also think that we have something to learn from the children. The Bible talks about the need for us to be like children in our relationship with God. I think there are many things that we adults can learn from the simple faith and worship of the children of our church. It is important for us to allow the children the freedom to be children.

However, we all know that children not only need freedom, they also need guidance as well. Just as we needed guidance from others when we were growing up, so do children today need guidance to help them as they grow up. What guidance can we give them? Well, one of the things we can teach them is the fact that we are all part of a community. The things we do in community have an effect on others. Loud voices—from children or adults—can be distracting to others. We can also set the children good examples while we are in church. We can teach them how to pray and encourage singing. We can also encourage the children to participate in the service when they are able to do so. Children take their cues from us, so it is important for them to experience worship in the healthy way. It is important that they see us participating in the service giving what we have to the Lord.

So whether we are young or not so young, have children or not, appreciate activity around us or quiet meditation, let's be sensitive to the needs of those around us. Let's not send glares to parents whose children are acting up on a Sunday, nor should we ignore the needs of others in the congregation when our children are acting up. We are part of a community and in community we look to the needs of others. Let's remember to give our children some freedom at the same time as giving them guidance. Let's work together loving all that all might come more to know Jesus.

If you have any questions, or would like to talk with me further about this subject, please feel free to do so.

Mustard Seed helps the homeless

By Rob Petkau
For Grapevine

If you're looking to add a little flavour to your faith, why not give the Mustard Seed ministry a try?

Holy Trinity volunteers cook and serve meals for Calgary's homeless and working poor at the downtown mission four or five times a year, under the leadership of ministry heads Eileen and John Spender.

"Although it's a much bigger organization, our part in it is only to do the cooking and serving of the food," Eileen explains.

In the late 1980s, the Spenders were part of a Holy Trinity small group that decided to take on an outreach project, and helping out The Seed was a good fit. Another couple headed the ministry for several years, but the Spenders assumed the leadership role a few years later.

"We usually serve a hamburger soup – which is more like a stew, as well as a bun and dessert," says John.

Other than Eileen and John, the ministry doesn't have a set roster of volunteers – although there are a core group of "regulars" who lend a hand much of the time. People who want to help out can sign up when John posts a sheet, usually a few weeks in advance of the event.

"There are two parts – the cooking and the serving. With the cooking, it's the more the merrier; more people gets it done faster," John says. "But with the serving we can only have eight people. We've always had enough people, and we've never run out of food."

In the early years, Holy Trinity's Mustard Seed team served 100 people or less on a given night. These days, it's around 200 or 300. Once, though, the church's soup stretched to feed 1,000.

"It was partly a miracle, and partly because we had someone adding water and stirring very skillfully," Eileen admits with a chuckle.

Sometimes, instead of individuals, one of the parish's small groups will step up to cook and serve a Mustard Seed meal – which John and Eileen encourage.

John says the camaraderie of the cooking is fun, and serving the food is satisfying.

"It's good to interface with the homeless and the working people. You realize most of them are really not that different from us – it may be that they've just had different circumstances.

"I believe we're called as Christians to help those in need of food and shelter."

Eileen is retired and John owns a construction cost consulting business. But in the next year or so, he plans

to retire himself, and the couple will leave Calgary. That means someone else will have to plant the Mustard Seed in the Spenders' stead.

"If someone wants to take it over next year, it would be good to start making the transition now," Eileen says.

For more information, contact John and Eileen at mustardseed@holyltrinitycalgary.org.



Attention Mothers with Small or School Age Children

Brown Bagging for Calgary's Kids is seeking part-time delivery drivers for September 2007 to assist with providing nutritious lunches to hungry kids in Calgary.

Job Title: Delivery Drivers (2) – part-time paid position

Purpose: To deliver lunches with BB4CK vans to schools.

Duties and Responsibilities: While upholding the society's mission and mandate a delivery driver is responsible assisting with lunch sorting and packing and for picking up lunches from the kitchen, making sure they are in order and delivering them to the school in a timely and safe manner.

Time Requirements: Shifts are variable as it depends on how many schools need delivery and where they are located, normally a maximum of four hours would be needed. Approximately 20 hours per week M-F between 7:30 – 12:30 (flexible) with possibility of job sharing if desired.

Skills and Qualifications: A clean driving record in order to operate BB4CK vans. Additionally a delivery driver needs a good attitude and the ability to safely lift and carry about a maximum of 40 lbs.

Orientation and Training: There is a brief orientation to explain the Roles and Responsibilities of Brown Bagging for Calgary's Kids and the volunteers, and to explain where the schools are and where to leave the lunches at the school once you get there. There is no training for this position.

Supervision: Brown Bagging for Calgary's Kids has an open-door policy. A kitchen coordinator and operations leader is always on hand at the kitchen to answer any questions and resolve any problems that may come up.

Benefits: \$15/hour. Flexible schedule. Meeting and working with new people from a variety of backgrounds while helping alleviate hunger in children and youth at the same time!



Contact: Bob McInnis 264-7979 or bob@brownbaggingit.org