

Summer 2007

Holy Trinity Anglican
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From the Pastor's Desk: Some Reflections on General Synod

Dear friends,

As of last week I had written a letter to be included in The Grapevine, but after the events of the Anglican General Synod this past weekend, I thought that I should scrap my first letter and start again. I think that it is important for me as your pastor to share with you some of my reflections regarding on General Synod what is happening in the Anglican Church of Canada.

For those of you who aren't aware how the Anglican Church is governed, let me very briefly explain. The Anglican Church is not a congregational church, where each individual church sets its own policy, but rather, it is a synodical church. No one church can just do its own thing; instead, larger groups seek to discern God's direction and leading. There are three kinds of synods. The first one is the diocesan synod—made up from representatives from each Anglican church in a geographical area. The Diocese of Calgary stretches from just south of Penoka to the US border and from the two provincial borders to the east and west. We hold a diocesan synod every one or two years.



The next synod is the Provincial Synod and this includes representation from every diocese within a Church Province (we have 4 Church Provinces in Canada). Provincial Synods are held regularly with representation from each diocese to help set policy for the Province. Provincial Synods occur every two to three years.

Finally we have the General Synod of the National Church. General Synod is the governing body of the national church and representation at General Synod consists of each diocesan bishop, as well as clergy and lay delegates from every diocese across the country. General Synod occurs every three years.

This past week, General Synod was held in Winnipeg and there a number of significant things on the agenda. One of the decisions to be made was to elect a new Primate (pronounced Primat). The Primate is the senior bishop of the National Church. There were 4 bishops nominated and for an election to take place, one of the nominees has to receive a majority of votes in both the house of clergy and the house of laity. The election took place this past Friday and by the third ballot only two names remained; however, of these two, one had a majority in the house of clergy while the other had a majority in the house of laity. There was a sense that the house was divided. The forth ballot had the

same result and it appeared as though there might be a stalemate. On the fifth ballot, however, there was a slight shift among the clergy and Bishop Fred Hiltz received a majority of votes in both the house of clergy and the house of laity and was therefore elected to be our Primate.

The other major issue to be discussed at General Synod was the issue of same-sex blessing—this has been the issue reported on in the secular press for the past few days. Two motions came before the Synod. The first resolution stated that the blessing of same-sex unions was not inconsistent with the core doctrine (in the sense of being creedal) of the Anglican Church of Canada. This resolution was debated extensively by people representing both sides of the issue. Finally the vote was called for and the motion passed in the house of clergy and laity as well as in the house of bishops. Personally I believe that the inclusion of the phrase “in the sense of being creedal” was significant to this motion being passed. People who have a concern with same-sex blessing could pass such a motion since our creeds do not say anything about same-sex unions. I think that the original purpose of the resolution was to get the sense of the house as to whether or not the blessing of same-sex unions fit with Anglican doctrine or not, but the resolution as it was worded did not achieve that purpose. Some may have voted on the intent of the motion while others voted on it based on what it literally was asking.

The next resolution would carry even greater significance in that it was asking General Synod to permit individual dioceses to allow the blessing of same-sex unions if those dioceses chose to do so. There were opinions on both side of the issue. Some people stated that the church needs to be open to all people and therefore it was time for us to allow the blessing of same-sex unions. Others stated that Bible speaks against same-sex relationships and therefore we cannot bless what God does not bless. Still others stated that moving ahead in this direction at this time would put our place in the Worldwide Anglican Communion in peril since the wider Anglican Church does not accept the blessing of same-sex unions. For the resolution to be passed there would need to be a majority in the house of laity and in the house of clergy and in the house of bishops. In the end, the motion passed in the house of laity and in the house of clergy, but it was defeated in the house of bishops. The bishops clearly sensed that the house was divided and they were not prepared for the church to move ahead at this time. The secular press stated that this result showed how much the bishops are out of touch with the grass roots, but I think the bishops were doing what they are called to do. The bishops are to be the guardians of the faith and they are to be concerned with the unity of the church. Had the motion passed, it was clear that the Anglican Church of Canada would be fractured.

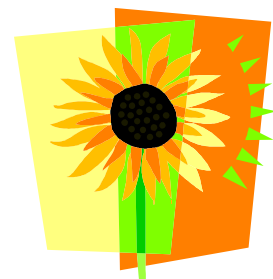
Those of you who have been attending Holy Trinity for any length of time will know where I stand on this issue—I haven't made it a secret. I believe wholeheartedly that God loves all people. There is nobody outside the realm of God's love; however, having said that, I don't believe that God loves everything we do. Each of us are called to submit to God more and more that we can be transformed by him and can become the people that God created us to be. I believe that it is essential that I follow the teachings of the Scriptures. I can't live according to what the world accepts or doesn't accept. I have to live according the Scriptures. I still cannot find adequate support in the Scriptures to go along with the blessing of same-sex unions and in the absence of that biblical support, I can't give my support to such blessings. Yet I will continue to love all people and I will welcome anybody who comes to Holy Trinity. We are all sinners in need of the grace of God.

So where is the church heading over the next few years? I can't say for sure. We are heading to some more discussion to see if we can come to a common mind. Please keep the church in your prayers that we can be faithful to the calling of God.

I pray that you will have a great summer.

Yours in Christ,

Stephen



ANTHONY PACKWOOD MOVES TO NEW JOB

After nearly four and a half years working on the staff at Holy Trinity, Anthony Packwood moved onto a new job in Calgary at the beginning of June. The job offer came at a time when Anthony and Kristy were looking for some added stability as they await the arrival of their first child in August and Kristy moves from her full-time position with the YMCA to being a stay-at-home parent.

During his time on staff at Holy Trinity, Anthony has worn many hats—he has been the leader of our music team, the manager of Trinity Studios (our recording studio) as well as the person who has designed our webpage and kept it up to date. Many of the graphics that are visible during our worship services have been created by Anthony.

As manager of the studio, Anthony has been involved with many people in the city in the recording of CDs. Most notably was the release of *Christmas Presence*, a CD featuring our own music team singing traditional Christmas songs in a contemporary upbeat way. This CD went on to win the 2006 Covenant Music Award for the Best Seasonal Album of the Year as awarded by the Gospel Music Association of Canada.

We are grateful for the ministry that Anthony has offered within our church and we are delighted that he and Kristy still have plans to be a part of our community for the foreseeable future.

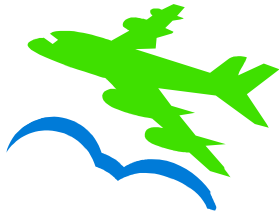
If you have questions or concerns relating to the music ministry at Holy Trinity, please talk to Pastor Stephen or one of the Wardens of our church (you will see their photographs on the wall in the Foyer).

Our prayers and best wishes are with Anthony as he makes the transition to his new job and we ask each person in our church to keep our music team in your prayers as they too undergo this transition.



FARWELL TO HONG MEI GUO

We bid farewell to Hong Mei Guo, her husband Allan and their daughter Cindy as they get ready to move to Toronto at the end of this month. Many will remember that Hong Mei came to faith through the Alpha Course at Holy Trinity a few years back and was baptized at that point in our immersion font. She and Cindy are moving to Toronto so that they can be together with Allan who has been commuting to his job there for the past number of months. Please keep the family in your prayers as they settle into a new home, a new school and a new church.



ASSOCIATE PASTOR SEARCH TO BEGIN

It is with pleasure that the Vestry of our church share with you the news that we are now moving ahead with the search for an Associate Pastor for Holy Trinity. The hiring of an Associate Pastor for Holy Trinity was first proposed about three years ago; however, there have been many delays along the way. Bishop Derrick Hoskin now agrees that the time is right for us to move forward and for the search to begin.

We are hoping that interviews may take place in the early fall and that a person might be in position sometime early in the New Year. We ask the people of our church to pray over the summer that God will prepare us for the person that He has chosen and that He will prepare that person (and possibly his or her family) for us.

NEWS FROM MISSION PARTNER

Dave Matthews

This summer, God has given us the opportunity to share the gospel around the world. From our class of 14 we will be reaching out to the nations of Brazil, Belize, Thailand as well as another nation in Asia (it's been suggested that I don't write this nation in newsletters as it is a sensitive location and sharing the gospel in this nation is illegal).



Starbucks, oh how it helps sitting through hours of meetings, and my goofy smile. That's me, in case you forgot what I look like.

In Thailand we will be working with a local church sharing in an area that is less than 1% Christian. Many people have not even heard of the Gospel!

In Brazil we will be working with a local YWAM base teaching in their schools and also going out into the Amazon to teach in different churches.

Belize will be having a nation wide youth conference while we are there. We have been invited to teach on missions and discipleship.

In Asia we will be working with a university, invited to teach by the government on morality, in an attempt to fight the rising suicide rate. Afterwards we will be working with a local church, encouraging them and supporting them as they reach out to the local people. I will be part of the Asian team.

I will be partnering up with a team from Madison, Wisconsin for a 5 week outreach and will be the only member of the team from Tyler School of the Bible going. I am really excited about this outreach as it is to a place that I have wanted to go for a long time! There is a true need in this nation for the truth of the gospel to be spread.

Unlike other outreaches I have done in the past I won't be leading the team, but will be instead focused on teaching. While there I will have the job of teaching in many of our workshops at the university and at the churches. I am nervous about it but also excited. It reminds me of speaking in Houston... one step at a time, start by getting your name right and from then on it's all easy going.

There are many uncertainties this summer as to our outreach, and much of it is still being planned out. Although I know what we are doing most of the finer details are still to be hammered out.

In the mean time we are still looking at the scriptures and lately have had a chance to look at some of the men of the Reformation. I've always had a love of history and this has only served to inflame that interest once again. I love the stories of John Wesley, George Whitefield, John Wycliffe, and Francis Xavier. However, even their legendary lives are scarcely able to keep me focused in lieu of our coming outreach.



Rachel and I down in Houston teaching. William was a client there who spent time in our classes. He also made the best cookies I've ever had.



All dressed up for a friends wedding in Austin. We had a great time!

Dave Matthews is currently serving with Youth With A Mission and is based in Tyler, Texas. Please keep Dave in your prayers.

Church Barbeque

You are invited!!

The Vestry (a.k.a. Church Board) would like to invite everybody at Holy Trinity to Vestry-hosted BBQ lunch after church on Sunday, September 9th. After our regular 10:00 a.m. service we will gather on the back deck for hamburgers, hot-



dogs and something to drink. This will be a great opportunity for us to gather back together as a whole church community in order to reconnect with one another after our summer vacations. So don't forget to mark that date on your calendar. We look forward to seeing you there!

A Great BIG THANK YOU!

A special word of thanks goes out to the people of our church who made pledges so that we could purchase the electronic drums. We received many positive comments about the drums during the trial period and the people in the Sound Ministry are now finding it easier to mix the sound levels during our services. Thank you for your participation. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!



THEM HOMELESS

The following article first appeared in the Calgary Drop-In & Rehab Centre Publication entitled, Connection.

It was written by Tim G., a Night Supervisor at the Centre.

People love to quote statistics when talking about the homeless population. I guess it helps us to make sense of people that we know nothing about. Oh, so half of them are working, huh? Well, I guess that's okay then. Somehow it makes it better when we know things like this. But the numbers don't really tell the whole story, do they? I mean, think about the community that you live in. Maybe you live in a house in the suburbs. I bet half of the people on your block are working. I'm sure that some people on your block suffer from addictions, some probably have a mental illness, too. Some have been abused and some are abusers. I'm sure that lots of people on your block have low self-esteem. I imagine some of them are lonely as well.

But this is not the story of your community, is it? And this is not how you would define your community. I wonder why people always use these types of parameters to define homeless people.

The thing is this: In general terms, most people who find themselves homeless are very much like people who live in homes. Weird, huh? Some of them are grumpy. Some are very nice. Some of them work, some don't. A few panhandle, most don't. Some have addictions, some like a beer after work. Others are not very good at volleyball. Some call their moms every night, while others write letters to their children. Some even fit into multiple categories. Yes, some are grumpy, have jobs, addictions, excel at volleyball, but never phone their moms. You see, they're people. Nothing is black and white.

I think the thing that gets me is the "they" mentality that many have about homeless people. When people ask me questions about my work, they often ask things like: What are they like? Or Are they scary? And it's frustrating because when speaking of people that are homeless, we are not speaking of a cohesive unit that acts as one, but rather a very diverse community of all sorts of people—individuals who are as different from one another as you and I. They are not "they". This may seem trivial, but the importance of understanding this is a paramount to addressing the issues surrounding homelessness.

A quite night last night. We slept 1073 people. And each of those 1073 people has a unique story to tell. Just like you or I. The only difference is they don't have homes.

KIDZ CHOICE PRESCHOOL

Another Fantastic Year!

Kidz Choice Preschool had another fantastic year. I am very pleased to say that with all new staff they all caught on quickly to the routines and settled in to enjoy the children.

Some of the events in the fall were the Noah's Ark Party and our Christmas Concert. In the spring we had our 2nd Annual Pop & Tot Night where Dad joined their preschooler for an evening of fun and snacks.

We celebrated Mother's Day with a Mother's Day Tea. We invited the moms into the preschool to relax, drink some tea, and enjoy the children. Golden Acres donated clay pots and bedding plants for the children to plant for Mother's Day. I must say they turned out beautifully and the mother's were very appreciative!



The annual field trip to the zoo was very exciting! The children look forward to riding the bus because many of them have never been on a bus. It's a good thing we went in May because June was a very rainy month.

We wrapped up the year with a picnic at Bowness Park. The weather was warm and sunny and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Kidz Choice Preschool is looking for 2 aides for the 2007/2008 school year. One position is full time which is 31 ½ hours a week and one is part time which is 11 hours a week. If you are interested in one of these positions please send your resume to mwendi@shaw.ca or fax to 274-8125.

HOLY TRINITY CONTACTS

Holy Trinity Staff:

Pastor:

Stephen Hambidge 275-3630

Kidz Choice Preschool:

Wendy Wood 274-9801

Sheila Scarlett 274-9801

Church Administrator:

Sheila Scarlett 275-3630

Church Board Members:

Pastor's Warden:

Scott Murayama 274-1279

Asst. Pastor's Warden:

Linda Dalgetty 295-9410

Vestry Members:

Kim Henderson 948-2058

Greg Hawn 238-1078

Sid Reid 275-2115

Jim Newman 730-9611

Joleen Lidberg 283-7110

Jeff Matsumiya 275-5136

NEWCOMER PROFILE

A Holy Home for New Calgarians

By Rob Petkau

I normally write these profiles about other newcomers to Holy Trinity, but to mix things up a bit, the subject of this article is me and my family. I had a chance to interview myself recently, and here's what I had to say:

Grapevine: What brought you to Holy Trinity?

Rob: My minivan. What a silly question. But seriously, Karen, Katie (8), Ian (5) and I moved to Calgary about a year and a half ago from Fort McMurray. We were members of an Anglican church there, but it took us about eight months to get our new home in order before we were ready to go back to church. We found that Holy Trinity was the Anglican community closest to our new home, and in September of 2006, we decided to give it a try.

Grapevine: What did you think?

Rob: We were really impressed. It was fantastic to see so many members of the congregation involved in the service. We loved the Kidzone program and the fact there are so many young families. And Stephen's sermons are accessible and thought-provoking.

Grapevine: What about the style of worship?

Rob: It's a major change from what we were used to. Our church in Fort McMurray was very traditional – lots of hymns, plenty of organs and kneeling for prayers. That, to me, was what church should be. Traditional. Uncomfortable. Holy Trinity was quite a change from that, but we embraced it almost immediately. We love the way this church emphasizes comfort and removes ceremonial distractions so you can focus on God. My views on what church 'should' be have done a complete 360.

Grapevine: I think you mean a 180.

Rob: Whatever. I'm not a mathematician.

Grapevine: On that subject, what do you do and where do you do it?

Rob: I'm a stay-home dad and freelance journalist. Karen is an editor/graphic designer at the Calgary Herald's special projects department. We live in Coventry Hills – ridiculously close to an elementary school where Katie is finishing Grade 2 and Ian will go to kindergarten in September.

Grapevine: How did you become Christians?

Rob: Karen was brought up in the Anglican church – she grew up in an isolated hamlet in northern Newfoundland. I grew up in a mostly secular household in Drumheller, and we were both reporters in Fort McMurray when we met and fell in love. After we got married and Katie was on the way, we decided we should go back to church. Initially, I went along just to support my girls, but it grew from there and Katie and I were baptized together. Ian was also baptized as a baby.

Grapevine: Is Holy Trinity helping you to continue growing in your faith?

Rob: Yes. Thanks for asking. Karen and I were both in 40 Days of Purpose groups in the fall, and my small group just wrapped up for the summer. I write for Grapevine and Karen is involved in the coffee and Kidzone ministries. This far exceeds our involvement in our old church. We've definitely kicked our Christianity up a notch since we came here, and I have a feeling this is just the beginning.



MINISTRY PROFILE: Pray for the Prayer Chapel

By Rob Petkau

The door to Holy Trinity's Prayer Chapel is always open, but not many members of our congregation choose to walk through it.

Sandra Wall, head of the Sunday Prayer Ministry, and her team of 10 volunteers stand ready to pray with parishioners, but they're usually not overrun with requests.

"My biggest concern is that the ministry has not been used near enough. No one would doubt that there are lots of needs in our church," she notes. "But there are many Sundays when no one will come forward."



No prayer is too big or too small for the chapel, says Sandra. Sometimes, people come in to give thanks for good things, but more often the prayers are petitions and requests for help through difficult times.

"Our volunteers have all been called to this ministry. They understand the power of prayer, and they're quite willing to offer their services. They keep it confidential," Sandra says.

"I think it needs to be said that no prayer is too personal for God, or too difficult or too big for God. People need to realize that whatever sin they're involved with, there are other people who share that sin."

Many people choose to keep their prayers between them and God. Sandra encourages people to pray alone, but says the chapel's role is to supplement that private time with the Creator.

"It's not that this is better; it's different. We need both kinds of prayers. Sometimes people feel more power, or there may be insights from people they're praying with, that can help them.

"And God asks us to come together and admit our sins to one another. It's a biblical thing to come together in a small thing and lift our sins before the Lord for forgiveness."

Sandra took over leadership of the Sunday Prayer Ministry about a year ago, and says it could always use more volunteers.

"In spite of their fears, they will never have to pray alone. They can come in and observe or sit silently and pray; we're willing to accommodate whatever people they can handle.

"You'll know if you're being called because it'll be on your heart and on your mind. You'll be able to visualize, 'I think I should be in that.' You'll read Bible passages that will point to that. You'll be getting signs here, there and everywhere."

For more information about accessing or volunteering for this Ministry, call Sandra at 730-4089, or email her at healingprayer@holyltrinitycalgary.org