



# THE GRAPEVINE

SEPTEMBER 2008

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

	Page
FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK	2
A LIFE WORTH LIVING	3
HOLY TRINITY 101	4
MORNING PRAYER AT HOLY TRINITY	4
A NEW ROOM AT HOLY TRINITY	4
THE "BECOMING MORE LIKE HIM" GROUP	5
WORK WITH BEAUTIFUL BABES	6
PARENTS AND TOTS	6
A LETTER FROM OUR MISSION PARTNER DAVE MATTHEWS	7
CONFIRMATION	8
WHAT'S NEW—ALPHA	8

## HOLY TRINITY CONTACTS

### Holy Trinity Staff:

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Johnathan Hoskin	275-3630
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#### Church Administrator:

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#### Kidz Zone Preschool:

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#### Church Board Members:

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##### Asst. Pastor's Warden:

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#### Vestry Members:

Jim Newman	730-9611
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## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear friends,

Over the past couple of weeks a few people have asked me what it's been like for me to be back at work in the parish after my six month sabbatical. It has been good. I enjoyed the time that I had off, reading, writing and resting during my sabbatical; however, it has felt good to get back to life within this community. It hasn't taken long for things to get busy. Although we're not really in a new year, for me September has always felt like it was the beginning of the year. Life within the church community seems to pick up steam during the month of September as people get back from their holidays and children get back to school. For me it also feels like a new year as Jonathan and I are starting to work together. Prior to my sabbatical, time with Jonathan was to get him ready for my departure. Now we are working together, sharing our gifts so that we can become a good team at Holy Trinity.

One of the things that I learned on my sabbatical was the importance of "being" over "doing." I reflected on what it means to "be" a follower of Jesus as opposed to what am I supposed to "do" as a follower. That doesn't mean that I think there is nothing that I am meant to "do" as a follower. I still believe that Jesus does call us to live lives that are worthy of him and there are practical ways of doing that. But "doing" does not make one a disciple—sometimes our "doing" just makes us feel good, and sometimes we seek to impress others in the process. I know that there have been times when I have felt very much consumed by "doing" and often the "doing" has been of trivial things. There have been times on Sunday mornings, I have felt as though there were a number of things to "do" and so I have moved quickly from one thing to the next in order to get the things done. But there is a danger when we move quickly from one thing to the next—it can make it appear to others that we don't have time. I don't want to be like that. I want to slow down. I want my interaction with people not to be rushed. I want to "be," not just "do." I know that this will take some practice on my part—just the other day I caught myself rushing around before another Sunday service trying to get things done. I had to stop myself and remind myself to slow down—to take some time to "be." Being a disciple is not something we are to turn on or turn off. "Being" defines who we are and what we are about. Perhaps over the coming months, you might find it helpful to reflect upon this: what does it mean to "be" a disciple of Jesus?

There's a real tension being "being" and "doing" and it is important to look at the things that we do and work out what is really important. That whole tension between "being" and "doing" quickly becomes apparent as we think about our participation in ministry and as we hear calls to offer ourselves in service. All the talk about "being" runs the risk of making us turn inward and thinking only of ourselves and where WE are with God. We run the risk of thinking that ministry is an optional extra; however, such thinking runs counter to the Scriptures. Jesus lived a



life of service AS he was in a relationship being with his heavenly father. To Jesus, being in relationship with the Father also meant being in relationship with those the Father loved. A couple of Sundays ago I spoke about the need for us to continue reaching out to those who were facing struggles in their lives. The example I gave was our Inn From the Cold ministry. Is this about doing or is this about being? I believe it is about being. Being a disciple means being with the people that Jesus reached out to. Often the people Jesus reached out to were the poor and the outcasts. Being a disciple means being among people like this today so that they might have the opportunity to experience being loved by God.

We don't have enough people to host Inn From the Cold ten times in a year, but we still do have enough people to reach out to those in need. So as I said in my sermon a couple of weeks ago, our church will be serving Inn From the Cold every month when there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday. That means that we'll be hosting people here in September and December this year and March, June, September and December next year. I encourage you to look for ways in which you could serve and to practice being Jesus' disciple as together we reach out to those in need. You'll find the sign-up sheets on a table in the foyer. There are other ministries of service that you might like to consider as you live out in practice being a disciple.

I hope this letter hasn't been too philosophical—you know I'm usually not like that. I just wanted to share with you some of the tensions that I experience. I wouldn't be surprised if you share some of the same tensions. So keep wrestling with them. Wrestle with what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and how that looks in our lives. I think such reflection will bear some good fruit.

It is good to be back and let me say that I look forward to being with you in the months ahead as we continue to reflect upon what it means for us each of us to be disciples of Jesus.

Blessings,

Stephen



### **WHAT'S NEXT? A LIFE WORTH LIVING—AT HOME**

Have you taken an Alpha Course and then wondered, "What's next?" We are offering 'A Life Worth Living' Course in the home environment. We will start on October 1, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. The location will be announced shortly. 'A Life Worth Living' is nine(9) week course that studies the book of Philippians. Some of the topics discussed are: new heart, new attitude; new responsibilities; new confidence and new resources. This is an exciting course where you can challenge yourselves to move forward on your Christian journey. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer. Space is limited!

Please let us know as soon as possible so we can reserve your comfortable chair.

If you would like more information, please call Rosemary Lendrum at 403-275-5253 or Darlene Louka at 403-984-7323.

## HOLY TRINITY 101

Starting on Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## A NEW ROOM AT HOLY TRINITY

We are grateful for a generation donation given to Holy Trinity that has enabled us to completely finish the church's sacristy. The word "sacristy" is a formal word for "the room that holds all of the communion supplies, robes, banners and things needed for our Sunday services." Formerly, this room did not have any cupboards and although it was still used to store some of our service supplies, it was very hard to keep things organized. Just over a week ago, cupboards that have been in the process of being installed over the past couple of months were completed. They were built by carpenter James Lee, husband of The Rev. Anna Greenwood-Lee from St. Lawrence Anglican Church in Calgary. Please feel free to take a look at the room when you get the chance. It is next to the Prayer Room. Thank you to those who have made the completion of this room possible!



## MORNING PRAYER AT HOLY TRINITY

One of the things that has become part of the regular practice of Jonathan and Stephen since they started to work together at Holy Trinity has been to start their work day with a service of Morning Prayer. The service consists of saying some responses, reading a psalm together, listening to Scripture and praying together. The service begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Prayer Room and usually lasts for about thirty minutes. They have found this a good way to start their day.



Stephen and Jonathan would now like to open this service up to others in the church community. Some people might be interested in attending one day during the week while others might like to come to all four services. Others, we know, will find it difficult to attend any simply based on the time; however, the invitation is open. Any who are able to attend are most welcome.

## THE “BECOMING MORE LIKE HIM” GROUP

Have you ever found yourself frustrated with the progress you are making in your Christian discipleship? Have you ever felt as though there have been times when you have taken one step forward and two steps back? Does it ever feel as though there are times in your life as a Christian when it feels like you are on a treadmill—you are using up a lot of energy, but you just aren't getting anywhere? This is an experience that most if not all Christians experience at some time in their journey of discipleship. We want to be growing. We want to become more like Jesus, and yet there are times when we just don't know where to begin. We don't know what we should do or know how we might make things any better. One of our problems today is that we live in a “microwave” world. We expect things to happen



quickly—push a few buttons, follow a few simple steps and things happen quickly. Unfortunately, when it comes to discipleship it is not that easy and because of this, discouragement is common. As a result, people often are content to just stay put—after all it takes a lot less effort to stay in one place than it does to embark on what might be a long journey. And yet, Jesus didn't say to his disciples “stay with me;” instead, he said to them, “follow me.” By this he let them know that discipleship meant embarking on a journey. And so for three years his disciples journeyed with him. During this time Jesus taught them, he pointed them to the Father and he allowed them to practice being his disciples.



That is what we need—opportunities to practice being disciples of Jesus. For eight Wednesdays beginning on October 8<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. you are invited to join Pastor Stephen at the church on a journey towards spiritual formation. Each week Stephen will help us to explore practices within the Christian tradition and opportunity will be given for people to practice the practices. Some of the practices will include prayer, meditation, listening, fasting, journaling and others. What we examine and how long we take on each practice will be fluid—we will take the time that we need to take. Eight weeks will not be all we need to get us to the place where God wants us to be, but it will help us move forward on the journey. The hope is that after eight weeks we will be able to recognize how God has been working within us.

If you are interested in embarking on an exploration in discipleship and in practicing some of the practices of the Christian faith and have a desire to “become more like Him” then you are encouraged to sign up on the sheet provided in the foyer. By signing up, you are simply indicating your initial interest and your desire to see whether this might be something for you at this point in your journey. Come and see and let us all find ways to become more like him. If you have any questions please talk to Pastor Stephen.



## WORK WITH BEAUTIFUL BABES IN THE NURSERY

Ministry Profile  
By Rob Petkau



The Holy Trinity nursery is a key program, and since the church's birth rate is more than double the national average, the ministry's importance is growing like a newborn baby. Carrie Newman, who has worked in the nursery off and on for more than five years, is still a regular visitor to the facility – sometimes as a volunteer and sometimes as a customer, with her new son Keegan.

"It's a really fun way to meet the kids and get to know them," says Carrie. "Helping in the nursery is also a great way to break the ice – to meet other young couples and families."

Children are welcome in the nursery from the newborn stage to 24 months, although some youngsters are ready to move on to Kidz Zone earlier and others benefit from staying a little longer in the nursery.

"Parents have the option to either stay with their kids or to drop them off at the nursery and go back to the sanctuary for the service."

With or without their parents, tykes play, interact and listen to the occasional Bible story in the nursery.

One of the features Carrie likes best about Holy Trinity's nursery is its paging system. Each child is assigned a three-digit number, which can be posted on an LED screen in the sanctuary if Mom and Dad are needed for any reason. "The volunteers can page you without interrupting the service or leaving the kids," she notes.

Attached to the nursery is the crying room, where parents can feed their youngsters or put them down for a nap. In this chamber, they can still see the service through a tinted window and hear the service through a small PA system.

"Between the nursery and the crying room, it can be quite a busy place," Carrie says.

When fully staffed, the nursery is to have two volunteers, plus one or two members of the youth group to help out.

"We have a fairly small core group of volunteers, so we could certainly use more. We could also use some extra youth," Carrie says.

The nursery is currently without a ministry head, but it can carry on without one, says Pastor Stephen Hambidge.

"What we need more importantly is people to help out in the nursery. Once we have volunteers, (church secretary Sheila Scarlett) could easily put a list together."

The chance to hang out with sweet, little babies might be incentive enough for some potential volunteers to step forward, but helpers also provide an invaluable service to their fellow parishioners, Stephen says.

"Some of these parents are looking after the infants all week and they need some time where they can be quiet with God yet can still have the confidence that their child is being cared for well," he says.

For more information about the nursery, please speak with Pastor Stephen or Jonathan.

## PARENTS AND TOTS

Holy Trinity is starting up a Parents & Tots' Group shortly. The group will be aimed at adult fellowship for both mothers and fathers who would otherwise be home with children. This is such an important ministry for our church, not only because we have many parents that are in this situation who are a part of our congregation – but also because it will be a powerful outreach ministry to the communities surrounding the Holy Trinity building.

There are so many stay-at-home parents in our area, people who are starved for adult interaction. It is our hope that our Parents & Tots' Group will be able to fill their need, and that we might be able to share the light of Christ with them as we do that. If you haven't signed up to be a part of this ministry yet, please do – and if you're not in the demographic that this group is aimed at, please do keep it in your prayers.



## A LETTER FROM OUR MISSIONS PARTER—DAVE MATTHEWS

Dear Holy Trinity,

Six years ago I left Calgary, on the morning that we moved into the new building. I have always felt that this was somewhat meaningful. Not that I was leaving, but that it was a step that our church was growing. We were growing in our ability to minister through this new building. But we were also growing in our ministering through many different avenues, and I was one of those avenues.

I entered into Youth With A Mission (YWAM) not really knowing with any certainty where I was going. I simply knew that I was serving with the hope of bringing the gospel to those who didn't know it. Before I left, to those who knew me closely, I had a heart for Sierra Leone, a nation that had endured ten years of civil war. Yet, though I was now serving in missions, I had yet to go there. I began going overseas to various different countries taking the gospel, faithfully to what I understood, but never had the ability to go to the country that helped spur me into missions. I have since traveled to multiple different countries and also developed a love and desire for the nation of China. China's evangelical underground church says that they will tithe one tenth of their members into foreign missions when communism falls and they are free to leave their country. To me, with my logical thinking, this screams for attention. If 1.4 billion people live in China, and even if only one tenth are Christians, and then ten percent of those go into foreign missions, that is fourteen million new people who love Jesus, going to other nations to spread the word of Jesus Christ. While I have loved ministering in China and to the Chinese, I have still longed for Sierra Leone and for the nation to develop an understanding of Jesus Christ and learn all that He longs for them to have (I'm of course not solely speaking of the physical, but mainly of the spiritual, and consequently, all that will flow outward from an interior change).



This year I had planned to continue my work in the southern states, teaching the Bible to young missionaries, as well as traveling to China again in the fall to share in an underground church for a week. Sadly, because of the increased security, the church leaders suspended their meetings during the Olympics and we have, as a result, cancelled our trip out there. We aren't worried for ourselves as they would likely only deport us, however the local Christians we would go to serve would feel the brunt of the persecution and perhaps jail as a result. This year as my plans have been turned upside down, I feel that God has redirected me to look back to Sierra Leone. Last year I came into contact, somewhat providentially, with some people who work with a medical missions organization who go to that nation. It is not with YWAM, though it is closely tied. I have begun to speak with them about the possibility of helping them write up articles and grant proposals, interviewing villagers and doctors, in hopes of drawing attention to the vast needs of the nation.

Thank you to everyone who has continued to pray for me over the years. I would not be where I am if it were not for your perseverance. Please continue to remember me in your prayers, and especially in this time, please be praying for guidance, certainty of direction and the grace that I might be able to go through those doors. If anyone feels that they have something from the Lord to tell me, or encourage me with, please feel free to contact me.

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: [dcrmtot@hotmail.com](mailto:dcrmtot@hotmail.com)*

## CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is a time of passage for young people. The confirmation ceremony is really the fulfillment of the baptism that so many receive when they are infants. In baptism we stress that God has chosen a child to be a part of His family, to be one of those who are under His saving grace. Confirmation is the completion and fulfillment of that ceremony in that it is the time when the teenagers say “yes” to God’s divine desire for them to be a part of His family, and they themselves openly and publicly show that they also desire to be a part of His family. In this way, confirmation is a time, for young people, to take on responsibility for the vows that their parents made on their behalf when they were baptized – in short, for girls to become women in the Christian Church, and for boys to become men.



Over past months, Pastor Jonathan has been meeting with a group of 6 male teenagers. The study and discussion that they have engaged in has been faith formative, and has focused on what it means to be a responsible Christian. With that, they have looked at Bible reading, prayer life, sharing faith, and various other topics. On October 19<sup>th</sup> the bishop will be visiting the parish, and while here we will be celebrating the service of confirmation with these young men. Please do keep them in your prayers, as they continue to prepare for this rite of passage; please, also, uphold them as Christian brothers as they strive to live as faithful Christians in a world that doesn’t promote this kind of living. Particularly, also, please plan to be here for the bishop’s visit on October 19<sup>th</sup>, and show your support for these boys – as they become men! Following the service we will be having a pot-luck lunch in the hall.

### WHAT’S NEW? - ALPHA AT HOME

If you are interested in exploring the fundamentals of the Christian faith in a non-threatening home environment there is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer. We will start on October 1, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at 1224 Sandpiper Road. We will have a light meal, watch a video and then have some group discussion. This is a safe environment to bring friends or family who have expressed an interest in Christianity or who you would like to introduce to Christianity. Space is *limited!*

Please let us know as soon as possible so we can reserve your comfortable chair. If you would like more information please call, Rosemary Lendrum at 403-275-5253 or Darlene Louka at 403-984-7323.



### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations worldwide through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God’s love. Here are some ways you can make a difference in the lives of those children:

**Pray:** Please pray that God will touch the heart of every child who receives a shoe box gift and that



He will bring many children and families to faith in Christ.

**Pack A Gift:** A shoe box filled with small toys and other gifts can open hurting hearts to God’s love. Instructional brochures will be available at the church in the foyer in weeks to come. For further information please contact [www.smaritanspurse.ca/occ](http://www.smaritanspurse.ca/occ) or call 1-800-303-1269.