

# THE GRAPEVINE



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## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The transition from Lent to Easter is often overlooked, I think. So often Lent is seen as a time that's just for waiting and preparation – but I like to see it as a time of transformation. If we come out at the end of it the same as we were at the start, then it seems we've missed something. Consider the 40 days of Lent, and why we observe them the way we do.

There are two ways of seeing Lent, and they are both closely tied to each other in Scripture, and they are both wilderness, or desert, times. In the Old Testament, Moses led Israel out of Egypt and into the desert, as they followed the pillar of cloud by day; of fire by night – though their final destination was Canaan (the land promised to them by God), they spent 40 years in the wilderness. When Israel came out of the wilderness at the end of that time, they were not the same Israel who had gone into the desert all that time earlier – they had been transformed. In the New Testament, Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness for 40 days, where He was tempted by the devil. When Jesus came out of the desert at the end of that time, He was not the same as when He had entered it – He had been transformed. It is these wilderness times that Lent is observed in remembrance of – these times of transformation.

For Israel, the time in the desert was a time of difficulty and hardship. Trial after trial beset God's people. They would make camp, and there would be no water: would they die of thirst in the desert? They would be running out of food: would they die of starvation in the desert? They would be bitten by poisonous snakes: would they die of poisoning in the desert? The standing army of a kingdom that they were camped near would attack them: would they die in the desert, slaughtered in their tracks? In all of these things, God showed Himself faithful to them – so that by the end it was a new generation of Israelites that entered the Promised Land, a generation who had grown up in the desert; a generation who had seen God's faithfulness; a generation who knew God's power to save. Israel came out of the wilderness a changed people. It is my hope and prayer for all of us that this Easter doesn't bring us back to being and doing exactly what we were (and did) before Lent started. My hope and prayer is that we are all transformed in this time.

For Jesus, the time in the wilderness was a time of vocational formation and temptation. Three times, we read, the devil came to Jesus to tempt Him with three options to the fulfillment of His mission and ministry – three options which would each, in their own way, “fulfill” that mission. In one case, He could have satisfied His deep



hunger (40 days fasting!) by employing miraculous means – in effect, by denying His total reliance on God He could have taken care of Himself; by denying the relationship He enjoyed with the Father, He could have promoted Himself above all else in an individualist, self-seeking frenzy. In another case, He could have had all the nations of earth bow to Him – He would have been acknowledged by them as Lord! – but He would have had to serve Satan, rather than the Father, and so the nations would not have been won for God. Finally, He could have won renown for Himself, and a following, by going to the extreme measures of sensationalism – He could have thrown Himself from the Temple and had Himself saved by the angels, instead of marching toward Calvary's Cross and saving all humanity. He chose none of these 'salvations' for Himself – but He chose Salvation for you and me. He chose the nails; He chose the Cross. He returned from the desert, and after almost 30 years of leading a quiet, simple life He drew followers to Himself, then crowds, then skeptics, then sinners, then religious leaders – so that He

could be abandoned by them all, and crucified.

It is my hope and prayer for us, in this parish, that we would be drawn into a renewed sense of God's purpose for us as a community of His disciples this Easter – as we leave the wilderness of Lent behind. May we be renewed in mission; may we be renewed in ministry; may we be renewed in vocation. Christ Jesus is our only Mediator with the Father, according to Scripture, and as we seek to fulfill our mission – to bridge the gap between God and His people – we recognize that this is only possible as we are faithfully acting as the body of Christ on earth. May we be transformed in our hearts, that we may be renewed in our passion for the fulfillment of God's charge to us – our parish's vocation!

God bless you,

Pastor Jonathan+

## HOLY WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

Here is a listing of some of the upcoming events and services at Holy Trinity leading up to Easter:

### **Maundy Thursday, March 20, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.—Service of Holy Communion and Washing of Feet**

At this service we will remember the night that Jesus met with his disciples in the Upper Room the night before his arrest. It was on this night that he demonstrated his commitment to serving others as he washed the feet of his disciples. It was also on this night that Jesus first shared the others as he washed the feet of his disciples. It was also on this night that Jesus first shared the Lord's Supper with his disciples. Please join us as we remember these two practices of Jesus.

### **Good Friday, March 21, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.—Procession of Witness**

Please join us on a short Procession of Witness on Good Friday as we carry a large wooden cross through part of the community of Hanson Ranch. This will be a quiet reflective time as we remember the journey that Jesus made carrying his cross on his way to Calgary. We will start the Procession of Witness with a prayer at 9:00 a.m. at the church parking lot and will return to the church in time for the Good Friday service at 10:00 a.m.

### **Good Friday, March 21, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.—Good Friday Service**

Our Good Friday service will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Friday.

Many people often report getting more out of the Easter service when they have attended a Good Friday service in the same year. Please join us for this powerful service as we reflect on the sacrifice that Jesus made for us.

### **Easter Sunday, March 24, 2008—10:00 a.m.—Easter Sunday Celebration**

Please join us as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus on Sunday at our regular Sunday morning service. This will be a service for the whole family at which there may be many people who don't regularly come to church. Let's welcome everybody and give God praise for all that He has done!



## HOLY TRINITY IS A HIT WITH BRITS

By Rob Petkau

Putting down roots in a new city on the other side of the world is a daunting task, but Holy Trinity is making the transition easier for the Hughes family.

Andy and Jenny Hughes moved to Calgary from the Dorset region of England in the fall, to build a better life for four-year-old Jonathan and nine-month-old Rebecca.

“Because of the congestion, the U.K. is getting to be a more difficult place to live, especially for young families. I was lucky enough to be offered a job over here, and everyone followed me,” Andy explains. “But me getting a job is really a side issue. The main reason, to be honest, was to give the kids a better chance. There are more opportunities for them in terms of sporting and things outside of school.”

As a civil engineer, Andy’s skills were in high demand in Alberta, and when job offers came in both Edmonton and Calgary, the allure of chinooks and the proximity to Rockies drew them to Cowtown.

A lifelong Christian, Jenny started shopping for churches online before they crossed the pond. Knowing that they’d at least start off in the Hidden Valley area, she came across Holy Trinity’s website and was intrigued.

“When we first moved, we were in a condo, and I looked out the window and there it was. I thought, ‘Is that the same church?’” she recalls.

“We tried it out and it was a good fit right away. I like the way this church is very family-friendly and the children are so well cared for. The children are just part of things.”

Andy, who doesn’t always accompany his family to church on Sundays, feels quite comfortable at Holy Trinity.

“In the U.K., the average age of churchgoers is much higher, and there is a real struggle to attract younger people to the church. We’ve certainly noticed a big difference here,” says Andy, who was baptized as an adult when friends wanted him to be godfather to their child.

“I find it really nice here. If you’ve had a busy week, it’s nice to come and be among friends,” he said.

With all of their loved ones still in England, the relationships they’re building at Holy Trinity are helping the Hughes family put down roots here. Jenny, a geologist by trade and stay-home mom by choice, recently joined one of the church’s small groups.

“I’m at home, so it’s nice to be able to get out and chat with people before you get into the study,” she says.

Overall, their views on Calgary can be summed up as follows: so far, so good. But there are

some aspects of North American culture that Andy finds difficult to embrace.

“I’m an avid Liverpool (soccer) supporter. I’m trying to rekindle my interest in American football, but I’m still struggling with why they call it football.”



## NEWS FROM OUR MISSION PARTNER

### Dave Matthews

Dear Holy Trinity,

Hi everyone! First of all I wanted to let you all know I'm doing wonderfully here in Texas. I am still working with the School of the Bible (a program with YWAM) and am enjoying my time here. I have had many chances lately to teach about the Old Testament and different topics of the bible. The students themselves are getting ready to go on a short one week inner city outreach soon and are busy trying to get both homework done as well as prepare their own teachings prepared. Recently the opportunity has arrived to teach English as a second language. We haven't started teaching yet (that how recently this has come about) but I'm excited about the chance to help out.

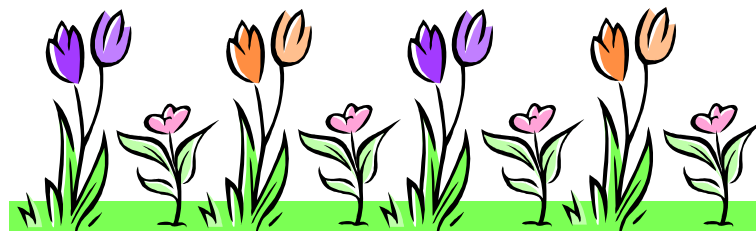
I'm excited about what is going on here with both the newness of the English classes but also about the outreaches that will soon be going out from our School of the Bible. The outreaches will be to Inner city Houston, to Pennsylvania and there will be a group who will stay in Tyler and work with a massive youth program that YWAM Tyler (the larger organization) will be hosting. I look forward to what I will hear when they come back from their outreaches and am thankful to be a part of all that is going on here.

Last year as I was a part of this program and I traveled to Houston. There we worked with a group called Street Church who had their service in a parking lot. The church was comprised of some homeless but all certainly living in poor conditions. On other days we spent time ministering to prostitutes and transvestites with the members of this church. It was amazing to see the people of this church, in need themselves, giving of themselves to others. Also during the days we taught at two different drug rehabs doing bible studies for a couple hours a day. Please pray for these outreaches and for what they will be doing.

The outreaches will be starting on March 1st and will be going until the 9th of March. The group going to Pennsylvania will be working with a small church leading a miniature bible school to youth and a bible study for adults each day during the week, while the group going to Houston will be doing much the same ministry as we did last year.

I miss you all very much and look forward to the next time I can be in Calgary and at Holy Trinity.

Yours In Christ,  
David Matthews



## HOLY TRINITY SLO-PITCH TEAM

This is now the 5<sup>th</sup> year that we will have a team registered in the CCMS, Calgary Christian Mixed Slo-Pitch, league. The CCMS has 5 divisions with at least 10 teams in each division. Div 1 is the most competitive down to division 5 which is the recreation division. We have been in division 5 for each of the five years.



Each year we have improved and placed a little higher in division 5. Last year we even managed to get to the semi finals in the June tournament which was a huge accomplishment for us. We have a varying degree of skills on the team.

There were some that first year that had no baseball experience and it is a great pleasure to see how they have grown over the years. The ages on the team vary from in the sixties to early twenties.

It all started as way of getting to know more people at the church. A lot of close friendships have developed over the years with everyone on the team. Each year we welcome more new players to the team and get the chance of getting to know someone new.

We are in the process of recruiting players for this year's team. So if you are interested you can contact either Dwayne White (275-7487 or [darkwng2@telusplanet.net](mailto:darkwng2@telusplanet.net)) or Rob Lendrum (275-5253 or [rlendrum.ga@shaw.ca](mailto:rlendrum.ga@shaw.ca)).

You can follow along with us during our season by going to the CCMS website, <http://ccms.ab.ca/>. You are able see how we are doing and see when we play next if you want to watch us. You can also contact either Rob or myself if you want any more information.

## CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Plans are underway for a Confirmation course for young people to be held at Holy Trinity starting in April. Confirmation is an opportunity for those people who were baptized as infants to make their own promises as they seek to continue on as disciples of Jesus. The course will help young people to understand the basics of the Christian faith and will support them as they take further steps in their faith, The classes will be fairly in-depth so it will be important that young people be at least thirteen years old before they take the course and attendance at the sessions will be required.

Classes will be starting April 2, 2008 at 7:00 pm, and will be continuing on Wednesday evenings after that until June 18, 2008 (12 sessions). A sign up sheet is located in the foyer for those interested. For further information, please feel free to speak with Pastor Jonathan.

## MOVE FROM UNITY TO TRINITY PLEASES PASTOR

By Rob Petkau

Until a few weeks ago, Pastor Jonathan Hoskin was a little uneasy about becoming associate pastor of Holy Trinity Anglican Church.

He'd gotten to know several members of the congregation through various Anglican youth groups, and his brother Michael and sister Janna are both members of the congregation, so he was well aware of the vital and dynamic life of the parish.

"That made it a little intimidating as well, because I was hearing only good things about the church," Jonathan admits.

But he felt called to Holy Trinity anyway, and applied for the position when it came open. He got the job and moved with his wife Cindy and daughter Adriana to Calgary in January.

"I wouldn't say I'm intimidated anymore. It's easier to recognize and understand that God takes care of the things that happen in the church. It's not on you to make sure it functions well," Jonathan says.

"I think it might feel like a burden to me if I was trying to do everything. But I think Holy Trinity has a high percentage of people who are willing to be involved in – and lead – ministry. I'm a big fan of letting people do what they're called to do."

Jonathan came to this church from Unity, SK., where he was a two-year veteran rector of a three-point parish. Each of the congregations he served there was small, but the relationships he built there still resonate.

"The thing I really appreciated about Unity was the genuineness of the people. What you heard was how people felt. But I've found the same thing here. I haven't found people hiding their true intentions; they're committed to their faith and they speak their minds.

"One thing we really appreciate about Calgary is the size of the community. Everything doesn't close at 5 p.m., and that is a welcome change."

In addition, a big city is much more fertile ground for Cindy to grow her career in museum administration.

"First, though, we plan on having various other children. She says we're having four kids and I say five. ... I'm right, of course," Jonathan jokes.

His journey to the priesthood began during his recovery from a bad car accident in Grade 5.

"Coming out of that experience and knowing the healing power of God in my life, I started saying, 'God did so much for me. What does he want me to do for him?'"

He read the entire Bible but didn't find specific, personal instructions there.

"The best I could come up with was God wanted me to seek his will and that he would reveal that to me as I was faithful and listened to his voice."

In the summer of Grade 9, he went to a Pentecostal church summer camp in Rocky Mountain House – the town where he spent much of his childhood. During that experience, he came to grips with the idea that God was calling him to ordained ministry.

"Interestingly, Pentecostal pastors don't know what to do with kids who say they've been called to Anglican ministry," he says with a slightly mischievous grin.

But initially, God's plan for his career didn't fill the young pastor-to-be with joy.

"I came out of that experience feeling resentful about God calling me to ordained ministry. I didn't want to be overworked and underpaid. I didn't want my kids to be bugged at school because of what I do – as had been my experience," he said.

"I spoke to friends and prayed about it and finally realized that true joy was found in fulfilling God's will, and I was really going to love doing this."

Thankfully, that epiphany has come to fruition for Calgary's newest clergyman.

"I really do love it. I love preaching on Sunday and giving people the Eucharist. I don't think I ever stop smiling when I'm giving people the Eucharist. I think it's so great that God has called and uses me in this way. God is faithful, even though I'm not always."

Jonathan is far from being the first Hoskin to wear the collar. He followed his uncle (Derek Hoskin, Anglican bishop of Calgary), dad and grandfather and other relatives into what is, in effect, the family business.

“But having other clergy in my family was, maybe, the hardest part of my discernment. ‘Do I just think it’s what God wants me to do, because it’s what my dad did?’”

Partly because of that doubt, the teenage Jonathan didn’t talk to his father about his calling until after he’d more or less made up his mind.

“When my dad told his dad he wanted to be a priest, my granddad told him, ‘Andrew, there are many ways to serve the Lord.’ I’d just come to this joyful place, and I didn’t want my dad to say ‘Don’t do that.’”

“So, I told my dad everything and how I’d come to this decision, and he said, ‘I think that’s great and I respect the process you’ve been through, and let’s see where it goes from here. That was about the best thing he could have said.’”

Jonathan kept the cloth in his sights through high school, studied philosophy in university and then went to seminary at Wycliffe College in Toronto, where he met Cindy – a University of Toronto student working on a master’s degree in museum studies. They fell in love and got engaged.

Jonathan’s first job as a pastor was a temporary posting in a six-point parish in Ontario’s Cottage Country, after which he learned of an opening out west.

“I called Cindy at work and asked her, ‘How do you feel about moving to Saskatchewan? Because I’ve pretty much got a place there if I can go for an interview, but I need to go by next Tuesday and I need to tell them now so they can get me a plane ticket.’”

“She said, ‘Boy, that’s a big decision to make in two minutes.’ She thought about it and finally said, ‘If that’s where we’re being led, then let’s go.’” Jonathan recalls.

He started in Unity in September 2005 and spent a little more than two years there. It was a challenging period in his life where he learned a lot about both pastorhood and fatherhood – Adriana was born in August.



“I love being a dad. One of the great things for me is seeing how she develops. God had a plan when he made her, and she’s going to be along those lines of who God wanted her to be,” he says.

“One of the biggest blessings in my life is that God is trusting me with this person who’s his child. That’s pretty cool.”

In Unity, Jonathan was the parish priest; in his new Holy Trinity posting, he’s a curate. But he doesn’t see taking the junior job at a larger church as a demotion.

“Being the rector in Unity was daunting. There was a lot on my plate, like having three funerals in one week, for instance.

Having served a curacy first might have helped me with some strategies for time management and prioritizing.

“In the economy of God, the only demotion you can take is if you stop following God’s will for your life. I think the biggest demotion anyone could get is being made a bishop, because you have so much more responsibility,” he says with a snicker.

In the short term and for practical purposes, though, Jonathan functions as the rector of Holy Trinity, as Pastor Stephen Hambidge is on sabbatical until the summer. Jonathan isn’t sure yet how the two pastors will carve up their collective collar, but he’s looking forward to seeing that relationship evolve.

“That has yet to be seen. I think it’s going to be fluid – we’ll look at what each other’s gifts for ministry are and play to our strengths. This affords all kinds of new opportunities for ordained clergy involvement in the parish. I’m excited about the future.”

## STEPHEN MINISTERS ARE EAGER TO HELP

By Rob Petkau

In case you're wondering but are afraid to ask, Holy Trinity's Stephen Ministry was not named after the pastor who's currently on sabbatical.

The ministry's namesake is the early Christian who, in Acts 6, was one of the first people commissioned by the Apostles to provide caring ministry.

"We care for people who are going through any sort of loss, by walking beside them," says Carol Sheehan – one of the four leaders of Holy Trinity's nine-member Stephen team.

Stephen ministers help people who, for examples, have a family member who is ill, or have lost a loved one, lost a job, lost a pet or lost a home town due to a change of residence.

"Our mission statement is Christ caring for people, through people," Carol notes. "We don't preach, we don't lead and we don't fix it."

Stephen ministers meet with their care recipients for an hour once a week, in a fully confidential and safe environment. Male ministers



meet exclusively with male recipients, and female ministers meet exclusively with female recipients.

"It's a time to share, to pray together," says Pat Morris, Holy Trinity's Stephen ministry co-ordinator. "Sometimes it's providing that shoulder to cry on. It's being present for someone.

"It doesn't necessarily have to be a major life crisis; it can be anything people are having issues with. It could be brand-new parents adjusting to being a one-income family, or learning their roles with the new little one," Pat says.

The ministry was established at Holy Trinity in 2006, with a new group of ministers joining the group last year. But only since the start of 2008 have parishioners begun to access the team's services.

"People are unsure what this ministry means, I think," says Pat, who believes there are many Holy Trinity members who could benefit from a relationship with a Stephen minister.

"We may observe that someone is struggling, but the process is not for us to approach them. They have to speak to the pastor and ask to be put in touch with a Stephen minister."

Carol agrees, saying, "Making time to meet with a Stephen minister is daunting. People think, 'My problem isn't important enough' or 'I'm too busy.' But sometimes you need to put your own oxygen mask on first. Then you can take care of others."

Stephen leaders undergo 100 hours of training, and Stephen ministers take 50 hours of training before they can begin to administer care. The team meets regularly for peer supervision, to ensure its members keep their training and mandate in focus.

"Getting that feedback from your peers is essential. It's amazing how often that little lightbulb goes off," Pat says.

Other members of the Stephen Ministry team include: Bob McKenzie, Dwayne White, Kay Hurst, Fran Klassen, Debbie Bradley, Jack Goodall and Wendy Goodall.

## INN FROM THE COLD AT HOLY TRINITY – CHRISTMAS 2007

By Colleen Garrett

It never ceases to amaze me how fast time goes. It's now a little over 2 months since Christmas. I have promised in the Sunday service that I would give you my thoughts and some of our guests' stories regarding Christmas 2007 at Holy Trinity's Inn from the Cold.

It started right at the beginning of December when I put a call out to the congregation for assistance with the planning of Inn from the Cold for Christmas. As per usual we had a great response to meet that request. Ruth and I felt it would be a monumental task to pull off the Christmas we wanted to give our guests without the help and aid of our Church family.

We met in the boardroom; and quickly established what we 'needed' and what we 'wanted'. First, we planned the meal of Roast Beef with all the trimmings. Secondly, we put our thinking caps on to come up with entertainment for our guests. We suggested carol singing, tree trimming, cookie/gingerbread decorating, movies and the possibilities of doing charades.

There were offers to make table decorations (Carol Sheehan), to bring in the Christmas tree and stand (Bob McKenzie), to sew bags for toiletries (Helen Colburne), to provide donations of food and money. All were graciously welcomed and accepted. We also needed to make a list of essential items for our guests "gift bags". We wanted to give our guests backpacks but didn't know if we could afford them. One of the planning committee members spoke in regards to finding appropriate sponsorship for the backpacks to cover the costs. Also we were able to display our donation board for Inn from the Cold again in the foyer at church, and true to Holy Trinity fashion you came through for us by providing all the items we asked for.

Our guests arrived on Christmas Eve around 3:30 p.m. and thanks to our set up crew their beds were all ready to just leave their belongings and come into the dining area. We welcomed our guests and let them know that we had a Christmas tree with the lights already on; but needed their assistance in finishing the decorating of our Christmas tree. They were so excited to help us in this task because they were at another church the night before staying with Inn from the Cold and they were not allowed to help decorate even after they asked if they could help decorate the tree. What an amazing gift! We sang Christmas carols to the thrill of children and "older children's" delight. We have awesome talent in our church for musical and theatrical abilities. This part of the evening certainly was a highlight to all our guests' and those who came to volunteer.

We had our "family Christmas" dinner with Roast beef (which was all donated, thank you) with all the trimmings. I don't think anyone left the table even the slightest bit hungry. Dishes and tables were cleared quickly so that anyone who wanted to attend the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service, were able. Earlier in the evening, I mentioned to our guests that they were more than welcome to attend any of the church services and to come as they are. A few people attended the first service and we sat together at the back. I never felt as proud as I did at that moment. Everyone who came felt a part of our Holy Trinity "family". They were not looked at as "different" or what they were wearing; they were received as children of God. I know Jesus would be proud of us too! Later at the 10:00 p.m. service, some of our guests came again. Must be the great "sermon" they heard.

As for the rest of the evening most of our guests were entertained by playing cards or watching movies for the rest of the night. The overnight people made a bowl of popcorn to watch The Santa Clause 3 movie. I guess people were so relaxed and comfortable they started to fall asleep.

In the earlier days before the 24<sup>th</sup> Santa's elves were busy preparing toiletry and goodie bags, bus tickets, Tim Horton and McDonald's gift certificates, phone cards and winter accessories like scarves,



mitts/gloves, hats etc (a special mention and thank you goes to Rockyview Hospital nurses who this year and years past have knitted hats, mitts and scarf sets). One of Santa's helpers' put every guests name on their stocking. What a lovely gesture, it's very important to know that you matter, and someone knows your name. We assembled all of the gifts into 15 backpacks. We had an assembly line going that worked very well and efficiently.

In the middle of the night when all were sleeping, not even a creature was stirring, not even a mouse (oh yeah, that's a storybook), a few of Santa's helpers were going into the sleeping area to place their stockings and backpacks at the foot of their beds. It was dark and we couldn't really see, all we had was a tiny flashlight. We didn't want to wake anyone and we were trying, yes trying to remain quiet when things were falling off the cart and I got the giggles. It was very hard for me to stop laughing if you knew who was helping me to deliver these packages (Jack, Sid, & Louise) then you would know automatically how difficult it would be to remain silent. We ended up waking a few people and when people discovered their surprises they got up and started to open their gifts.

I wish I had a camera to take their pictures so you could see their happy faces and amazed looks of shock and being overwhelmed. I had to round them up quickly for their breakfast (while it was still hot). It was nice to have a family (Wall's) come and cook breakfast for our guests'; they even baked homemade bread. After breakfast; we went to the Christmas day service. It was a service that was laid back and interactive.

To end our time together it was time for lunch after the service Pam Matsumiya and her family worked diligently to put on a spread (like Pam style), simply the best. Our cleanup crew came and worked quickly to take down the beds, tables and to clean the bathrooms and shower areas. Every guest when leaving to go on the bus to go back downtown hugged me and thanked me and all the volunteers for the love. The bus left around 1:00 p.m. As someone mentioned at the city wide Inn from the Cold meeting a guest said one time to them "it's like going to Grandma's house" when they come and stay at Inn from the Cold!

Sometimes I think we don't know the effect we have on our Inn from the Cold guests. I believe some are measurable and some are not. One of our guests shared with me how wonderful it was to receive a phone card to phone home to his Mother. "Joe" (not his real name) spoke of his alcoholism, and his separation from his family. He mentioned his wife (now separated) and he went to Bible College together. "Joe" spoke of his struggles to overcome his situation. His Mother was very happy to hear from him; especially because it was Christmas and she wanted to know he was okay. "Joe" also told me of a tragic incident in his family that took place earlier in November. A month before; "Joe's" Brother-in-law's Brother committed suicide. None of us know or can even begin to imagine the horrors that our guests' face as a result of others' decisions or of their own making in poor choices. But therefore, by the Grace of God, go I. That is why I am proud and pleased to know so many in our Church, City of Calgary want to help our Brothers and Sisters who are without homes, but more importantly their hearts need a home. To God be the glory that he has equipped each one of us to meet the needs and to love our Brothers and Sisters right where they're at.

Words cannot express my deepest appreciation to each one of you. From the bottom of my heart,  
THANK YOU

God's richest blessings,  
Your sister in Christ

Colleen Garrett

## INN FROM THE COLD – Christmas 2007

By Linda Dalgetty

Holy Trinity hosted Inn From the Cold this past Christmas Eve. We had 15 guests (one woman and fourteen men). There were many volunteers who made this possible from those on set up and food preparation, to those hosting our guests and providing overnight supervision and laundry services, to those cooking breakfast and cleaning up. In addition, many people at Holy Trinity donated gifts to fill backpacks with everything from socks and toiletries to Tim Horton's certificates and bus passes. Colleen and Ruth did their usual exceptional job of getting everything organized to ensure that the night was a great experience for each of our guests. My family and I were fortunate to help with Christmas Eve and I'd like to share some of our experiences.

When I think of Christmas, I think of the traditions of youth and those that have survived to become part of my family's traditions. My family's traditions are pretty usual: tree trimming, Christmas carols, good food, attending church service and a time to share with family and friends. My experience this year with Inn from the Cold, reminded me of the pure joy and happiness these traditions bring and showed me how easy it is to give these traditions back to others.



On the Sunday before Christmas, a Christmas tree was set up in the main hall in anticipation of our Christmas Eve guests. The lights and ornaments for the tree trimming were donated by the people at Holy Trinity. When we arrived in the main hall on Christmas Eve, three of the guests were "going to town" decorating the tree. They were planning out the best spot for the ornaments and extended the decorating to the alcove behind the tree and across the doorway into the hall. The decorated tree was beautiful and the three guests who did the majority of the decorating were clearly proud of their accomplishment.

Jacqueline brought song sheets with words to several Christmas carols.

Many of the guests joined with the Holy Trinity volunteers for a carol sing, some making requests for their favorite songs. The guests really enjoyed the singing and some of them were joyous watching the children who joined in the singing. When the call for food came, some of them were quite disappointed that the singing was over.

We all enjoyed a wonderful roast beef dinner complete with Yorkshire pudding, potatoes, gravy, vegetables and ice cream for dessert. The tables were all decorated with beautiful centerpieces and there were Christmas crackers at each place setting. By the end of the meal, many of the guests and volunteers were sporting the paper hats from the Christmas crackers.

The backpacks were truly appreciated. Many of the guests could not believe how many gifts were inside. At dinner, prior to receiving his backpack, one of the guests was talking about missing his mother and not being able to spend Christmas with her in the States. We saw him later that night after the Christmas Eve service and he was beaming. He had just used the phone card he received in the backpack to call his mother. That one donation of a phone card made his Christmas. Words can't describe how happy he was and how grateful he was to the people of Holy Trinity.

For me, Christmas Eve with Inn from the Cold was the highlight of my Christmas season. I remain in awe of the generosity of everyone at Holy Trinity. Our congregation gave much more than backpacks, food and shelter. We gave the gift of Christmas to each of our guests. As Colleen mentioned after Christmas, Holy Trinity is truly a special place where God's blessings shine on those who enter. Thanks to all for your support of this Ministry.