



# THE GRAPEVINE

March 2009

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## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter we have just had another dump of snow—a huge one just a few days after the first day of Spring. Yesterday at Church I heard how just a couple of days ago there were children in our parish who were so excited that some warmer weather had arrived. I heard about how the children loved going outside in the back yard to play and how they had been ready to have the snow of winter behind them—and then came another winter storm. Often when snow comes, children are excited as it means the snowman making can commence, but I think most of these children have had enough of this by now. Winter can be fun, as long as it doesn't stretch too long. With the dump of snow on just after the arrival of Spring, the hopes of some children were dashed. They had expected something, only to be presented with something else.

Dashed hopes—most of us know what it feels like to experience dashed hopes. We have an expectation of something, only to find that it doesn't come about in the way we had expected and there is a feeling of being let down. For some people, sometimes the feeling of being let down is directed towards God. I think very likely the disciples must have felt like they had been let down by God. Surely they knew for a time what it felt like to experience dashed hopes. Think for a moment how their hopefulness grew. Although the disciples were fairly ordinary people—they weren't among the religious leaders of their day—they were still part of the Jewish community and along with that community, had great hopes that one day God would send the long awaited Messiah. The story had been passed down among the generations. They would have heard their parents and their grandparents talk about God's promise of deliverance. They didn't know when the saviour would come, but they knew the saviour WOULD come at some point. And then they met Jesus. They couldn't explain it, and they certainly couldn't say at first who Jesus was, but over time they experienced the sense of hopefulness gradually begin to rise within them. Could this be the one God had promised? Were they in the presence of the one whom God would send? When I think about what it must have been like for those disciples I can almost sense the anticipation and the hopefulness that must have been stirring within them.



And then came the fateful day—after sharing the Passover meal with Jesus in an upper room, Jesus was arrested and taken from them while they were visiting the Garden of Gethsemane. It didn't make sense, but then there was still hopefulness inside—after all, God would make it so that Jesus was released and then he could do all what he was meant to do. But that's not what happened. Those disciples watched their friend Jesus whipped 39 times. They watched soldiers place a crown of thorns on his head. They watched Jesus get nailed to a cross and worse yet, they watch Jesus breathe his last breath. Previously they had been filled with such hope and then those hopes were dashed. He was supposed to be the one. They had thought that God had finally acted, and then their hope seemed so misplaced. God seemed so far away.

And then we hear about women going to the tomb early on a Sunday morning and finding the tomb empty. We hear about Jesus appearing to the disciples once in an upper room that Sunday evening and we realize that what we consider dashed hopes are never dashed hopes when it comes to God. When Jesus appeared in the upper room on that first Easter Sunday evening we're told that the disciples were in that room with the doors locked and this so vividly reminds us that with God no door is locked. Nothing is too hopeless for him. In the midst of death, Jesus brought life! And so we are asked as we continue in this Lenten season, where is it that we place our hope? I encourage you to experience Holy Week fully this year and to experience the hopefulness of the gospel. From the celebration of Palm Sunday to the sharing of the meal at our Seder Supper on Maundy Thursday,

from the Procession of Witness and the service of remembrance on Good Friday to the celebration of new life on Easter Sunday, I encourage you to walk the journey with our Christian community so that we all can grasp more fully all that God has done in Christ and we can be filled with the hope of the gospel message. May we be reminded continually of the hope and the life that Jesus brings.

May you and your family be blessed with a happy and a holy Easter Season!

Yours in Christ,

*Stephen*

## 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, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.—Seder Supper and Service of Holy Communion**

On Maundy Thursday we will participate in a traditional Seder Supper similar to the kind of meal that Jesus and his disciples participated just prior to Jesus' arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. Please see further information about the Seder in this edition of *The Grapevine*.

### **Good Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> 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 Calvary. 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, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.—Good Friday Service**

Our Good Friday service will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. 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, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.—Easter Sunday Celebration**

Please join us as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus on Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> 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!

## TEN PRINCIPLES FOR CHRISTIAN GIVING

By Dr. Ligon Duncan  
Pastor of First Presbyterian Church,  
Jackson Mississippi

**The Lord Jesus expects and requires us to give:** Jesus said to his disciples, “When you give” not “If you give” (Matthew 6:2). Christians will give—*Are you giving?*

**The Lord Jesus wants us to give for the right reasons:** Jesus warned his disciples not to give for the sake of being admired by people, “Beware of practicing your righteousness before people to be noticed by them” (Matthew 6:1). *Are you giving for God’s praise or for the praise of people?*

**The Lord Jesus wants us to practice benevolent or charitable giving:** “When you give to the poor...” (Matthew 6:2-3). Jesus is specifically teaching about ‘alms’ in this passage which are benevolent offerings to the poor and the needy. *Do you give amply enough to the Church that the Church can be generous in benevolent giving?*

**The Lord Jesus reminds us that giving is ultimately to the all-seeing heavenly Father:** Jesus said, “When you give... your heavenly Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you” (Matthew 6:3-4). *Are you conscious of the fact that your giving is to the Lord and seen by the Lord?*

**The Bible teaches that Christian giving is an act of worship:** Paul’s words “On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save” (1 Corinthians 16:2) teaches that the taking up of an offering is an act of worship which is to be part of the regular Lord’s Day worship. *Did you realize that giving is a part of worship? Is your worship in this area abundant or inhibited: Is giving to the Church a priority with you?*

**The Bible teaches that Christian giving should be done in light of the incarnation:** Paul scuttles the whole debate about whether the tithe (10% of our income) is still the standard for our giving to the Church when he says: “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that the he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich (2 Corinthians 8:9). *Do you try to get by with giving as little as possible to the Lord, or do you give in view of the Lord’s costly sacrifice?*

**The Bible teaches that Christian giving should be done in accordance with our means:** “For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what they do not have” (2 Corinthians 8:12). *Are you giving in proportion to the material blessing that they Lord has given you?*

**The Bible teaches that the liberality of God’s blessing to us is connected to the liberality of our Christian giving:** Paul says in 2 Corinthians 9:6 “Now this I say, He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” *Do you realize that the Lord has given you much so that you can give?*

**The Bible teaches that Christian giving must be willing giving, free giving:** “Each one must do just as they have purposed in their heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion” (2 Corinthians 9:7). *Is your giving to the Church something you do wholeheartedly or indifferently or grudgingly?*

**The Bible teaches that Christian giving ought to be cheerful giving:** Paul says “God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7). *Is there joy in your heart as you give? Can you truly be characterized as a ‘cheerful giver’?*

## ***PRAY-ERS PREPARED TO PRAY PRAYERS***

### MINISTRY PROFILE

By Rob Petkau

Moving out of the Prayer Chapel was a positive step forward for Holy Trinity's Sunday Morning Prayer Ministry, but that doesn't mean the team won't find its way back to the room eventually.

Ministry head Sandra Wall says she hopes to recruit enough pray-ers to have two stations – one at the back of the Sanctuary near the baptismal tank, and one in the Prayer Chapel.

"We moved out of the chapel to give more exposure to this ministry, in case people might be concerned about what happens behind closed doors," she explains.

"I think we're far enough away from where people sit, that it's still confidential, but people can see what's happening."

She says more people come for prayers after Communion now than before the ministry moved, although there are still Sundays when no one comes.

"Numbers have been increasing, but there's still a lot room for growth," she says.

No prayer is too big or too small – no problem too serious or too trivial – for the Prayer Ministry, Sandra stresses. People are welcome to access the service to ask for God's help, or to thank Him for help already received.

"People need to realize that the Prayer Ministry is for them, and that it's very confidential. God is just waiting for them to actually ask for them to provide for their needs."

Many people choose to keep their prayers between them and God. Sandra encourages people to pray alone, but says the Prayer Team'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."

If someone is already praying with the volunteers and you want to receive prayer, you're welcome to stand by the wall, a discreet distance away, and wait a few moments for your turn.

"I think we'll put out a couple of waiting chairs with Waiting Area written on them, to make it clear, so people can watch for that," Sandra says.

The Prayer Team has nine members these days – two men and seven women – and more are always welcome.

"We can certainly use more men in the prayer ministry. Quite often, men are more comfortable praying with men. We're also open to lots of young people, and also children, if they feel called to come," says Sandra.

People who are unsure about joining the team are welcome to 'job shadow,' by sitting with team members on a Sunday, to help them discern if they and the Prayer Team are a good fit.

"If we were able to get several more pray-ers, we could have two prayer stations – one at the back of the Sanctuary and one in the Prayer Chapel. That would be ideal," Sandra says.

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



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## A PARTNERSHIP WITH A CHURCH IN AFRICA

For the past few years Holy Trinity, Calgary has had an ongoing partnership with an Anglican Church in Ghana. It started with an article printed in *The Sower*—the newspaper of the Diocese of Calgary. In the article, a church in Ghana was said to have been in need of Bibles and a request was made for churches or individuals to make donations so that Bibles could be purchased and sent to this church. Our church Vestry (a.k.a. Church Board) responded by sending some of our church's tithe that year to help with the purchase of these Bibles. We also made direct contact with the church to see if there were any other needs and were told of their need for a webpage so that they could talk about their church and the ministry that they are involved in. In response to their request we chose to pay for web space for their church on an annual basis and we helped to get them set up with their first webpage. Pastor Victor Leon Acquaye (the parish priest of St. Cecilia's when the relationship was established) has since moved to St. Luke's, another nearby church; however, he continues to work with the people of St. Cecilia's and helps to maintain our relationship with that Christian community.

The following excerpt is taken from the St. Cecilia's website and outlines the progression of that parish from its founding to today...

*A group of Anglicans drawn from All Saint's, Adabraka. St. Mary's, Accra, and Holy Trinity, Accra, residing in the Accra New Town area met in the first quarter of 1985, precisely on the 19th of February 1985. The meeting took place in order to deliberate and map up a strategy to establish a place of worship at Kpehe to stem the problem of traveling long distances to their place of worship.*

*Under the leadership of Catechist Charles Nii Apomsah Ankrah, the intention was soon concretized and more members associated themselves with the idea. The then, Archdeacon of Accra, Ven. R.J.A. Adjaayi was approached and he assisted the young congregation named after St. Mary Magdalene spiritually by saying mass and attending to the needs of the members.*



*In August 1986, there was a misunderstanding between one of the founding members, the landlady, and Charles N.A. Ankrah, founder and Catechist in Charge. This misunderstanding led to the sudden expulsion of the church from the premises of the landlady. Catechist Charles Nii Apomsah Ankrah was not discouraged, he wrote letters to Ghana Education Service (GES) and permission was granted to the infant church to use one of the classrooms of the ANT 2 & 10 primary schools.*

*The first worship meeting of the congregation in this new location took place on the 15th November 1986, a week before St. Cecilia Day. Members present unanimously decided to change the name of the church from St. Mary Magdalene to St. Cecilia Anglican Church. The 1st confirmation of members of this church was held at All Saint's Anglican Church, Adabraka, on the 1st May 1988. 28 members were confirmed by the then Bishop of Accra, Rt. Rev. F.W.B. Thompson.*

### **Environment**

*As a result of the location of our church, the members are predominantly the inhabitants of Accra New - Town, in the Ayawaso district of Accra, the capital city of Ghana. They are mainly made up of Ga's, Akans, Ewes and Hausas (Muslims). The Hausas forms the bulk of the inhabitants hence making Christian activities very difficult to execute. Ghana as a whole has three major religious groups which are Christians, Muslims and African Traditional Religion. Among the three, Islam seems to be the most dominating religion in Accra New -Town area.*

### ***New Premises***

*Just after the 1990 Harvest Thanksgiving, word came in that there was a plot of land with a building (three single rooms) on it being offered for sale. With the assistance of Mr. F.K. Boye and other members, the landlady offered to sell it at 1.5million cedis. An initial payment of Five Hundred Thousand Cedis was made; the building was finally purchased in 1995. The partitions of the rooms were pulled down to create space for worship. This building has since served as our regular place of worship.*

*The history of this church can not be written without mentioning the name of the man who was the Dean of the Cathedral Church of the Most Holy Trinity and who is now the Lord Bishop of Accra, Rt. Rev. (Dr.) J.O.Y. Akrofi. This man helped in many ways. All the priests who worked at the Cathedral Church of the Most Holy Trinity, one way or the other, pastored this church, especially Rev. Fr. Ernest K. Clotney now at Holy Gabriel's, Kotobabi. We are most grateful for the support we received from these individuals. May God bless them!*

### ***Resident Priest***

*The posting of a resident priest to the church has raised the worship life and spirituality of the church. Although he stays at East Legon, a distance of about ten kilometers, he attends to the spiritual needs of the church.*

### ***Church Membership***

*Membership now stands at about 65 people, Workers forming 15%, Students 45% with the unemployed and Children 40%.*

### ***Guilds & Associations***

*There are four guilds in the church namely: The Servants of the Sanctuary, Church Choir, Anglican Young People Association (AYPA) and Guild of the Good Shepherd.*

### ***Parochial Church Council***

*The Parochial Church Council (PCC) consists of the following, the Priest in Charge, who is the head of the parish and chairman of the council, the people's and priest wardens, parish representatives to Synod and ten others who were elected at the Vestry Meeting. The Parochial Church Council together with the Priest in Charge is responsible for the spiritual growth and the general administration of the church. The Parochial Church Council meets once a month.*

### ***Nursery School***

*The Church has a Nursery School with a population of 120 people, made up of both Christians and Muslims. Some of who are not paying fees, as a result of their parent's inability to pay. This gesture to those who cannot afford to pay the fees is our social commitment to the community.*

## **YOUTH GROUP NEWS**

The youth group is well on its way into the Gospel of Mark. We are studying this gospel, this year, and discovering Jesus as God's Son, our Saviour, and working to understand and integrate this into our lives as Good News (not just something that we learn about as we read). What does it mean that Jesus is God's Son? How does that affect the way we live? What does it mean that Jesus is the Saviour? In what way does knowing Him, in this way, influence our lives? These are some of the questions we will continue to explore this year, as we meet roughly every second Sunday.

In addition to these regular meetings, we are having monthly events. In the first few months of the year, we repainted the youth room and were even gifted some new furniture (take a look, if you get a chance!). In April we will be holding the 30-hour Famine, and in June we will be taking a weekend-long end-of-the-year retreat (our May event is still up-in-the-air). We welcome your prayers for this ministry! Pastor Jonathan+



## MARCH 2009 VESTRY NEWS

### Paint, pipes, big bills and defibrillation

Holy Trinity Anglican Church's 2009 faith-based budget got off to a challenging start in January, thanks to extra snow-clearing costs and hefty utility bills, the church's Vestry members learned at their March 5 regular meeting. But People's Warden **Rob Petkau** advised that the late 2008-early 2009 natural gas bills – which came in as much as 10 times what was paid in the same period last year – were due to mechanical problems with Direct Energy's metering systems. Direct Energy officials are in the process of determining how much we were inadvertently overbilled and how much the company therefore owes the church.

But Vestry members will continue to pray for the financial health of Holy Trinity – in light of the fact the church finished 2008 with a five-figure deficit and expenses were higher than expected in January.



Utilities costs were \$5,512, compared with the \$2,200 that was budgeted and the \$2,167 spent last year. The spike was due largely to the gas meter issue mentioned above.

The snowy 2008-09 winter inflated Holy Trinity's maintenance spending in January to \$1,479, compared with \$111 spent last year and the \$167 budgeted for January 2009.

Meanwhile, collections income in January 2009 was \$10,479 – about \$100 more than the January 2008 figure, but nearly \$2,000 less than the \$12,013 budgeted.

### Pipe problems

Vestry members learned that several of the church's pipes have sprung leaks in recent weeks. Parishioners **Ross** and **Linda Dalgetty** have stepped in to help greatly with these issues, patching pipes on very short notice. Plumbers have also replaced sections of pipe, having to cut holes in the drywall in the process. Assistant Pastor's Warden **Scott Radford** has repaired these sections, and we thank Scott, Ross and Linda for their work.

This is unlikely to be the end of the leaky pipe issue, though, as a plumber has informed Pastor **Stephen Hambidge** that the type of pipe used for the hot water circulation was "minimum code" pipe that wears out in about five to seven years – about the age of the church building. Vestry and Corporation will grapple with this issue at upcoming meetings this spring.

### Defibrillator discussion

Vestry members discussed the idea of equipping the church with an automatic emergency defibrillator – an idea raised at the Annual General Meeting in January. Vestry member **Wendy Goodall** said one of these life-saving machines could be bought for \$1,500, plus the cost of an ongoing service/maintenance contract and that little or no training is required to use it effectively when someone is having a heart attack. But because this item was not included in the budget, Vestry decided to look toward buying a defibrillator in 2010. If however, there turns out to be a surplus this year, the defibrillator will be at the top of the church's Wish List. Parishioners who would like to contribute to this purchase, in addition to their regular Tithe giving, are invited to do so.

### Spring Scrubbing

Mark May 23 on your calendar as the day you'll come to the church for free food and fellowship – and a bit of cleaning and maintenance work since you're here anyway. Vestry set that date for the parish's annual Spring Cleanup Day, and would like to invite everyone in the parish to participate. A to-do list is still in the works, but there will be plenty of tasks for the handiest and least handy of believers alike. If the weather May 23 is not conducive to outdoor activities, we will move forward with the indoor tasks that day, and postpone outside work to May 30.

This is your chance to directly serve your church, and therefore, God, in a tangible and meaningful way. Individuals and small groups are encouraged to put their faith into action on May 23, and connect with other members of the congregation in the process. Pancake breakfasts and pizza lunches have been served at previous spring clean-ups, and while details are still emerging, clean-up participants can expect to go home with full bellies.



### **Bye Bye, Blue**

Holy Trinity's Youth Room has undergone a significant facelift, thanks to hard work in recent weeks by youth group members, their parents and other volunteers, Associate **Pastor Jonathan** Hoskin informed Vestry members. The formerly royal blue walls are now a warm taupe tone, and the room now sports nicer, more comfortable furniture. Please stop by and have a look at the renewed Youth Room, which serves a renewed Youth Group. Meanwhile, the church's Young Adults Group continues to meet, **Jonathan** told Vestry, and was looking at choosing a new night in the hopes of attracting more potential members.

### **Advance on Retreat**

There won't be a Parish Retreat weekend this year, but **Stephen** advised Vestry that the wheels are in motion to host one in 2010. Holy Trinity hasn't been able to get a booking at Camp Kuriakos, after the church lost its time slot in 2007 when that year's retreat had to be cancelled. But Stephen is working on securing the April 30-May 2 or May 7-9 weekend for next year. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more news.

### **Seder Supper**

For the first time in several years, Holy Trinity will host a Seder Supper on Maundy Thursday, **Stephen** told Vestry members. This event – essentially a Jewish Passover meal for the whole family – will precede the Maundy Thursday service. Holy Trinity's Holy Week services will continue Good Friday at 9 a.m. with a Procession of Witness, followed by the Good Friday service, and culminate Easter Sunday at 10 a.m.

### **Survey Says**

**Stephen** informed Vestry members that it's not too late for members of the church family to hand in the survey response forms that were distributed at the annual general meeting. This is your chance to dream a little, and help chart the course for the future of this church. Vestry decided to invite small group leaders to distribute the forms at their meetings, and **Mike Wall** volunteered to make announcements reminding the congregation about these important surveys.

## **SPIRITUALITY—GROWING IN FAITH CONFERENCE 2009**

Anglican Essentials Calgary is sponsoring a conference entitled: *Spirituality—Growing in Faith* with special guest speaker the Rev. Harold Percy of Trinity Anglican Church in Streetsville, Ontario. Some people from Holy Trinity will remember Harold coming to Holy Trinity to lead a conference amongst us shortly after we opened our church facility and how God blessed us through him.

The conference will be held May 1-2 at St. Luke's Anglican Church in Calgary and it will help participants deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ as participants consider how to live more fully in the power of the Holy Spirit. There will be biblical teaching and presentations on Bible reading, prayer and other topics as well as an opportunity for people to share fellowship and to meet and pray with others in small groups.

For Further information or for registration brochures please see the display on the bulletin board in the foyer.



## SEDER SUPPER COMING TO HOLY TRINITY

On Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> Holy Trinity will be having a Seder Supper as we continue our walk through Holy Week leading towards Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The Thursday of Holy Week is known as Maundy Thursday and the word Maundy comes from the Latin word which means commandment. On the night before his crucifixion Jesus met with his disciples in an upper room where he shared the Passover meal with them. It was at this meal that Jesus washed the disciples' feet and he gave them the commandment to serve others as he had served them—in humility.

This year we will be holding a traditional Seder Supper at Holy Trinity, something that we haven't done for a number of years. The Seder is a commemoration of the Jewish Passover at which the participants are called to remember God's saving action among the Jewish people as he led the people of Israel out of Egypt towards the Promised Land. Many people have responded in the past that by participating in a Seder and in the other events of Holy Week such as the Good Friday service, they have found themselves even more able to appreciate all what God did for us when it has come time for them to celebrate Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday. Please consider attending the Seder Supper at Holy Trinity as part of your preparation for Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

The evening will begin at Holy Trinity at 6:30pm. Among the Jewish people this is a fairly formal event, so participants are encouraged to dress accordingly to mark the occasion. There will be no need for families to bring food as a Roast Beef dinner will be provided; however, we will be asking people to contribute to a free-will offering so that the cost of the meal can be covered. Any money that is left over after the costs of the meal have been paid for will be added to the money that we have been collecting during our Lenten Lunches and will be given to the "Feed the Children-Canada" organization.

During the meal we will be participating in the telling of the story of the Hebrew people that is shared at Seder Suppers around the world. Passages will be read and responses will be said among the people. Parents may find that young children get restless during this time so we will be providing a carpet on the floor with toys and a few small tables with chairs and colouring supplies for the younger children to focus on. If parents need to wander in the foyer with their children, they will be encouraged to feel free to do so—we will try to make sure that our sound system is working in the building so that those in the foyer can still hear what is going on inside the hall.

Once the Seder Supper has been completed we will move into the worship area for a very brief service of Holy Communion as we remember the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his disciples. This service will end with the stripping of the Altar as we prepare the church for our Good Friday service.



Since we will need to be aware of numbers in order to know how many people to prepare food for, for our Seder Supper, you are asked to **please sign-up on the sheet provided in the Foyer as soon as possible.**

## HT IS A-OK FOR TRIPLE-A

Parishioner Profile - By Rob Petkau

The childhood friendship of Ali Bradley and Vanessa Wall has been extremely good for Holy Trinity. First, it opened the door to Ali and then her family (the Dalgettys) becoming members of this church. Then, about a decade later, Vanessa spotted an old acquaintance who ended up marrying Ali, joining the church and fathering one of Holy Trinity's newest members.

"I actually started coming to Holy Trinity before the rest of my family," Ali recalls. "I think I slept over at Vanessa's house one night when I was about 11, and came to church with them the next morning. I really enjoyed the service, and I kept coming.

"A while after that, Sandra Wall invited my whole family here for Easter. That's when my parents started coming to this church."

The Dalgettys remained a regular HT family for several years, until they moved to Argentina when Ali was 15. They moved back to Calgary a few years later, and although Linda and Ross resumed Holy Trinity membership soon after, Ali didn't attend much in her latter teenage years.

Around three years ago, Ali and Vanessa were out on the town, when they saw a familiar face across a crowded room – Andrew Bradley – who they knew from junior high school.

"We said hi, and talked for a while that night, Ali and I exchanged phone numbers and started dating," Andrew says with a smile.

Ali came back to Holy Trinity after Christmas 2007. Andrew came, too, and the two are now regulars on the church's left side.

"I had no church background before Holy Trinity, but I feel like I'm a full-fledged part of the community now. I've really found my faith at this church," he says.

"I really like going to this church because of the sermons. Stephen really grabs my attention, and Jonathan keeps me entertained with his stories. They're both awesome pastors."

Ali agrees, applauding the clergymen's chalice-half-full approach to salvation.

"They really seem to emphasize the positives, rather than the negatives. It's not about 'Don't do this or this or this.' Rather, 'Try to do this and this and this.' It's a lot more positive than what a lot of people think about church," Ali says.

When Ali and Andrew decided to tie the knot earlier this, they happily chose to have Pastor Stephen Hambidge perform the ceremony here at Holy Trinity.

"I actually wanted to elope until the day we got married, but I'm so glad we didn't, because the service was so meaningful," Ali says. "Jonathan said a very beautiful prayer, and we had people like Colleen (Garrett) doing readings."

"Stephen made the ceremony so personal," Andrew agrees.

Just a few weeks ago, the couple welcomed their daughter Averi to the world, and the Triple-A family is off to a great start.

"Being newlyweds and new parents at the same time is great so far. She's a really well-behaved baby, and we're getting so much support from our families," Andrew says.

Because of Averi's arrival, Ali has put her educational career on-hold for now. She was pursuing a Spanish degree, and she's planning on becoming a teacher. Andrew, after spending several years working as a cooking apprentice, realized he was wired for a different sort of trade, and he's now a second-year electrical apprentice.

For her part, Averi seems to enjoy being doted on by parents and grandparents, and also by various genuine and wanna-be aunts and uncles – many of whom attend Holy Trinity.

"The people who go to this church are just incredible. We've found such a wonderful sense of community here," Ali says. "The overall feeling of acceptance you get, regardless of your situation, is fantastic. I feel like anyone could walk into this church and feel welcome."



## A LETTER FROM OUR MISSIONS PARTNER DAVE MATTHEWS

Dear Holy Trinity,

Still I am amazed by what God is doing in the lives of these students. Two weeks ago they returned from their spring outreaches. The outreaches were two weeks long and three groups were made. The teams went to Houston, as well as three towns in Mexico. The Houston team went to work with a Salvation Army drug rehab called Harbour Lights. In the evenings the team would go out on the streets of Houston and talk with drag queens that frequent an area called the Montrose. They were excited when they came back about the things that God had done through them and what he had done in the lives of those they were with.

The three teams that went to Mexico had drastically different outreaches. The first went to a town called Reynosa, on the boarder with Texas. There they spent time teaching in an orphanage, spending time with the kids and encouraging them. The students would teach them about the bible through games and activities.

The second town was Guadalajara. This team spent their time almost as itinerant preachers would back in the day of Whitfield. They would travel from church to church teaching on various days, as the churches would set up mid-week meetings for them. They would at times even be preaching in the streets and in people's homes to house churches.

The third town was Juarez. This last group partnered with a church and spent the majority of their time working along side them. The students did teachings throughout the weeks and focused mainly on teaching the individuals within this church. They taught at a lot of seminars and workshops, as well as ate at a lot of pot-luck dinners.

Throughout their time the students' focus was to do two things, serve in whatever fashion the location and individuals needed as well as teach. The serving would always look different but the teachings they went prepared to give were usually the same to some degree. They would teach on the Christian life, repentance, salvation, but always focusing on the bible and bringing out its truth to the people. Often I heard of 1<sup>st</sup> John being used as a road map to preach to the people on the Christian life, "I write these things so that you might know that you have eternal life." (1<sup>st</sup> John 5:8)

Although each outreach was different in function they each had the same results of inspiring the lives of the people they touched, as well as that of our students. There were numerous reports of people giving their lives to Jesus as well as reports of families and relationships restored. One situation involved visiting a prison and meeting a young man. His wife had left him and his family would no longer speak with him because of what he'd done. Through prayer and encouragement this man gave his life to Christ and in the course of two weeks his family came to see him and pray with him themselves. When the team left his wife had yet to speak with him but he had high hopes and said this was his dream and he would keep praying for them to be reunited.

During this time I stayed in Texas both enjoying a little more chance to breathe as well as prepare for the next phase of our school for these students when they returned, fired up and excited for what God is going to do next. God is doing some great things in the lives of these students and I'm able to see more clearly why God has me here for this season. I still am enjoying this outreach I'm on in Tyler however I'm looking towards going on an outreach that would take me back to China or to Africa, as that is where my heart still is.

Yours in Christ,

Dave Matthews



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