

The Grapevine



Holy Trinity Anglican Church—December 2009

HOLY TRINITY CONTACTS

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Asst. People's Warden:	
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
The Reason for This Season	2-3
Marriage Preparation Course	3
Confirmation	3
Upcoming Services	4
Farwell to the Hoskins	4
The Marriage Course	5
Parish Weekend	5
Annual General Meeting	6
Projection Ministry	6
Ministry Profile	7
Mission Trip	8
Mustard Seed	8

THE REASON FOR THIS SEASON

“...you will find the baby wrapped in swaddling cloths... ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased’” - Luke 2:12, 14

One of the things I’ve been thankful for, and that God has blessed me with, while I’ve been at Holy Trinity, is a Wednesday morning group of guys. We have breakfast together at McDonald’s. We talk about life; we’ve engaged in a few different studies together. Recently we talked a little about Christmas specials that have been on TV. They’re so heart-warming. Christmas is about giving, not getting; Christmas is about spending time with family and friends; Christmas is about helping others.

All of these are fine platitudes, but none of them is really what Christmas is about. I mean, don’t get me wrong - family and friends are one of the most important things in our lives. God made us to be social creatures, and this is as it should be. We desire to be with others, and especially desire for those others to be those we know well. And helping others is very important - especially at holiday times. There are people who don’t have the same chances to see family and friends as we do, and if we can show ourselves to be friends to them, then maybe we can warm their hearts a little. And as far as presents are concerned, it’s better to give than to receive; it’s better to foster a spirit of generosity than a spirit of greed. I’m all for these things. But they’re not what Christmas is all about.

I heard the story of Charlie Brown’s Christmas, once (though I’ve seen it many times). In the show, Charlie Brown is trying to organize the rest of the gang into a Christmas pageant. He gets very frustrated, and cries out for someone to tell him what Christmas is all about. Linus gets a little monologue, in which he relates Scripture from Luke 2:8-14, which is the story of the angels appearing to the shepherds and sending them to see the newborn Jesus. The story about Charlie Brown’s Christmas is that Charles M. Schultz was approached by others who suggested that he take this monologue out of his movie (replace it with various warm platitudes, don’t make it religious!), but his response was, “If we don’t say it, who will?”



This is similar thinking to that behind the “Jesus is the Reason for the Season” magnets that you may see on cars, or spelled out with letters on church signs, which are reacting to society’s trend to write “x-mas,” or simply to call this time of year the “holidays,” rather than Christmas. Cindy and I have the “Keep Christ in Christmas” magnet. What do you suppose that means, in practical terms? I mean - how do we keep Christ in Christmas? How do you, at your house with your family? outside of the house with your coworkers? inside your own heart and mind?

One of my favourite Christmas carols is O Little Town of Bethlehem. Think on these opening lines of the fourth verse: O Holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin, and enter in; Be born in us today. Perhaps this is the start of what it means to keep Christ in Christmas - to make Jesus the reason - to have His life be born in us, in our hearts. As He grows in us more and more, all aspects of our lives are drawn together in Him, becoming integrated into His plan for us. When Christ is born in us, and as He grows in us, His life becomes evident through our lives - He comes with us to our workplaces; He permeates our family lives. In fact, the question changes from “How do we keep Christ in Christmas?” to “How could we ever remove Christ from Christmas?” And it’s a rhetorical question.

So this Christmas, let Christ in - let Him in, that He may be born in you (as the song suggests), and that He may then shine out of you in all aspects of your life. What that looks like may be different for each one of us: perhaps waking with praise songs in your head, or a sense of peace and joy at fresh snow, or a deeper love for your children, or a new appreciation for life in general. The point isn't "what" Christ's life in you produces, but "that" Christ's life in you produces fruit. So let Him be born in you this Christmas; let Him be born in you today.

May God bless you abundantly as you celebrate His Son's birth millennia ago, and as you look forward to His return one day, and as you welcome Him more and more into your heart today.

Pastor Jonathan+

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE COMING TO HOLY TRINITY

Holy Trinity offers a Marriage Preparation Course once a year for couple preparing to get married in the next six to eighteen months. This year's course will be on Sunday, January 10th starting at 6:15p.m. and will run for five weeks. Each session will include a candle-lit dinner for two, a video teaching component and an opportunity for you and your fiancé to talk about important things that will help you to plan not only for your wedding day, but more importantly, prepare for your marriage. At Holy Trinity we want to do all we can to build healthy marriages. Weekly sessions include, communication, commitment, resolving anger, keeping love alive and shared values. The cost of the course is \$125.00 per couple and this includes the meals and course booklets.

If you are interested in attending this course, please sign up on the sheet provided in the foyer or register online by clicking on The Marriage Course link on our webpage www.holytrinitycalgary.org.

CONFIRMATION: THE BISHOP APPROACHES

On January 10th we will be hosting our bishop, Derek Hoskin, at Holy Trinity! This will be a day to remember, as there will be confirmations and baptisms during the morning worship, and a potluck lunch afterwards. Please mark this on your calendars and plan to attend on that day as we welcome new members into God's family through baptism and recognize new adults in the household of faith through confirmation.



Please keep our candidates in your prayers as this date approaches: Nicole, Michelle, Emily, Madison, Marcus, Matt, Braeden, and Jono.

UPCOMING SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY

December 20, 2009	10:00 a.m.	Sunday Service—4th Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2009	7:00 p.m.	Service of Remembrance—a service for people who have experienced the death of a loved on in the past two years who might be finding the Christmas season difficult.
December 24, 2009	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service for people of all ages with a child-friendly message.
	10:30 p.m.	Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
December 25, 2009	10:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Service
December 27, 2009	10:00 a.m.	Regular Sunday Service Guest Preacher: Archbishop Douglas Hambidge



FAREWELL TO THE HOSKINS

Please be sure to mark Sunday, January 24th on your calendar as we gather to say farewell to Jonathan, Cindy and Adriana Hoskin. Although Jonathan's last Sunday at Holy Trinity will not be until January 31st, the absence of some members of our church community that Sunday (attending Break Forth in Edmonton) prompted us to choose to hold the farewell a week early. We wanted to make sure that as many people as possible from our community could be present. The farewell Pot-Luck luncheon will be held in the Parish Hall immediately following our Sunday morning service. Please bring your favourite dish—whether it be a main course, a salad or a dessert—with enough food to feed your family and one other family.

Please continue to keep Jonathan, Cindy and Adriana in your prayers and let us all join together on January 24th in wishing them well as they prepare to begin another chapter in their lives.

THE MARRIAGE COURSE

How to build a healthy marriage that lasts a lifetime

Starting on Sunday, January 10 from 6:15 pm to 9pm Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Hanson Ranch will once again be offering—*The Marriage Course*. Over seven Sunday evenings couples share a candlelit meal with each other and talk about important issues that often can get swept under the carpet in the rush of daily life. Topics include: recognizing each other's needs, learning to communicate effectively, resolving conflict, healing past hurt, knowing how to make each other feel loved, relating to parents and in-laws, good sex, making time for each other and having fun together.

Privacy as a couple is always respected. There is no group discussion and no requirement to disclose anything about your relationship to anyone else. The setting is welcoming, relaxed and unthreatening.

The course, while based on Christian principles, is very helpful for any couple with or without a Christian faith or church background, so feel free to invite any friends, even if they do not attend church.



Take a look at what some people are saying about The Marriage Course:
"We have further opened our marriage for dialogue and have grown even closer." Chris from Calgary

"Absolutely loved this course" Darlene from Calgary

"The course has brought many things out in our relationship that have and will continue to enhance our marriage!" participant from Calgary

For more information or to register for *The Marriage Course* please go to the Holy Trinity web page www.holytrinitycalgary.org and follow *The Marriage Course* link or sign up on the sheet provided in the church foyer. The cost for the course including the meals and the participant manuals is \$125.00.

ANNOUNCING THE HOLY TRINITY PARISH WEEKEND MAY 7-9, 2010

Mark your calendars for what promises to be a great weekend away. After a hiatus of a couple of years, Holy Trinity is pleased to announce that we will once again be holding a Parish Weekend at Camp Kuriakos, near Sylvan Lake. This will be a great time to get away with the family and to share in worship, teaching, fellowship and fun with other members of our church community. Along with a program for the adults, there will be a program for the



children and the opportunity for people to have some fun out on the lake--there is even a sauna to help melt away stress. The camp provides a good meeting space and accommodation and there may even be a possibility for people who have trailers to bring those with them to the camp. Stay tuned for further details and for registration forms as the weekend is likely to fill up quickly.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

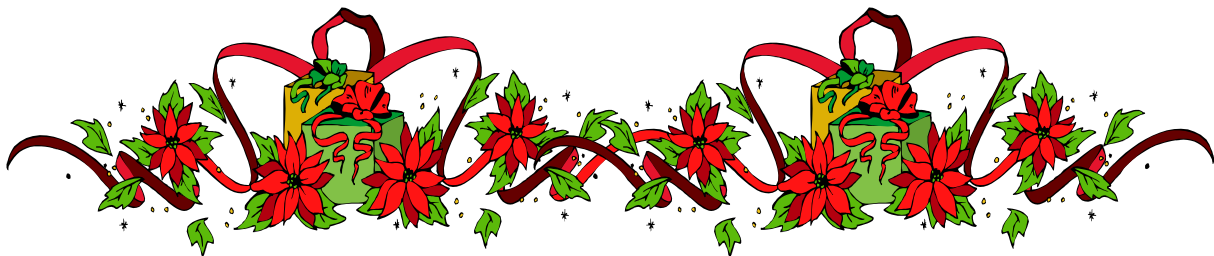
Our Annual General Meeting for the year ending 2009 will be held after church on Sunday, February 7th preceded by a potluck lunch. At this meeting we will review reports from the various ministries within our church, review and pass a budget for the coming year, elect new members to serve on our Parish Vestry (Board) and spend some time looking ahead to God's call to us for the future. Everyone from the parish is encouraged to attend this important meeting and is encouraged to continue to pray for our church as we seek God's direction for 2008. Ministry Heads are asked to have end-of-year Ministry Reports into the church office by Sunday, January 17th so that we can compile and distribute them to each member of the church.

PROJECTION MINISTRY NEW MEMBERS NEEDED

At Holy Trinity we would like to increase the size of our Projection Ministry. Currently there are two people who serve in this ministry and one will be stepping down from that position in the very near future. The Projection Ministry is an important Sunday ministry as it helps our worshipping community participate in our liturgy. The software that we currently use for our services is called MediaShout—a presentation program designed specifically for churches. With this program we can import songs (there is a huge song library), passages from the Bible (from a multitude of Bible translations) and we can add parts of our own liturgy as text files. Full motion backgrounds can also be added as a way of enhancing the presentation on a Sunday morning.

MediaShout is not a difficult program to use and in fact the only files that the Projection Ministry people add to a Sunday Service presentation are the songs that have been chosen by the music team. The rest of the service (responses, readings, announcements, etc.) have all been added to the Sunday presentation prior to Sunday morning. Training will be offered to anyone interested in joining this ministry so that you feel confident and comfortable before you offer yourself for your first service.

If you are interested in assisting in this ministry, please talk to Tom Ginn or let Pastor Stephen know so that training can be arranged.



MAINTENANCE MAN (OR WOMAN) NEEDED

Ministry Profile

By Rob Petkau

After about a year at the helm, maintenance ministry head Paul Wood has decided to hang up his tool belt.

“I feel that my work and family responsibilities are too great at this time,” he told Grapevine. “I had initially thought that when I took on a new position at work that I would have more time, but that has not been realized.”

The entire church community is grateful to Paul for his dedicated service – he masterminded last summer’s pigeon proofing of the roofing, and was instrumental in the success of the spring maintenance day, for examples.

But keeping the church building ship-shape is a high-priority item, and the church Corporation would like to encourage all parishioners to consider following in Paul’s steel-toed footsteps.

“I took this on because I saw there was kind of a hole there – the structure is seven years old, and I could see that things needed repair. I said, ‘Maybe I can try to co-ordinate a maintenance ministry,’” Paul says.

“This is a relatively new building, but that doesn’t mean it doesn’t need any work yet. It doesn’t take 15 years for wear and tear to start to show. There are things that happen all the time.”

The ministry head doesn’t need to be an expert in all – or any – of the building or maintenance-related trades, he notes. Paul is an accountant who spent time as a pipefitter’s helper in his young adulthood. But for the most part, he’s an avid tinkerer who picked up handyman skills organically. The maintenance ministry head isn’t expected to do all the work himself or herself, either, Paul notes.

“There are different needs for repair and maintenance, and the challenge is to develop a list of things that need to be attended to, and create a schedule of how often,” he explains.

The ministry head’s role also includes compiling a list of parishioners with maintenance-related skills who are willing to donate their time and expertise to the church’s upkeep.

“For some tasks, we’ll need professionals in those areas, to make sure things are done right. But there are tons of other things that can be done by people who go through life and learn how to do things,” Paul says.

“Now, some jobs can’t be handled by volunteers – professional or amateur – so we ought to have a formal list of the best journeymen we could hire on short notice to expeditiously tackle those tasks.”

If you have any skills that you can offer the church, if you have questions or if you’re interested in taking on the maintenance ministry leadership – please email corporation@holyltrinitycalgary.org



TEAM FROM HOLY TRINITY HEADING TO SIERRA LEONE

Over the past few years a number of people from Holy Trinity have participated in mission trips to others parts of the world. Some of these missions have been undertaken individually by members of our congregation while other missions have involved a team sent from our church community. Upon their return, people have reported the many ways in which God ministered through them and to them through their contact with people from other countries.

Many people will remember the report Dave Matthews gave in July of this year, of his mission trip to Sierra Leone through his association and involvement with Youth With A Mission. During his talk, Dave spoke about a call to return to Sierra Leone, but this time to take a team from Holy Trinity with him. We are pleased to report that six people from our church will be joining Dave on a mission trip to Sierra Leone in May of 2010. They will be connecting with the mission organization called Mission Direct and will be participating in the construction of a facility in Freetown, the country's capital city. There will be further information about the mission trip coming out in the New Year, including ways in which people from our church community can support our team members through prayer, finances and fundraising projects. One of the events that we are keen to be hosting will be a silent auction (date TBA) which will help offset some of the costs for the team members. Please give some thought to an item or items that you might be able to donate to the Silent Auction.



Please stay tuned for further information about the Sierra Leone Mission and consider ways in which you might become a partner in that project.

HELP NEEDED FOR MUSTARD SEED

Dec 28 & Dec 30

We are still in need of some more people to help us with our Mustard Seed Ministry this month. We will be cooking at the church on Monday, December 28th starting at 6pm and then serving at The Mustard Seed on Wednesday, December 30th. People are still needed for both of these days. Please consider whether you might be able to help out in this important ministry as we reach out to those who are hungry within our city.

Those who are interested in assisting are asked to sign up on the sheet provided in the church foyer, call Sheila at the church office 275-3630 or email her at office@holytrinitycalgary.org.