



THE GRAPEVINE

<p>The Newsletter of HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH 18 Hidden Creek Road N.W. Calgary, AB</p>	<p>December 2006</p>
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From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends,

What a wonderful fall this has been at Holy Trinity! Since the last issue of *The Grapevine* many things have happened and we have so much to give thanks to God for. At the beginning of October we celebrated our 25th anniversary as a congregation. God has led this church from the time it was first planted and He continues to lead us. At the service of celebration on October 1st it was a real joy to hear different people from our congregation talk about how the ministry of this church has impacted them over the years

The following Sunday—Thanksgiving Sunday—we listened during our service as many people shared things that they wanted to give thanks to God for during the past year. It was a blessing to hear the thanksgivings of members of our church as we reminded ourselves that “our cup overflows” with the blessings of God.

At the end of October it was a joy and a privilege to attend the 28th Annual Covenant Awards Ceremony held here in Calgary. I was so proud of our music team when their name was called announcing that they had won the award for Best Seasonal Album of the Year for *Christmas Presence*. They worked very hard putting that album together and they were recognized by the Canadian Christian music industry for their efforts. What blessed me even more was the fact that this wasn't what they had in mind when they made the album. They weren't looking for fame in any sense; instead, their plan all along was to put an album together with the hope that it could be used as an outreach tool to people who felt far from God. The album is a great witness to the love the team has for the Lord and the desire they have that others come to know God's love. May I encourage you to use the album as an “quiet” outreach to your family and friends.

October and November saw us go through the 40 Days of Purpose Parish Mission. What a blessing it was for so many people! We gathered each Sunday to listen to a new theme each week. We then did some reading each day and many people from our church community gathered together in small groups to talk about what they were learning. You blessed me so much by your response to the invitation to join small groups. I had hoped (and I thought I might be being a bit ambitious) for 100 people in small groups and we had over 120! Thank you so much! I understand that it was such a good experience for so many that the majority of small groups are going to continue meeting. Thank you, God!

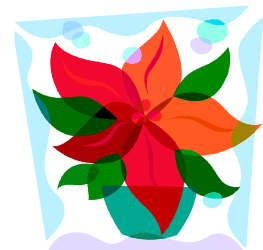
One of the added blessings of 40 Days was the fact that many people offered themselves to ministries that we are doing at the church and there were even some new ministries that are about to start. Some of the small groups have also volunteered to reach out together in ministry and this too is such a blessing!

So what is ahead? Well, we have just entered Advent and are just a few weeks away from Christmas. During this time we are called to prepare ourselves—not just for remembering the gift of Jesus to this world as a baby many years ago, but also to prepare ourselves for his coming again. The Scriptures tell us that Jesus will come again and we are challenged to be ready for that glorious day. How ready are we for that day? How ready are you? I encourage you in the midst of the busyness of the season to take some time to pause. Don't let the busyness crowd out the real significance of what God has done for you and for me. He sent His son, Jesus, as a gift for you. What will be your gift to Him?

Thanks for this fall, and I look forward to the New Year to see what God has planned for us. May you experience an ever deepening relationship with Christ this Christmas season and may you experience His peace and His blessing.

Yours in Christ,

Stephen



Christmas Presence Wins Covenant Music Award!

At the 28th Annual Covenant Music Awards Ceremony held at Centre Street Church in Calgary, the Holy Trinity music team won the award for Best Seasonal Album of the Year for their CD entitled Christmas Presence. This CD features traditional Christmas carols presented in a fresh and upbeat way. The CD—and more particularly Bethany Vanderputten--was also nominated for Best Artwork/CD Design.



The Covenant Music Awards are sponsored by the Canadian Gospel Music Association and are awarded yearly to deserving recipients across the country. Please join us in congratulating our music team on their first ever Covenant Music Award! If you would like to see a video clip of them receiving the award go to: <http://kiwirev.wordpress.com/2006/10/29/gma-covenant-awards/>

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	HOLY TRINITY 101
<p>Our Annual General Meeting for the year ending 2006 will be held after church on Sunday, February 4th 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 2007. Ministry Heads are asked to have end-of-year Ministry Reports into the church office by Sunday, January 21st so that we can compile and distribute them to each member of the church.</p>	<p>Starting on Sunday, January 28 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>If you are interested in attending this short course, please sign up on the sheet provided in the foyer.</p> <p>Members of the church who are interested in assisting at HT 101 are asked to contact Pastor Stephen.</p>



SMALL GROUPS MULTIPLY AT HOLY TRINITY!

One of the blessings that we experienced during our recent 40 Days of Purpose Parish Mission was the start of many new small groups to our church community. Previously we had 4 small groups with approximately 35 people involved; however, 7 new small groups formed for 40 Days of Purpose! Altogether we had over 120 adults from our congregation participating in small groups and many people reported at the conclusion of 40 Days, that one of the highlights for them was the fact that they had the opportunity to gather together with others from our church community. Through the small groups, people found that they were able to meet other people in our church that they did not already know. Others reported that they had the opportunity to discuss things relating to faith in a deeper way than they had experienced before, and still others reported their appreciation for the fact that they could talk about things that they were going through in their lives and could receive support and prayer from a small group of fellow Christians. Through the small groups many people have felt as though they have been drawn deeper into the church community and many have felt very encouraged.

Another related blessing is that many of the groups have decided that they would like to continue meeting. Some groups have decided to meet three times a month, while other groups have decided to meet twice a month for further study, fellowship, support and service. At Holy Trinity, we hope that our small groups will continue to grow and that there will come a time when everybody in our church is plugged into a small group community.

If you haven't yet participated in a small group and you would like to consider joining one, please send an email to: smallgroups@holyltrinitycalgary.org and we will do our best to help you get connected to a group that will fit with your schedule.



VESTRY 2007

At our Annual General Meeting in February we will once again be electing a new Vestry (Church Board) to serve in our church. The Vestry is a group of people called by the congregation to help lead the church forward in its mission and ministry. It consists of ten people from the congregation as well as the Pastor. These people normally serve on the Vestry for a period of two years. It is essential that Vestry members be people of prayer who are committed both to God and to ministry within our church. It is also important that they have a desire to seek the guidance and direction of God for the church and do not see ministry on the Vestry as a way to push their own agenda. To be eligible to serve on the Vestry, people need to have been attending Holy Trinity for at least six months or participated in Holy Trinity 101.

Please pray that God will raise up the people that He wants to serve in this ministry. If you are wondering whether God might be calling you to serve in such a way, and would like help to further discern His will, please feel free to talk to Stephen or any member of the Vestry.

THE MARRIAGE COURSE

How to build a healthy marriage
that lasts a lifetime

Starting on Sunday, January 14 from 6:15 pm to 9 pm we 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 anybody you think might benefit.

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

"It...gave me the confidence to take on the major issues head on, knowing that other couples have faced the same and conquered." Glenn from Hidden Valley

"The food was excellent, [and] the video portion was great at explaining the concepts" Wendy from Coventry Hills

You can register for the course via the Marriage Course link on our church website www.holytrinitycalgary.org, or by signing up on the sheet provided in the church foyer. Space is limited so don't delay.

ANNOUNCING HOLY TRINITY PHOTO DIRECTORY

Are there people at Holy Trinity that you see each Sunday but you don't know their names? Are there people you've been introduced to before, but you've forgotten their names? We want to make things easier for you. It has now been four years since our last Holy Trinity Photo Directory and there have been many people new to the church since then, so it is time to go ahead with a new pictorial directory. On January 9-10 we will be having a professional photographer come to the church to take family portraits for our pictorial directory. Every family that has their picture taken will receive a free copy of the pictorial directory. At the back of the directory there will also be a church contact list. Although there will be absolutely no obligation to purchase any photographs of your family, there will also be opportunity to do so if you desire.

We are hoping to get everybody from the parish into our new photo directory so please mark those dates down in your calendar. There will be a sign-up sheet available after church on Sunday, December 10th for you to book your appointment for your portrait to be taken. Those who don't manage to sign-up will be contacted to arrange an appointment. Alternatively, you can call Sheila at our church office Tuesday to Friday between the hours of 9 and noon to arrange an appointment.



UPCOMING SERVICES AT HOLY

December 17, 2006

10:00 a.m. - Sunday Service—3rd Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2006

10:00 a.m. - Sunday Service—4th Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2006

7:00 p.m.—Christmas Eve Service for people of all ages with a child-friendly message.

10:30 p.m.—Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

December 25, 2006

10:00 a.m.—Christmas Day Service

December 30, 2006

10:00 a.m.—Regular Sunday Service - On this Sunday we will welcome The Rev. Phil Behman who will be leading our service.

GLUTEN FREE COMMUNION WAFERS

At Holy Trinity we have become aware that there are a few people in our church community that are allergic to gluten or wheat and therefore are not able to fully participate in communion. Therefore we have decided to offer an alternative each Sunday. Effective immediately, you may choose between a regular wafer or a rice cracker at communion.

If you have an allergy and need a rice cracker we ask that you come to the front during communion and let the person administering the bread know that you need a rice cracker. The communion administrant will then turn to the altar so that they can get the plate of rice crackers and will then hold the plate out to you so that you can pick up one of the rice crackers before proceeding to receive the wine or the grape juice. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please let Pastor Stephen know.



AN UPDATE FROM OUR MISSION PARTNER—DAVE MATTHEWS

To the people of Holy Trinity:

I just wanted to pass along a quick hello and wish everyone a merry Christmas. Life in Texas is going well and although it has taken me sometime to adjust from life in Orlando I am doing well and enjoying being here.



If you aren't aware of what I'm up to these days, I'm in Tyler Texas taking some time to learn a bit more about the bible and how to teach others from it. I have struggled in the past on the mission field of how to best convey the truth of the bible, at times not even knowing enough to speak on an issue. I am hoping that this season will give me some more strength and confidence to speak out the love that God has for all of us and expressed to us through the bible. I miss you all a great deal. I am coming home to Calgary for a few days during Christmas and hope to get a chance to connect then, although please understand if I don't get a chance as it is a very short visit.

God bless! Yours In Christ,

Dave Matthews

AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE MINISTRY



An Automotive Service Ministry is now available at Holy Trinity. This ministry offers minor repairs such as: Brakes, steering and suspension, cooling system, electrical and light engine work. The work will be done by a Licensed Technician. You provide the parts and pay what you can for labour. All proceeds will go towards parts and tools to help others in need.

For further information contact Tim Clark @ 660-8656.



NEW TO HOLY TRINITY: HAVE A COFFEE WITH THE BEERS

By Rob Petkau

When St. Gabriel's Anglican Church closed in 2004, Scott Beer lost his spiritual home of more than 30 years. In August, he found a new one, when he walked through the doors of Holy Trinity.

Scott and his wife Saori and their daughter Haruna, 2, were looking for a new church, and friends suggested they try out the northernmost Anglican facility in Calgary.



"There are lots of young families and activities for kids here. It's very inviting," says Saori. "I like the fact the church is so involved with the community, through things like Inn From the Cold." Scott likes Pastor Stephen Hambidge's personal, practical approach to preaching and leadership. And from a practical perspective, Holy Trinity's

building is close enough to Chez Beer to be convenient. He's glad to be putting down roots at the church, after his longtime parish closed abruptly in 2004.

"I attended the same church in Calgary from the time I was a kid in 1972 until it closed in 2004. Saori came to that church. That's where we got married, and that's where Haruna was baptized," says Scott.

"After St. Gabriel's closed, it was a pretty big shock for a lot of people. I know people to this day who haven't returned to any church, because they're still sorting out where they want to be."

Saori's journey to Christianity is somewhat different. Born and raised in Japan, her family was Buddhist, but they sent her to a Christian school for eight years. She embraced the faith, learned English from a Canadian missionary and decided to pay a visit to the country in 1993. She was taking English as a second language courses at Mount Royal College, while Scott ran a company that, among other things, helped connect foreign students with the institution. Saori wasn't one of his clients, but they moved in similar circles. Eventually, those circles became concentric and romance blossomed.

Today, Scott works for Starchoice Communications in dealer support, while Saori is a social worker with Aspen Family and Community Network Society.

While Holy Trinity's large congregation provides the resources to offer a vast array of programs, it can be tough in such a large group to have a true feeling of community, Scott says. He hopes to connect with many other members of the church family.

"We're always interested in getting to know more of the people in the congregation, so at coffee time after the service, don't hesitate to stop and say hi," he invites.

Stephen Ministry Pastoral Care Just who is this Stephen and what is Stephen Ministries?

Stephen Ministries was named after Stephen, the first layperson the Apostles asked to care for the needs of that early congregation (Acts 6: 1-6). Stephen Ministries was started in 1975 by a St. Louis pastor, Dr. Kenneth Haugk, who called on his laypeople to help as Christian caregivers. He developed a complete training system in order that laypeople feel confident in their role as pastoral care givers.

There are times in each of our lives when we experience challenges – times when we could benefit from the support of a caring Christian friend. Stephen Ministers are ready to provide the emotional and spiritual care we need when faced with a crisis or difficulty, or when we just need someone to talk to.

Stephen Ministers receive 50 hours of Christian caregiving training. They are well trained to provide pastoral care to people in need. Once the initial training is complete they continue to meet for continuing education and supervision. Stephen Ministers listen, pray, encourage, care, visit and bring Christ's love and care to others.

At Holy Trinity, Stephen Hambidge, our pastor, will always be on the front lines of pastoral care, especially during times of crisis. But there are always many more needs for ongoing care, care that can be provided by the pastoral care team, a team which has received specialized training for this ministry.

We will be hosting an **information evening on Tuesday February 6, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.** at the church. You will have an opportunity to learn more about Stephen Ministries. We will begin the next 50 hour training session in March 2007 and it will finish in June 2007. Training will take place on Tuesday evenings and we will also have two training retreat weekends.

Perhaps during the 40 Days of Purpose, you began to explore your spiritual gifts and ways you could become involved in ministries. If you are a compassionate person and a good listener, I would ask that you prayerfully consider becoming part of this pastoral care ministry.

If you feel as though you might benefit from the confidential one-to-one care and support of a Stephen Ministry Pastoral Caregiver, then I would encourage you to speak with Stephen, our pastor or one of the Stephen Leaders, or contact the church office.

Please feel free to approach any one of us in the coming weeks with any questions you may have. The Stephen Leaders at Holy Trinity are: Bob McKenzie, Carol Sheehan, Dwayne White and myself.

Peace in Christ,
Pat Morris

MINISTRY PROFILE: PRAYER CHAIN PROVIDES VITAL LINK

By Rob Petkau

If ever you find yourself in need of God's help, a 17-member team stands ready to lend its collective voice to your cause.

Holy Trinity's Prayer Chain ministry works quietly, under the leadership of head Rob Henderson.

"The main purpose is being prayed for by a number of people. In the scriptural promises, when two or three agree in prayer, it adds that much more faith," Rob says. "I know God hears everybody's prayer, but just having the community come together in prayer, we do see people being able to move through their crisis and come out on the other end."

People can simply email him at henderrob@shaw.ca or prayerchain@holyltrinitycalgary.org with their prayer requests, and he'll forward them to other chain members.

"People pass me prayer requests, and I write out a copy of their request on email, add my own little prayer to it and we forward it to the 17 others that are on the list. Each one of them prays over it, and I add it to my personal prayer list, and it stays on there for a period of time – three or four months."

Submissions often pertain to illness or injury and work-related issues. But no job is too big or too small, Rob notes.

"It can be any major need that a person has. It's generally any need that somebody feels can benefit from prayer. It's also confidential.

"This is just an extension of the prayer that's offered here at church after the service, and it's part of the prayer thing that goes on in the church. There's a group that meets here Mondays at the front of the church to pray. It's all sort of inter-related."

Prayer Chain is a natural fit for Rob, a retired Canada Post supervisor who is studying to become an oblate – sort of a lay-monk – with the Order of Julian of Norwich. This Anglican order is rooted in contemplative prayer.

"This fits the lifestyle," Rob says.

The ministry receives two or three requests a week, and there's room for plenty more. The chain could also use more links.

"I'd love more members. The only thing they have to do is send me an email saying they want to join. The only requirement is to add people to their own requests for a week or so. Anybody who wants to be on it is welcome on it."

