

The Grapevine



JUNE 2008

Holy Trinity Anglican Church
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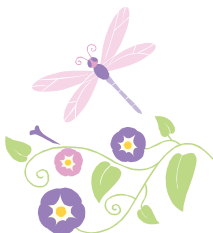
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PASTOR JONATHAN AWAY

Pastor Jonathan is currently away on holidays until July 22, 2008. Please remember Pastor Jonathan and his family in prayer for a safe and restful holiday.

We also would like to continue to pray for Pastor Stephen and his family as he continues with his Sabbatical leave.



HOLY TRINITY CONTACTS

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Church Administrator:

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Kidz Choice Preschool:

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Gal. 6:9

As the new season has finally seemed to arrive (though the amount of rain still suggests Springtime, to me) my mind is drawn to the various kinds of seasons that touch our lives in different ways. There are, of course, the four seasons of the year (summer, fall, winter, spring); there are different seasons in the course of our lives (childhood, adulthood, parenthood, retirement); there are different seasons in our religious life (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost). It just so happens that for the first time in my life, I am at the beginning of a summer/parenthood/Pentecost season – and what a way to start it off with a bang, with Father's Day!

It has been posited by various people that our moods change with the weather – and that people are generally more mellow during the wintertime because they aren't getting as much sunlight, and the days are just shorter. If this is true, then the summer should be a time of heightened emotions and excitement. The summer is generally thought of as a joyful time of the year – maybe it's because we get to spend more time with family (children are out of school), or maybe it's just a throwback to our memories of being children ourselves, when we loved summer because we didn't have to go to school! At any rate, lack of school might seem to be a factor in that – I know it was for me!

But there is also a danger about summer – and I don't mean deer on the highway, or bears in the campground! How many times has it been said, at the end of summer, "Already!?" The summer can be such an amazing time for people, but can be so easily passed by without drinking it in deeply. So this summer, I encourage you to drink it in. Don't be someone who says, "Well, summer's here so things should be great, and easy." And then doesn't think about how they're going. Take the time to appreciate this "great" and "easy" time. It is a gift from God – thank Him for that!

Our lives can pass through summers – times of great warmth of emotion, times of great heights of love; they can also pass through winters – times of numbness, times of being closed to others. If you're going through a winter-time, emotionally, in your life right now then my prayer for you is that God would bring you, again, to the summer. If you're going through a summer-time, emotionally, in your life right now then my prayer for you is that God would give you grace that you wouldn't take it for granted, but would thank Him for His goodness towards you and drink deeply of His goodness.

Last year at this time I was in that 'adulthood' season of life (quite different from 'childhood,' in various ways), yet this year I have hit that 'parenthood' season. As I said in a recent interview, I don't expect that Adriana will be doing anything particular for me this time around – though in years to come she probably will. And so it should be, as that 'parenthood' season matures. What an incredible gift from God children are! Reminding us of our past (to say "thanks" to our own parents, for all they put up with, with us), carrying our personalities and values to the future with them (in whatever form they rub off). God gives us children as a heritage – and that's something to return thanks for! The thing that has struck me most about becoming a parent is that God has this small child, Adriana, and has entrusted her to my care for her formation, and to facilitate her introduction to Him – who is the source of life. A wondrous charge, indeed!

Thirdly, it is Pentecost season – the time set apart in the Church when we employ ourselves with remembering and studying the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. It could be the fault of the clergy, that this season of the year is sometimes not given the



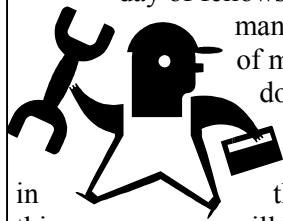
emphasis or the importance that it is due. But as Christians, the work of the Holy Spirit is so important to us! If it weren't for the Holy Spirit's work in my life, or in your life, none of us could even have been brought to the place where we could say 'yes' to the Lord's call to us. If it weren't for the Holy Spirit's work in our lives, we would have no hope of meeting God's righteous standards and desires for us – yet as His Spirit works in us the work of sanctification, we are more and more transformed into His likeness. What an amazing gift God has given us, that we should be called His children, and even be on the road to resembling His children!

So these are the three seasons that are crossroaded in my life right now – what seasons are you dealing with right now? Are they seasons of thankfulness, or of desperation? of sacrifice, or of abundance? of change, or of stability? How is God leading you in these, and how are you responding to His call? Know that my prayers are with you, as I am on vacation, and that I am

Yours in Him who strengthens us,
Pastor Jonathan+

A Great BIG THANK YOU!

A special word of thanks goes out to the people of our church who came out and helped with the church cleanup day. We had a great day of fellowship and completed



in this

and its property to keep track of what items need repair or replace and to liason with the Wardens to ensure that they are able to be done and necessary costs can be properly accounted for in the budget. We are looking for 1-2 people to work with Paul Wood on this ministry. Anyone interested, please contact him at 275-2771

many tasks and ware aware of more that needs to be done.

We will be starting a Maintenance Ministry the fall. The function of this

CHURCH BARBEQUE

You are invited!!!

The Vestry (a.k.a. Church Board) would like to invite everybody at Holy Trinity to Vestry-hosted BBQ lunch after church on Sunday,

September 7th. After our regular 10:00 a.m. service we will gather on the back deck for hamburgers, hot dogs and something to drink.



This will be a great opportunity for us to gather back together as a

whole church community in order to reconnect with one another after our summer vacations. Do don't forget to mark that day on your calendar.

We look forward to seeing you there!!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

The Bishop is coming! The Bishop is coming! The Rt. Rev. Derek Hoskin, Bishop of the Diocese of Calgary, will return to Holy Trinity Anglican Church on October 19, 2008.



Bishop Hoskin—uncle to several Holy Trinity parishioners (including Pastor Jonathan) last visited Holy Trinity in the spring. In October, he will celebrate the confirmation of several of the parish's young people.



HT family is Taylor-made for animal care

By Rob Petkau

Aaron, Karen and Callum Taylor come to Holy Trinity to connect with G-O-D, but at home, they're devoted to D-O-G.

In addition to having two canines of their own – a German Shepherd cross and bichon-shih-tzu – they foster dogs for the Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF).

“We've been doing it for about two years, and we've had 34-35 dogs go through our home in that time,” says Aaron. “They used to stay two weeks to a month, but we've been deemed the house that takes the high-needs dogs, so they stay a lot longer.”

Karen, who also sits on the ARF board, sees their work with bowzers as service to the animals, to society and ultimately, to God.

“I think animals are God's creatures, too. Seeing them come into our home kind of beat down and be able to give them some love, it's amazing to see the difference you can make.”

Aaron and Karen started caring for a different small mammal on May 7, when their son Callum was born.

Juggling the needs of three dogs and a newborn baby is proving less difficult than it might sound, Aaron says.

“With our current foster dog, it works well. She's pretty high needs, but she doesn't want your attention. But with most other dogs, it would be more difficult.”

While the Taylors remain committed to contributing to ARF, they might take a break from dog fostering after the current pooch finds a permanent home and focus on the two-legged addition to their family for a while.

“I've wanted to be a mom all my life, so I'm really excited to be in that spot,” says Karen, who is on maternity leave from her job as a registered nurse at the Alberta Children's Hospital mental health ward. Aaron, a community recreation co-ordinator with the city, says he isn't as comfortable with parenting as Karen, but he's learning as he goes.

“Aaron's doing a great job,” Karen counters. “He's one of these guys who's never been comfortable holding other people's babies, but when ours came, he was pretty comfortable right away – changing him, doing whatever needs to be done.”



Aaron grew up in Grande Prairie and Karen is from Swift Current, SK, and most of their loved ones are still in those cities. That's why they're glad to be part of the community at Holy Trinity.

“Now, with Callum and lots of other babies being born, that's opened up lots of other opportunities to connect with people in the church.”

Aaron and Karen met through friends at Centre Street Church, and started attending Holy Trinity soon after they got married in the summer in 2006.

“We were looking for a smaller church that's more family oriented. Proximity was also a factor, because we moved to Evanston, which is a lot closer to Holy Trinity,” says Aaron, who attended a United Church until his early teens.

“I grew up in an Anglican church, so I feel really comfortable here,” says Karen. “And it's neat that there are so many young families and kids running around.”

CONNECTING KIDS WITH CHRIST

By Rob Petkau

You'll rarely hear the words 'Sunday school' uttered in Holy Trinity Anglican Church, and there's a good reason for that.

"Children go to school from Monday to Friday, and I wanted to get away from the kids feeling like they're going to school on Sunday," says Mandy Hambidge, co-ordinator of Holy Trinity's Kidz Zone program.

"I didn't want these connotations – that you sit still and don't move and speak only when spoken to – to be associated with it. Not that anything goes, but I think there needs to be a bit more freedom. I don't want kids to feel like it's another day of school."

The strategy has clearly paid off. Dozens of children gleefully dash to the four Kidz Zone classes each week, and numbers are only going up.

"We're very blessed to see such growth," Mandy says. "It would be nice to break up the two middle classes (preschool-kindergarten and Grades 1-3), but the reality is we don't have enough teachers to do that. We really need to pray for new teachers."

Teaching Kidz Zone isn't for everyone, but it's not as difficult as you may think, she says. The program uses the David C. Cook curriculum, which is simple and straightforward, but allows for creativity by both teachers and students.

"We try to fit the lessons to the children. We try to make sure we allow for questions and discovery on the children's part – we're trying to get the kids to really think about God."

A team of teachers rotates in and out of each Kidz Zone class, which exposes the children to multiple perspectives, while ensuring that instructors still get to spend some Sundays in the sanctuary.

"It's integral that as teachers, we're in church, too. I think it's important that kids see that church is important to us."

Kidz Zone aims to give its teachers July and August off, but the ministry doesn't shut down in the summer months.



"We invite other members of the congregation to take a turn teaching Kidz Zone during the summer – maybe they want to try it out to see if they want to become regular teachers, or maybe they just want to pitch in to give the teachers a break.

"A lot of people move into new homes and try out different churches in the summer, so it's important for us to provide a Kidz Zone program in July and August, to help them feel comfortable here," Mandy says.

Kidz Zone could use more teachers, but you don't have to take on sole responsibility in a classroom to lend a hand to this vital ministry. Adults and members of the church's

youth group also serve as helpers, providing much needed assistance to the classroom leaders.

Mandy started co-ordinating Kidz Zone more than five years ago, but has been involved in Sunday schools for three decades.

"The exciting part is seeing kids come to understand Jesus and what it means to be his disciple," she says. "Seeing children come to faith is such a joy. Seeing their eyes light up about the word of God, to see things clicking and to see changes in kids' thinking."

She hopes more parishioners consider teaching or helping out in Kidz Zone, but notes that there are other ways to support the ministry.

"Support the teachers. To go up to a teacher some Sunday and say, 'Thank you for all the work you do for the kids,' would really go a long way."