

# DAYSRING DAYBOOK

Monthly Newsletter of Dayspring Presbyterian Church, 11445-40 Ave, Edmonton, AB, CAN, T6J 0R4

September 2017

## On Gratitude

What are you grateful for?

Gratitude is at the heart of Christian generosity. We give in response to the grace of God. Hopefully, gratitude is one of the primary reasons we are part of a community of faith and care.

In the absence of gratitude, life can be anxiety-provoking and all about survival. Gratitude keeps our lives centered on God's ongoing faithfulness and the truth that the world belongs to God, not to us. Faith in God and gratitude for God's love can inspire generosity and care in our world.

Are you grateful for the opportunity to give of your financial resources to the Church and to some of the many deserving charitable organizations? Do you believe this is an important ministry for God? Do you aspire to reach the place where the core of your living becomes "gratitude?"

We are challenged to be grateful; to do everything in response to God's grace; to give our money and our acts of leadership in the Church and in the wider community in response to God's grace.

*John Carr*



Alleluia Choir



## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Every once in a while God allows you to stub your toe as a kind reminder to be grateful for the miraculous body attached to it."

- Richelle E. Goodrich

**(Smile Anyway)**

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Nathan with the children during Children's Time

## Congregational Fundraising

Dayspring Church needs money in order to be able to function – money to look after our church building (a centre for worship and service); money to pay the salaries of our minister and church staff; money to run programs; and money to reach out with care to our local communities, other Canadian communities, and the wider world community.

Dayspring generates some revenue from rentals – but most of the money required must come from the members of the congregation.

More than a few persons who have become part of the Dayspring community of faith and care have been known to think that “the government” funds churches. That isn't so. Churches do not pay property and education taxes and clergy housing is a non-taxable benefit but those are the only government benefit churches receive.

So – if members of the congregation do not give of their financial resources to the church, the church does not have money to pay its bills and, even more importantly, does not have money to reach out in mission.

By the way, there is an excellent booklet on Stewardship at the Dayspring Website. Just go to <http://dayspringchurch.ca/about-dayspring/encouraging-stewardship/>.



## Learning How to Be a Steward of Financial Resources

by *John Carr*

I arrived at the University of Toronto for my first year (of six years) with lots of money in the bank. I had had a part-time job since Grade 8 and had received some scholarships and bursaries. I also had the benefit and blessing of being able to live at Knox College while studying for three years at University College and then for a further three years at Knox College – and the Presbyterian Church in Canada subsidized my housing costs during all six years.

However, by the end of my first year, I had “gone through” a lot of money – and really did not know where it had gone. A plan needed to be put in place to ensure that I would be able to complete my studies.

But where to start? I would have money from summer employment at home in Sarnia and, for a couple of summers, as a student minister.. During the school year, I had a part-time job as a library clerk in the University College Reading Room. And I was doing some Sunday Pulpit Supply for which I received honoraria. Cash resources were variable and most expenses were reasonably predictable. But I needed an organizing principle in order to create a workable budget.

Some people might think that the organizing principle I used was quite foolish or unrealistic.

I decided that I would give, on a weekly basis, ten per cent (a tithe) to the church. I based the calculation of my “tithe” on what I had left after my first year of college and on an estimate of what I expected to “earn” during the remaining five years of study. This organizing principle resulted in my being much more intentional about what I spent over and above my basic expenses (lodging and food, tuition, books, and transportation). I didn't have very much left in the bank when I graduated, got married (Marilyn was in a similar position, having been a student for a couple of years), and we set up our home in my first pastoral charge – but we had enough.

And we have always had “enough” – through 55 of marriage and family life that included 5 more years of graduate study, and working in the church and in the not-for-profit sector which paid 30-35% less in salaries than what we might otherwise have earned.

And we are grateful.

## FROM OUR MINISTER: Careful Spending

I have an idea that one of the things many of us find hard doing, is to spend carefully. To this dilemma there is also no easy answer.

The trend nowadays is to cave in to the possibilities of spending more than we earn. Credit cards and lines-of-credit all make this extremely easy. This works up to a point, and then a day arrives when it's virtually impossible to pay off any of the incurred debt.

When this trend reaches saturation, and the church makes a request for extra dollars to make ends meet, it can become hard, if not impossible, to make adjustments. This year we are in became such a year. For roughly twenty years we at Dayspring simply made our budget work and everybody was content and happy.

Three verses from Proverbs 30:7-9 come to mind :

*Two things I ask of you;*

*do not deny them to me before I die:*

*Remove far from me falsehood and lying;*

*give me neither poverty nor riches;*

*feed me with the food that I need,*

*or I shall be full, and deny you,*

*and say, "Who is the Lord?"*

*or I shall be poor, and steal,*

*and profane the name of my God.*

"How much do I need?" is the question that is implied. We need enough to be able to live. Being content eventually becomes the pathway towards happiness.

However much we are able to contribute to the ministry of the gospel that the Lord does through Dayspring remains a personal responsibility.

I conclude with the encouragement that the apostle Paul gave the folks in Corinth: *The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:6-7).*



*Heinrich*



Lynn with the children during Children's Time

## Celebrating Thanksgiving ...

During the last several years, Dayspring has evolved from being primarily white and middle class to being a multi-ethnic congregation comprising persons who have come to Canada from most of the world's continents. What a gift and blessing this has been!

Many of the more recently arrived participants in Dayspring's community of faith and care are from West Africa - where church members make a major gift to the church at Thanksgiving. For some churches, this Thanksgiving donation is the main source of financial support for the whole year.

Dayspring's 2017 Thanksgiving Service (October 8) will be organized around a presentation of offerings in which all members of the congregation are encouraged to participate with an extra, or even a major gift, if possible.

It is anticipated that the various leadership and ministry groups will come forward, in turn, to present their personal gifts and the gifts offered by their leadership team and/or ministry group. Then the rest of the congregation will come forward in family groups to place their offerings in the receptacle provided for that purpose. Personal gifts may include money and also a brief statement of the individual's or family's way of serving Christ in the wider community (e.g. by coaching soccer).

After the gifts have been presented, there will be a ritual in which the givers and their gifts will be blessed.

All members of the leadership and ministry teams and the congregation as a whole are invited to start thinking about how they will participate, about what their gift of money will be, and about the ways in which, through their activities of daily living, they offer their gift of service to Christ.

## More Than Enough *by John Stuart*

**Exodus 36:5** *And they said to Moses, "The people are bringing more than enough for doing the work the Lord commanded to be done." (NIV)*

It was a beautiful act of community generosity and a wonderful witness of God's people. Moses must have been pleased with the response that people gave to the request for money and materials to build the Holy Tabernacle. As a leader, Moses would have been gratified at how cheerfully the people gave and how effectively their resources could be used. As a man of faith, Moses must have felt proud that his people honored God in this respectful and generous way. In fact, the people gave so much, that Moses had to send out a special request to give no more because all that was needed had been provided by the community.

On Sunday mornings, the combined offering in many churches enables them to fulfill the ministries and missions that God calls each congregation to undertake. Individuals could not do it on their own, but **when the community of God's people pools their resources as a thankful free-will offering, they are not just being grateful for the blessings that God has given; they are also being good stewards of God's gifts.** If our society and civilization were to stop and think about how Christians throughout the world make the world a better place, perhaps they would better appreciate our faith. Billions of dollars are used in millions of ways to preach the Word, spread the Gospel, and continue Christ's ministry in every land across the globe.

Our contributions and generosity make Christ's churches better faith centres. Combining our gifts joyfully advances God's Kingdom on Earth.

**Point to ponder: How does MY giving contribute to Christ's ministry?**

*Adapted from an article posted at <https://glenkirk.blogspot.ca> on July 26, 2017, and used with permission. John Stuart is the Scottish-born pastor of Erin Presbyterian Church in Knoxville, Tennessee.*

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DayBook Deadlines

3rd Sunday of September, Oc-  
tober and June

2nd Sunday of December,

January, February,

March, April, and May

## SESSION

**Moderator:** Heinrich Grosskopf

**Session Clerk:** Darlene Eerkes

**Deputy Clerk:** Iris Routledge

**Roll Clerk:** Jim Jeatt

### Other Elders

Bill Davis                      Walters Munde

Jane de Caen                  Nick Nation

John Carr                      Stanley Ngwa

Ingrid Dukhedin-Lalla      Laura Patterson-

Peter Eerkes                      Fortin

Carina Grosskopf              Todd Shipman

Sam Jaikaran                  Darleen Springstein

Gina Kottke                      Heather Tansem

## MINISTER

The Rev. Dr. Heinrich Grosskopf

## CHURCH STAFF

**Church School Coordinator:** Lynn  
Vaughan

**Youth Coordinator:** Shane Johnson

**Worship Arts Coordinator**

Gordon McCrostie, B.Mus., M.T.S.

**Pianist:** Binaifer (Binu) Kapadia, B.Mus.

**Alternate Pianist**

Darolyn McCrostie, B.Mus., P.D.A.D.  
(Education)

**Administrative Assistant:** Linda

**Custodians:** Lindsey & Jim Matthew