

# DAYSRING DAYBOOK

Monthly Newsletter of Dayspring Presbyterian Church, 11445-40 Ave, Edmonton, AB, CAN, T6J0R4

April 2018

## Volunteers Make It Happen

The week of April 15 is National Volunteer Appreciation Week. That is why this issue focusses on volunteerism.

Dayspring has always been a congregation with a high degree of involvement - both in congregational activities and in the larger community.

A former minister told the story, at our 40th Anniversary banquet, of arriving at Dayspring and, shortly after his arrival, having a meeting with the Church School Superintendent. The newly ordained young minister expected that he would have a lot of work to do to get the Church School up and running. Instead, he discovered that the Superintendent, one of the Elders, had asked for the meeting simply to tell him that all of the teaching assignments for the ensuing year were "covered." The Superintendent just wanted the minister to know who would be doing what - and also wanted to give the minister an opportunity to have input if he had any ideas that would enhance the experience for the kids.

Dayspring, since the congregation's inception in 1969, has played a large role in providing volunteers as camp staff and for maintenance tasks at our denomination's Synod camp on Sylvan Lake - **Camp Kannawin**.

And many Dayspringers have been volunteers in the community as well as in church-related activities.

This issue about Dayspringer volunteerism is about the "spirit" that makes it possible for Dayspring to carry out its mission as a congregation and that enables our members, acting as individual missional-aries, to carry out their mission in the wider community.

- John Carr



### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*Everybody can be great. Because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve.... You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.*  
~Martin Luther King, Jr.

### In This Issue

- Volunteers Make it Happen
- Volunteering—What's in it for Me?
- Dayspring's Food Bank Depot
- From Our Minister: Giving of Ourselves by Volunteering
- The Double Value of Volunteer Service
- Volunteerism as Giving Back



Volunteers put up their hands when faced with a challenge



Foodbank Depot Setup in the Engelhart Room

## Volunteering - what is in it for me?

You ask me to volunteer. What is in it for me? Is that not the first question we ask when somebody approaches us and asks for a commitment to a voluntary organization. Why is it that most of us first want to know if we are going to gain by giving up our time for volunteering? Don't be selfish. That is the wrong approach. Just be prepared to help and have fun.

I been volunteering with the Edmonton Transit System Advisory Board (ETSAB) since 2012. I been attending a monthly board meeting and committed time to work on one or more of its subcommittees, up to 15 hours a month. The subcommittees are functioning like small research teams, doing research and investigations into critical aspects of the Edmonton Transit System. This includes researching or investigating facilities, safety, services, buses, Light Rail Train, and even art. Our latest research includes gondolas and cable cars as a means of mass transit. We tend to investigate all aspects of transit, asking critical questions, and suggest change for the improvement of transit for all walks of life. In the beginning, I just volunteered my time and tried to make a contribution from an engineering point of view, not expecting to gain anything.

After six years, I look back and what a pleasant surprise, I have gained so much, much more than I ever expected. I made new friends, expanded my support network, learned more about the city of Edmonton and how it functions, and I have grown as a person.

I am sure if I had focused in the beginning on what I will gain from volunteering with ETSAB then the gains would have been minimal, probably nothing really. I would not have put in effort without asking what I am getting in return. The result would have been very little benefit to either the organization or myself.

My advice to anybody considering volunteering with an organization: join up and just provide support where you can and do what you feel comfortable with; do not expect any praise and returns; but have fun and enjoy. Personal benefits will look after themselves, maybe not directly, sometimes indirectly.

The Good Samaritan volunteered his services without expecting any payment. He invested his time and money as a volunteer first responder. He gained more than he ever expected: he became a world renowned volunteer! Go out and enjoy volunteering wherever you find a good connection. You will gain much more than you ever thought possible. There is definitely much more in it for yourself than what money can buy.

- Izak Roux

## Dayspring's Food Bank Depot

Our food bank has been in operation since 1996 when it was coordinated by Duncan Ballantyne and Daphne Abbott. Jack and I started working with the depot in 1996 and then were asked to stay involved in 1997.

The service as a depot has been offered every Thursday since then and thanks to volunteers our depot has not been closed other than official holidays. At one time we were open from 4-5 pm however with an increased number of clients we are now open from 3:30-5 pm with the volunteers being there from 3pm to 5:30 pm.

At the beginning we provided food hampers for approximately 6-8 clients with a total number of hampers being about 12- 16 boxes. We were responsible for picking up the food hampers at the main food Bank Depot on 111 St north of Jasper Avenue and we could select extra bread and pastries to be distributed.

A donation of a freezer made it possible to store the extra bread products. If there is an oversupply of bread and fresh vegetable which are not used by the clients, a trip is made to the Youth Emergency Centre and they are able to use all that we take.

When it became apparent that our client numbers were increasing we approached the Food Bank to have the hampers delivered. During the years we have had a dedicated volunteer base to help provide the service. Doug and Lois Robbins were mainstay volunteers from the beginning including setting up the tables every Thursday.

We have seen a steady increase in the number of clients and we have capped the number at 20 clients which means anywhere from 40 - 50 boxes each week. We now have three volunteers every week to help. At present, we have willing volunteers to fulfill our hours every week.

It is a rewarding volunteer job as there is a great need to help those in need which includes the working poor and those unable to work and many new Canadians from many different countries.

As well as supporting the depot, Dayspring Congregation has contributed to the Food bank with Food Bank Drives, collecting empty egg cartons and grocery bags.

The food from the drives helps supply our food bank storage cupboard with food for the ministry team to hand out during the week if needed.

This has been a rewarding worthwhile project for the Mission of Dayspring and we thank everyone who has helped.

- Audrey Tod

## FROM OUR MINISTER: Giving of Ourselves by Volunteering

The light of Christ that we bear within ourselves is often fruitless if it only makes a difference in our own circles. Why does it need to bear fruit and make a difference outside of our own circle?

Perhaps the best way to describe it is by saying that the purpose of our lives has been affected in a way that brings some form of inspiration that is contagious. Christ has touched us and given us something we have no other choice than wanting to share it.

When we talk about volunteerism, we can easily be helping out in our own circles and that is a good place to start. The very act of choosing to volunteer is eventually a choice to make a difference. When we move out of our own comfort zone, there is the added benefit to that which has happened within us. The change moves out into the public sphere.

Now, when moving out and volunteering, the question also arises, "do I have to share my Christian faith?" I would venture to say "no, not necessarily." When a person is affected and inspired by Christ, it rubs off by itself. Simply by being, I make the difference.

By being part of the wider community we acknowledge that no man or woman is an island. It is so easy to take the great community that we live in for granted. As individuals we all depend on each other for survival.

Therefore, let's keep our eyes open for opportunities in which we can "shine this little light of mine" in constructive ways.



*Heinrich*

## The Double Value of Volunteer Service by Marilyn A. Carr

In my former career as a volunteer manager, in a non-profit agency, I was responsible for maintaining statistics on volunteers and their working hours. These valuable numbers not only demonstrated the contribution to the local agency but were eventually dispatched to the national office for their statistical reporting.

Volunteers would come weekly or monthly to work on their assigned task to support the staff and by extension the clients. This was the first line of delivery where volunteers provided a valuable contribution.

The extended value of volunteer service entered the picture when it was time for the executive director to complete funding forms for financial support for programs. When filling out the documents, facts and figures were often requested for the accumulated volunteer hours and number of persons involved. These stats often impacted favourably when the funding providers considered how the agency expected to work in the community: There would be community involvement, with volunteer participation, and the likely outcomes were not totally dependent on salaries for staff.

Never underestimate the power of the contribution of volunteer time and energy. Volunteers make an impact beyond the actual time on the job, and leave an imprint locally, and nationally, if the agency extends beyond Edmonton.

*Volunteers do not get paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.*  
-Sherry Anderson



## Volunteerism as Giving Back by Jack Little

When I came to Edmonton, my new home was good to me. I decided to “give back” to the not-for-profit community of Edmonton, volunteering at:

- ◆ Edmonton Community Loan Fund (financing for inner city businesses).
- ◆ Better Business Bureau of Edmonton and Northern Alberta
- ◆ Our House (addiction recovery)
- ◆ Greater Edmonton Foundation (affordable housing for seniors)

And of course Edmonton’s Food Bank. I’ve been on the board for 20 years - 6 as board chair. I have stayed as it is a well-run organization. The Edmonton Executive Director, Marjorie, spends nickels like they were manhole covers.

The food bank serves those who may be temporarily in need. The food bank is a paradox, when there are more customers, business is bad. When there are less customers, business is better. Clients on average access Edmonton’s Food Bank less than 4 times a year. The food bank provides nearly 400,000 meals and snacks through their affiliated agencies included 50 schools in Edmonton. It collects, sorts, re-packages and distributes 4.2 million kg of food – the approximate value of the food is \$23 million dollars per year.

At the district depots, such as Dayspring, frustration can be expressed by the volunteers, as recipients from time to time don’t show up to pick up their hampers. We have learned, however, that the people being served are not advantaged. There are medical and mental issues, transportation troubles, child care situations – all are barriers to getting to the depots.

I’m proud to be associated with the volunteers that make the food bank run, such as the depot at Dayspring. Although I have been volunteering for 20 years, I get far more out of it than I give.

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## 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