

DAYSRING DAYBOOK

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

January 2018

And God comes near ...

I have been reflecting on the role of nativity plays, pageants, and tableaux in the formation of our spirituality. Here are my thoughts.

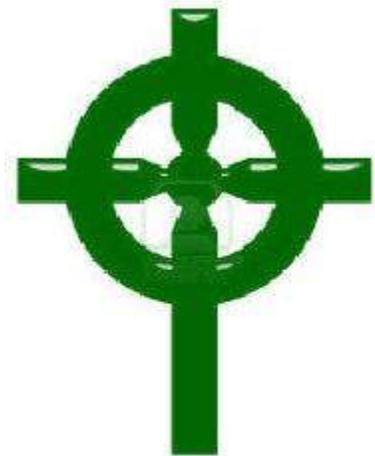
In December 2017, as I watched the children and young adults play their various roles in the tableau written by our Session Clerk, I felt a strong connection with the narrative. I knew many of the “actors” and their families – the braying and baa-ing little children who were donkeys and sheep, the three stately and tall young men who were the magi, the teenager who was Mary, accompanied by a teenaged Joseph. And then there were the narrators – who occasionally stumbled over less familiar words but who were obviously pouring their hearts and souls into the fulfillment of their responsibility.

Getting the details of the biblical narrative “right” was not important. The problem I have, as a scientifically-informed 21st century Christian, with “virgin birth,” with “prophecy” fulfillment, and with a “star” being “over” a specific location (and with special meaning) faded into the realm of trivia.

My imagination was freed up to experience the reality that Jesus was very near for the enactors of the story. In a very real way, Jesus had come alongside each person present in the sanctuary – including me. And that is trustworthy. That is real.

John Carr

(Several pictures from the tableau are included in this issue.)



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

(John 1:1, 14 NIV)



Sheep and Shepherds Gather

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Mary and Joseph, with the baby Jesus

Candidates for Moderator of the 144th (2018) General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada

After studying in the United States (Tulsa, Oklahoma and Chicago, Illinois) **Daniel Cho** returned to Canada to attend Knox College and served as youth pastor. For the past 30 years he has been advocating for fostering the rich diversity of our church. Daniel is currently the minister of Rexdale Church, a multi-ethnic congregation, and moderator of the Presbytery of West Toronto. He is also a certified pastoral counsellor and certified mediator.

Peter Han has served for 30 years as an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church in Canada at North Park Presbyterian Church, Toronto (1987-89) and Vaughan Community Church, Thornhill (1989-Present). He is deeply passionate to equip congregations to envision an influential and practical faith in their mission to share the Gospel in creative ways.

Mark McLennan has served in The Presbyterian Church in Canada for almost 40 years, in five provinces, beginning with a mission field appointment in Wabush, Newfoundland and Labrador, and a student placement in Ile Perrot, Quebec. followed by pastoral charges in Red Deer, Alberta; Scotsburn, Nova Scotia; Thunder Bay and Woodstock, in Ontario.



From left: The Rev. Daniel Cho, B.A., M.Div., The Rev. Peter S. Han, B.A. (Hons), M.Div., and The Rev. Mark R. McLennan, B.A., B.Th., M.Div.

Choosing a General Assembly Moderator

During Autumn, each year, presbyteries have an opportunity to nominate persons (ministers and elders) for the office of Moderator of the next General Assembly.

Persons who are nominated by at least two of the 45 presbyteries become official candidates for the office of Moderator.

In January, ballots are sent out to the presbyteries and the members of Presbytery have opportunity to vote for their choice during February and March.

The ballots are counted in early April and the person with the majority of votes is elected as the official nominee. The General Assembly, when it convenes (in 2018 at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, ON, on Sunday evening, June 3), receives the nomination and votes on whether or not to accept it (and Assembly has always done so since this process was initiated).

The Moderator is NOT the head of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. She or he presides over the meeting of the General Assembly and then, during the year following, represents the Assembly in a variety of ways. The role, during the year following the meeting of Assembly, is similar to that of Canada's Governor General.

Commissioners to the General Assembly (ministers and elders) are appointed by the presbyteries using a rotation system which ensures that every active minister is a commissioner every 4-6 years. Sessions also nominate an elder to be a commissioner every 4-6 years.

FROM OUR MINISTER: Reaching Out

When we come to think of it, one of the primary reasons for our existence as Christ-followers is to reach out to the world around us. The idea is not to coerce other people to think, act and be exactly the way we do. Perhaps that was one of the follies of early Christianity. We tried replicating our views on people and that often makes for a lot of resentment and resistance.

On this note, a group of nineteen folks, young and old got on the plane and went to Mexico to reach out. You may ask, "Why so far?" "Why not reach out in our own city?"

There are many reasons, and perhaps one of them is the huge difference in culture and environment, which takes a person out of your comfort zone. The stance that we also take, going there, is that we have little to offer and that we in fact might learn more from the families that we built houses for than them learning from us. Later this month, on Sunday January 28, we plan to share more with you about the house building outreach to Mexico. Feel free to make time for some questions and answers after the worship service.

You will also see elsewhere in this issue of the Dayspring DayBook something of another outreach.

Can we ever change the world much? Not much, but one relationship at a time, one heart at a time, we can let the light of Jesus Christ shine. Every time we do that, we keep on honouring the dignity of the individuals that we reach out to.

As Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, "let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:15, NRSV).



Heinrich



The Magi

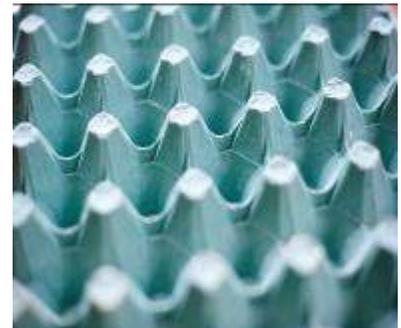
Reaching Out to Our Neighbours

Dayspring is a distribution depot for the Edmonton Food Bank. With leadership from Audrey and Jack Tod, this ministry to the community has been faithfully carried out for many years on Thursday afternoons.

Dayspringers contribute some food items and lots of grocery bags and egg cartons to make ministry possible. The Edmonton Food Bank provides most of the food in boxes assigned to clients who have been screened and approved as Food Bank recipients.

Early each Thursday afternoon, the Food Bank truck delivers a couple of dozen boxes of food at the West entrance of the church building. The boxes are then set up on tables - and the team for that day is ready for business as the clients begin coming into the Engelhart Room.

One of our food bank volunteers is often seen coming into the church building with egg cartons for the food bank supplies. This volunteer not only collects his own egg cartons but reports that neighbours will occasionally leave their used egg cartons on his car for our use!!!



This ministry currently has enough volunteers, but if this is something that you would like to get involved in when there is a need, please speak to Audrey or Jack.



Darlene Eerkes Education Mission in Africa

Darlene is in Ghana for a couple of weeks, sponsored by **Edu Deo** and **International Needs Ghana** (INGH). While she is there, she will be exploring Christian education with African colleagues. A travel ban for Zambia (because of a cholera epidemic) will prevent her spending an additional week there. Here is what she writes about the mission.

“The INGH vision for Christian Education, established during our learning conference work last year, will guide our learning this year: Shaping heads, hearts and hands for Christ-centered education to transform the world.

“We will be deepening our teacher practice of looking at curriculum to reveal God’s Story, while finding our role in this story. Detailed teacher unit writing and lesson writing will be shared, demonstrated and practiced with the intent to engage students in learning about their role in God’s Story.

“Whether we are studying about politics, local/global communities, water resources, matter and electricity, patterns and shapes, environmental issues or any other key concepts suggested in the local Ghanaian curriculum, we will search for the meaningful learning that makes us active citizens in the Kingdom of God, passionately seeking to make a lasting impact on our families, our neighbors and communities around the world.

“Participants will be learners together in developing effective teaching strategies to make learning experiences come alive in the classroom, so they are remembered and practiced for a life-time, in transforming the world.”

If you would like to follow the blog for Darlene’s journey, you can find it here: <https://edudeo.com/walking-together/01152017/>.

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Photography by various Day-
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DayBook Deadlines

3rd Sunday of September, Octo-
ber and June

2nd Sunday of December, Janu-
ary, 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