

DAYSRING DAYBOOK

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

January 2019

When the time is right ...

But when the time was right, God sent his Son, and a woman gave birth to him." (Galatians 4:4, CEV)

It was a bitterly cold Christmas Day morning 50 years ago. The Plan was to load up our re-purposed delivery (camper) van with our 2 little ones and all the gear they required, along with Christmas gifts, and head out on the 3-hour drive to my parents' home to have a late breakfast with them and spend a few days of family time together. I went out to start the van about 15 minutes before our 6 am planned departure time – so it could warm up for us. I turned the key in the ignition. Nothing. I tried again. And again. Nothing. The battery was dead.

What to do? We had another vehicle, but it was too small for everything we were taking; was not gassed up; and had a heater that produced very little heat. I was able to maneuver the car close enough to the van that my jumper cables just reached. Alas! In my anxiety, I hooked things up incorrectly and the dead battery was now a "cooked" battery.

What to do? When I gassed up the van the day before, I had a pleasant visit with the local gas station owner. I knew him well because he not only looked after our vehicles – he was also very active in the parents' group that supported Scouting in our suburban community. The church in which I ministered was the sponsor and host of the Cub, Scout, and Venturer groups and I was their chaplain. So I knew what his plan was for Christmas Day morning and he knew our plan. And I knew where he lived – just a few doors down the street from our church building. So I drove over to his house (yes, he was already up and I knew he would be), knocked on his door, and explained my predicament to him.

His response was instinctive and immediate. He would go right away to the service station and connect the quick charger to the appropriate battery. Then, back at home he would be with his family for their gift opening and some breakfast. By that time, the battery would be operational, and he would bring it to our house and install it – which he did. Two-plus hours late, but assured of a reliable vehicle, we were on our way to my parents' home, arriving in time for brunch.

I share this story because it seems to me that it illustrates a couple of themes that are inherent in the story of Jesus' birth.

The first theme is the obvious one. This man offered our family a gift of extreme hospitality. I knew to the core of my being how Joseph and Mary must have felt when they finally found a place in Bethlehem where they could rest and where their baby could be born.

The subtler theme, it seems to me, is connected with the core meaning of Jesus' birth. In God's own way and in God's good time, God reaches out to us in love. That has the potential to create community in which people are enabled to reach out with care and love to their neighbours and to the wider world. When someone "knocks on your door," are you ready to respond with love and care? That's living the Christmas spirit.

John Carr



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.

-Søren Kierkegaard

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Nominees for the Role of Moderator of the 2019 General Assembly



The Rev. Amanda Currie, B.A.Sc., M.Div., Minister, First Presbyterian Church, Regina, Saskatchewan

Amanda Currie grew up in Ottawa at St. Giles Church. Gracefield Camp, PYPS, and participation in the congregation and choir all contributed to her faith formation and call to ministry. She graduated from Knox College in 2003 and served St. Andrew's in Saskatoon from 2003–2017. In August 2017, she was called to First Church in Regina. Amanda is a pastor with a passion for preaching, teaching and pastoral care. She loves to sing and to share in ministries of music that include diverse styles that help us to sing our prayers and proclaim the good news with joy.

Amanda is committed to both denominational service and ecumenical dialogue and cooperation. She has served as clerk of the Presbytery of Northern Saskatchewan, Presbyterian representative for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's National Event in Saskatoon, small group leader at Canada Youth, adult advisor for Saskatchewan Presbyterian Youth, chaplain at Camp Christopher, member of the Assembly Council, and convenor of the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee.

Living in Saskatchewan for the last 15 years, Amanda is well aware of the legacy of the Residential School System and the need for Presbyterians to be engaged with our neighbours in the work of reconciliation and responding to the TRC Calls to Action.

Amanda is married to Nicholas Jesson, a Roman Catholic theologian who is currently serving as the Ecumenical Office for the Archdiocese of Regina. Her personal experience of being in an interchurch marriage contributes to her desire for the unity of the church and her conviction that unity with diversity is possible through the love of God in Christ.



The Rev. James T. Hurd, B.A., M.Div., Minister, Parkwood Presbyterian Church, Ottawa, Ontario

James has served for 32 years as a pastor and presbyter in The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Born in Kirkland Lake, Ontario, he graduated from Knox College, Toronto in 1986 and was posted as an ordained missionary to northern Alberta, where he served five and a half years at Wanham and Blueberry Mountain, followed by a call to St. Paul's Church, Woodstock, New Brunswick, where he ministered for ten years, before being called to Parkwood Church, Ottawa, which he has served since 2001.

He has served as clerk of the Presbyteries of Peace River and Ottawa, as moderator of the Presbyteries of Peace River and St. John (now New Brunswick), as deputy clerk and acting clerk of the Synod of the Atlantic Provinces and as moderator of the Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario. He has moderated two special judicial commissions of the General Assembly.

He served six years (1997–2003) on the Assembly Council, was a member of the special committee to revise chapter 9 of the Book of Forms, and for six years (2011–2017) as a member of the Committee on Church Doctrine.

Since 1999, he has collaborated in the publication of the online PresbyCan Daily devotionals as Devotional Editor.

He is presently a member of the Spiritual Care Advisory Committee for the Queensway-Carleton Hospital, Ottawa. Since 2002, he has served in various capacities, currently as president, on the board of directors of CanHave, an Ottawa-based registered charity supporting the education of AIDS orphans in Uganda.

He is married to Karen, and together they have two grown daughters, Jennifer and Janet, both of whom are presently university students.

FROM OUR MINISTER:
New Beginnings

One inclination that enables the human spirit to move forward may certainly be the hope for a new day to arrive, something new to be awaiting us around the bend. That optimism and the thrill of expecting brand-new things to happen soon are what keep the human spirit alive and striving for the future.

May we never give up on the hope that there is in that which is new. The prophet Isaiah was an inspiration to his audience and hearers when he wrote the following, *“Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”* (Isaiah 43:18-19a, NRSV).

How often do we fall into the snare of giving up or throwing in the towel by looking at the way things are at the moment?

There are times when people decide to start thinking in new ways. Our leadership at Dayspring, the elders, or Session, are at that place right now. We have just elected, ordained, and installed six Elders and that will undoubtedly change the Session's dynamics. With new initiatives, our goal this year is to revitalize the way things are done at Dayspring. We are striving to put more emphasis on *people care*.

Exciting times are awaiting us, also in this year when we celebrate Dayspring's 50th anniversary. Let's be ready for new things to start and let's give ourselves some freedom to think

outside the box, as we head into a brand-new 2019.

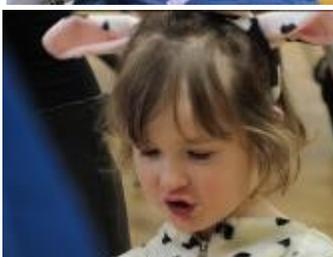
A Happy New Year to you!



Heinrich

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: Dec 23, 2018

The pageant was scripted and coordinated by the McCrostie family—Gord, Darolyn, Glynnis, and Fionna. Here are just a few of the 97 pictures taken by Sylvanna. Parents may obtain a digital copy of the picture(s) of their child(ren) by contacting Kimberly at swallow@chuparosa.us.



The Smuts' Journey Continues ...

The last message was posted on January 4: "The North Island is done and dusted. We are in Wellington. We are at the 1688km mark."

Here is an indication of the nature of a recent stage of the journey....



Here is Cornelius having a snack.

And here is a trail indicator in Wellington.



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DayBook Deadlines
3rd Sunday of September, October
and June
2nd Sunday of December, January,
February, March, April, and May

SESSION

Moderator: Heinrich Grosskopf

Session Clerk: Gina Kottke

Deputy Clerk: Iris Routledge

Roll Clerk: Jim Jeatt

Other Elders

Hostensia Bineba	Jan Ray Moncada
Bill Davis	Walters Munde
Jane de Caen	Nick Nation
John Carr	Stanley Ngwa
Darlene Eerkes	Laura Patterson-
Peter Eerkes	Fortin
Carina Grosskopf	Todd Shipman
Ransford Kusi-	Darleen Springstein
Menkah	Heather Tansem
Sam Malayang	Mary Waugh
Samuel Mforteh	

MINISTER

The Rev. Dr. Heinrich Grosskopf

CHURCH STAFF

Church School Coordinator: Lynn
Vaughan

Youth Coordinators: Shane Johnson &
Zachary Bruce

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