

DAYSPRING DAYBOOK

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

March 2019

FAITH AND COMMUNITY: TRANSCENDING THE BOUNDARIES OF ETHNICITY & NATIONAL ORIGINS

Our family (the Carr family) has been part of Dayspring Church since 1996. During those 23 years, Dayspring has transitioned from being a mostly anglophone community church to being a multicultural regional centre for worship and service.

As such, one of the “cultural connections” within the congregation has been with persons whose homeland is Ghana.

This issue features brief reflections from one of our members whose origins are in Ghana — along with a reflection from a person who has been largely responsible for organizing a mission that is primarily intended for persons of Ghanaian origins.

For those who are not certain where Ghana is, here is a map of Africa that will assist.



On page 4, we hear from Cornelius and Susara Smuts about a marvelous day walking along the beach in southern New Zealand as they near the end of their journey. Here is a sneak preview of what is on page 4. Look for the final installment in April.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Isn't it amazing that we are all made in God's image, and yet there is so much diversity among [God's] people?

- Desmond Tutu

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GRACE PRESBYTERIAN MISSION

Presbytery has recently approved the establishment of a mission which comprises mostly persons from Ghana. Retired clergy, Annabelle Wallace, is the liaison between Presbytery and this group and is the primary worship leader for services that are held in the Callingwood Rd. Presbyterian Church. Patrick Osae, one of the group's coordinators writes the following about his reasons for involvement in this mission.

From my perspective, the intersection of religion and culture function as essential elements of any thriving community, which has also been the experience of many Ghanaian Presbyterians in Edmonton. The ability to uphold our Ghanaian identity and style of worship, combined with the Christian values instilled in us from childhood has provided a unique platform to perform our job as followers of Christ, while demonstrating our appreciation for humanity. Moreover, our Canadian-born children will be exposed to these religious and cultural values, which would not have been the case without the existence of a mostly Ghanaian Christian Church.

Although we of Grace Presbyterian Church (a mission of the Presbytery of Edmonton-Lakeland) are people of Ghanaian origin, we also consider ourselves members of the larger family of Presbyterians in Canada and contributors to the fabric of Canada's diverse society. As such, it is important for us to support those in need in our communities within the country of our current residence. Despite our cultural origin, the doors of Grace are widely open to other nationals who wish to join us in singing, dancing and making a joyful noise unto the Lord.

Members of Grace Presbyterian Church Edmonton are thrilled and grateful to the Presbytery of Edmonton-Lakeland for creating such a conducive atmosphere to enhance our religious dispensation. We are proud and privileged to be part of the Presbytery and appreciate the manner our diversity has been embraced. We pray that the good Lord continues to shower His blessings on all members of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Peace be unto you all.

Pictured below are some of the folk that are part of Grace Mission, along with Annabelle Wallace.



FROM OUR MINISTER: Global multicultural diversity

As pointed out in other parts of this month's edition of the DayBook, Dayspring Church has increased in diversity by leaps and bounds over the last number of years. We embrace this multicultural flavour as it all reflects the changes to the Canadian cultural landscape as a whole.

There are some benefits as well as pitfalls that come along with this global diversity. The benefits far outweigh the pitfalls, though. As the "body of Christ" with "many members" (as described in 1 Corinthians 12) we have the onus on ourselves to find unity in our diversity. We get to embody Christ's body, and we get to put into practice what we learn about the members of the body being diverse.

The pitfalls, though, could be issues such as intolerance and the inability to cope with difference. This could lead to friction and laying the blame on the other. When Jesus Christ walked among humanity about 2000 years ago, He wanted the church to be one as He and the Father in heaven are one (John 17).

These are tall orders, dedicating ourselves to embrace diversity and then making this diversity work for the better of our faith community.

How do we do this? I would venture to say that our task is to get to know one another and this only happens when we are interested in the lives of one another. All of us have the opportunity to search for ways in which we can get to know one another, in spite of our differences in background and cultural makeup.

We have our work cut out for us. We get to take part in challenges that make for interesting times as well as for energising times. Let us never shy away from getting to know one another, one day and one week at a time.



Heinrich

SIX PERSONS ADDED TO THE ROLL BY REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH



On March 10, 2019, the persons in the picture above reaffirmed their faith and were received as Professing Members of Dayspring Church. Welcome - Evelyn, Abraham, Jay, Vida, Naomi, and Emmanuel.

A Ghanaian Canadian in a Multicultural Community of Faith & Care

Ransford Kusi-Menkah writes as follows.

The church is a community. It is not a Presbyterian community, a Pentecost community or a Roman catholic community. It is a global community. Such a community gives one an insight into what peoples from other parts of the world look for and how they hope to achieve it. By becoming a part of such a community we learn to understand the cultures and challenges that prevail in these communities. We begin to see through their eyes and experience what they go through. We know that we are one in Christ's body and as such we share the joys and griefs of all. We have to know who they are before we can feel what they feel.

We might not have this perception if we choose to attend a local, ethnically dominated church. The strong bond between our church and another in Cameroon shows that even thousands of miles apart we belong in the same community. The presence of so many people in our church of many different cultures brings us together and helps us to realize that we are just like them. When we talk to each other, ask about their backgrounds and life experiences we are stepping out of our comfort zone and, for a moment, planting ourselves in a distant culture that might shake us into thinking about caring for each other.

When one suffers we all suffer together.

It is a blessing that in our own church we have the experience of meeting different people worshipping together and sharing our joys and sorrows together. I have met Filipinos, Ukrainians, Asians, Scottish and many more in this church. It makes me happy when, after church, I can talk to everyone and feel like they are a brother or sister.

This is my community.

The Smuts' New Zealand Journey Continues ...

This is the day that God has made.....Ps118. This day was magic. The locals advise us to start very early to get the full benefit of the tide. Five of us started at 5:10 am. It was dark. The only light was the morning star. The beach is flat and the water pulled back very far with low tide. This caused the wet sand to have a glow. I had my little flashlight on for the first hour. The sky started to change and we could not ask for anything more spectacular. It was breathtaking. The colours kept on changing until the sun was shining on us. We walked 22km on the beach for a total of 32 km for the day.



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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	Samuel Mforteh
Bill Davis	Jan Ray Moncada
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

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

Custodian: Jim Matthew