

# DAYSRING DAYBOOK

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

June 2019

## Dayspring's 50th Anniversary: Revisiting the Celebration

The weekend of June 7-9 was a time of celebrating the 50 years since Dayspring's formal founding as a congregation — and looking ahead to the future.

This issue of the *DayBook* features words and pictures from the weekend, including the messages from the Revs. Brad Childs and Heinrich Grosskopf — respectively our former Youth Coordinator and Pastoral Associate and our current Minister.

### Brad's message at the Saturday evening banquet

... in many ways (perhaps far more profound ways) Dayspring was actually my best seminary if not my best learning experience altogether. In some respects and at different times, I have probably been a weaker student than I should have been. But I would be nowhere without those bi-weekly meetings with the Rev. Dr. John Carr where I learned the more intricate nature of listening attentively.

And I would be less than nowhere had I not seen Christian love in action as Fred Regehr drove my little Wesley around the great hall on his scooter (giant smile on his face) - letting the boy honk the horn occasionally. I learned from the young people here how to speak to youth and find ways to do so authentically. The young people of this congregation taught me how to have spiritual conversations rather than just one way bible studies but conversations that made people disciples.

I learned vulnerability and the humanity of the pastor as a person from John Dowds. Until my time here, I had never seen a more honest or simply human Christian leader, complete with scars.

In my time here, I saw in action the credibility earned in ministry from Heinrich's approach that treats every aspect of the job as primarily pastoral in nature (something that is clearly evident in him still today).

Imagine the breadth of perspective one could receive about the experience of ministry from speaking with Peter McKague and then George Johnston in the same day.

This congregation has been full of ministers (and not just ordained people — people in the pews who minister to each other the way a Christian community is intended to). And that is one thing that has always been special about this place.

Even last week, as I prepared to visit with my friend Dal about the musical choices for his rapidly approaching funeral, I heard Morag's voice echoing in the back of my mind reminding me to "always take something with you to leave as a reminder of a loving community of faith behind."

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### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*Lord, You have been  
our dwelling place  
throughout all  
generations.  
(Psalm 90:1)*

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## FROM OUR MINISTER



*Heinrich*

### Passing On What We Have Freely Received: Excerpts from Heinrich's Sunday Message on June 9, 2019

See the full text at <https://dayspringchurch.ca/sunday-message-passing-on-what-we-have-freely-received-50th-anniversary/>

What an amazing and marvelous time of the year this is! It is Pentecost. Pentecost is about in, up and out. This is what Dayspring has always been about; for 50 years already. Dayspring continues to be about these three short words: **IN, UP and OUT.**

The Spirit draws us **IN** to each other, and equips us for our purpose as God's local church on earth.

I read a story that during Vacation Bible School one year, a minister's wife had an experience with her elementary school kids that can teach us all a great lesson. About an hour before dismissal one day, a new student was brought into the room. The little boy had one arm missing, and since the class was almost over, the teacher had no opportunity to learn the details of his situation, but she was nervous that one of the other children would say something insensitive to him, so she proceeded cautiously with the lesson.

As the class time came to a close, she asked the children to join her in their usual closing ceremony. "Let's make our churches," she said, putting her hands together to form the "church."

"Here's the church and here's the steeple, open the doors and..." Suddenly the awful truth struck her. The very thing she had feared that the children would do, she had done.

As she stood there speechless, the little girl sitting next to the boy reached over with her left hand and placed it up to his right hand and said, "Josh, let's make the church together." Josh needed someone to help him do what he could not do for himself. And it is just so in every church. Jesus gives spiritual gifts to every believer that must be used so that Jesus can grow his church.

We as a congregation — as God's church is meant to be — are fortunate to be able to fit together as different parts of a whole body, because God makes the whole body fit together perfectly. God's Spirit equips us to be servants of the Servant, disciples of the Servant King. Those that do a certain part of building up the church are called to fulfil that part which only they can do uniquely to the very best of their specific ability.

The Spirit of God turns our eyes **UP** to God, towards God to be in communion with our creator, and to worship God in meaningful ways. The real sign of the Spirit of God growing us up towards God is found in the way the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. God's Spirit living in us shapes us for a life of sincere worship. This gives meaning to our whole being.

The Spirit also sends us to go **OUT** to others and pass on what we have freely received. Think of a ship, and bear in mind that Dayspring owes its name, among other images, to the Dayspring ship, which was launched in 1863 for the Presbyterian Church of the Maritime Provinces. This sailing ship went out to support Dr. Geddie who was the first foreign missionary appointed by the colonial church in the British Empire. He was stationed in the New Hebrides, which are some south islands in the Pacific Ocean. She sailed out from Pictou, Nova Scotia to support Dr. Geddie's mission over there.

Remember, a ship never gets kept in a harbour. It might look pretty for you and me. But that certainly isn't what ships are made for. Again and again, we are called to get the sails ready, to pull up the anchor and sail out. We are made to go out, to spread the love of God to the wider world.

**IN, UP, and OUT!** In a nutshell that sums up what Pentecost is all about. Our calling as Christians continues to be in, up and out. In to each other, up to God and out to others. Christ makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. Let's allow Christ to continue this work in us, into the next decade and who knows, into many more decades. Christ does it by his Spirit, helping us not only to focus in and up, but also to especially focus out. We keep praying for God to have mercy on us as we pass on what we have freely received.

## **Brad Childs' Sunday Morning Meditation: June 9, 2019**

As a community of people dependent upon the will of the Holy Spirit, to provide us with a vision for the days ahead and ways to best use our gifts,

We celebrate the last 50 years of faithful ministry together, but we also look ahead, knowing that new challenges face us still.

The world, as it once was, will not be the world of tomorrow.

If the church wishes to speak faithfully into the mission of God for future generations, we must find ways to navigate these new realities.

For a moment I would invite everyone to reflect on the God who has brought us here thus far, and the God we trust to help us reveal Good News to the next generations of Christ's disciples.

### **Reality**

We all know that change comes, whether we like it or not. We only have the choice between letting it happen to us and choosing to navigate wisely through it.

Gone are the days when people simply came to church (and perhaps that's a good thing). Present are the days when the church must learn to live itself out, beyond the confines of our walls, and out in the world.

Our greatest days of being the church might just be around the corner. What might the future of this congregation look like in the days to come?

### **Challenge**

What might it look like if most of the church activities were moved from being hidden away in our buildings (unintentional though that hiddenness may be) and instead, moved into the community spaces around us; clearly visible and active in our neighbourhoods?

What if we need not count on the old model (of hoping people coming here to us) because we are already going to be the living/breathing Church present with them there; where they already are?

What if instead of calling people to come to a bible study (here where nobody can see or hear us) we had practical, relevant discussions about faith and life at the local coffee shops, and we let people who would never darken the doors of a sanctuary, simply overhear the gospel in the honest expressions of our conversations (complete with questions and uncertainties and struggle).

### **Conclusion**

What might it mean for us to follow the leading of God's vision into the unknown and uncertain world, but to do so with listening ears and with intent?

What might it mean for the ship that is this church fully to leave the safety of the harbour, for the untamed sea, where we were all along meant to be?

How might God direct and bless our vision – if it was first - God's vision, and we simply joined along?

Where might we take the church together in the future?



## Brad's Saturday Message (continued)

Dayspring for me was really the place where I became an adult Christian person, where my gifts were encouraged, where I got to experiment, where I learned how to play with a sermon and show people the strange or confusing and be okay with that, and it's also where I got to build a giant slip and slide covered in soap on the back lawn with 15 teenagers wildly crashing into each other... and get paid money for it.

From Bible Studies with youth and Seniors and in Sermons, I was able to share my incredibly deep love for the scriptures and hopefully inspire others to develop even deeper into their own personal discipleship. Here I learned to put 20 hours of work into a sermon that only takes 15 minutes to deliver because God finds ways to speak to people even years later if we truly seek His wisdom.

Sadly I sort of thought all Presbyterian churches were like Dayspring, open, diverse, living in tension at times but always gracious and loving.

Of course, this is not always the case. Dayspring may actually be quite unique in that (a quality that probably prepares it better than most for the challenges ahead of the church in the next few years as we find ways to disagree) yet with unity in the Spirit.



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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 (on leave)

**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