

# DAYSRING DAYBOOK

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

September 2019

## SOMETIMES CHURCH IS HARD

In this issue, we re-produce (pages 1 & 3) an article that was published on the blog of [Ariana Freelen](#). We also (page 2) highlight the service, among us, of one of the original members of Dayspring, Darleen Springstein. On page 4, we reflect on the Sexuality Conversation our denomination is currently having.

Here are some of the things that Ariana Freelen writes, adapted somewhat to Presbyterian ways of thinking.

*I sat in a meeting. The discussion was heated. The conversation heavy.*

*Hearts were burdened. Chests were puffed. Sorrow, pain, arrogance, curiosity, humility, fear, courage, and forgiveness sat together in a single room.*

*As I looked around the church, I just kept thinking—*

*Church is hard.*

*Church is hard for the person walking through the doors, afraid of judgement.*

*Church is hard for the pastor's family, under the microscope of an entire body.*

*Church is hard for the prodigal soul returning home, broken and battered by the world.*

*Church is hard for the girl who looks like she has it all together but doesn't.*

*Church is hard for the couple who fought the entire ride to service.*

*Church is hard for the single mom, surrounded by couples holding hands, and seemingly perfect families.*

*Church is hard for the widow and widower with no invitation to lunch after service.*

*Church is hard for the [church leader] with an estranged child.*

*Church is hard for the choir member overwhelmed by the weight of the lyrics in that song.*

*Church is hard for the man insecure in his role as a leader.*

*Church is hard for the single woman and single man, praying God brings them a mate.*

*Church is hard for the teenage girl, wearing a scarlet letter, ashamed of her mistakes.*

*Church is hard for the sinners.*

*Church is hard for me.*

(continued on p. 3)



## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"The day we find the perfect church, it becomes imperfect the moment we join it."*  
— Charles H. Spurgeon

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## DARLEEN SPRINGSTEIN: Honorary Elder

At the June 2019 Session meeting, Darleen was appointed Honorary Elder for Life in recognition of her service as a founding member of Dayspring congregation and of her service in the wider church and in the community.

Heather Tansem, acting on behalf of Session, presented a certificate to Darleen on September 8. Here is a summary of Heather's research concerning Darleen's service.

Darleen was the first female elder in Edmonton Presbytery, specifically at Dayspring.

In June 2019 Dayspring celebrated its 50th anniversary. Darleen has served as elder for an amazing 34 of those years (1969 - 1993, 2008 - present).

Darleen was the first female clerk of session at Dayspring and served for 8 years.

She also served on the Board of Managers (Rupert Street), as the chair of the Dayspring Sanctuary building committee (1988-92), as well she took on the task of writing Dayspring's history for our first 25 years.

Darleen also served as the first female treasurer and clerk of the Presbytery of Edmonton, and then later as Synod Clerk.

At the General Assembly in Nova Scotia in 1970, Darleen participated along with only 5 female elders and approximately 125 male elders, and important to note — 0 female clergy.

The firsts she experienced were often unknown to her until after the inaugural event—it wasn't as though Darleen was a big advocate of the women's movement. There was definitely resistance among the traditional membership earlier but by the time Darleen got involved, the battles had already been fought and she stated, 'the men were very welcoming and respectful.'

Darleen has also contributed in many other capacities very much worth acknowledging and celebrating. Who do you know who has been a volunteer with a charitable organization for 70 years? Darleen is very active with the IODE (Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire). This organization was founded in 1900. Its mission statement — *IODE is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for individuals through education support, community service and citizenship programs.* She became a member of the IODE as a young girl after being mentored into the organization by her mother. After significant volunteer hours in various roles, Darleen was awarded a prestigious 'Queen's Jubilee Medal,' nominated by IODE Alberta. She is still a member of a St. Albert chapter today.

Darleen enjoyed her volunteer work at Dayspring. "Well, I don't do any volunteer work that I don't really enjoy." she said. And when asked what her favourite part of all her many responsibilities were through the years, she responded with, "Getting to know the fellow elders and certainly getting to know the different people in her elder group—at church and in their homes. Back in the day, we would have to deliver communion cards four times a year to each member. It was a great way to get to know your people."

Congratulations Darleen, on yet another acknowledgment—being awarded an honorary *Lifetime Membership of Dayspring Presbyterian Church Session.*



## FROM OUR MINISTER:

### We Stand Together



“We all stand together” - or do we?

In this edition of the DayBook we look at how hard church can be sometimes.

Our church is made up of people, and nobody is perfect. Everyone hurts in some way or another.

Still, we are called to be there for one another.

The apostle Paul put it this way in the second letter to the Corinthians, “God of all healing counsel! He comes alongside us when we go through hard times, and before you know it, he brings us alongside someone else who is going through hard times so that we can be there for that person just as God was there for us. We have plenty of hard times that come from following the Messiah, but no more so than the good times of his healing comfort — we get a full measure of that, too.” (2 Corinthians 1:3-5, *The Message*). Here we see Paul reflecting on hard times as well as good times.

It isn’t pleasant to undergo tough times of hard spiritual discernment. It is never nice to feel excluded for some or other reason.

How do we then stand together? There is some truth in this kind of goofy song, The Frog Song by Paul McCartney. Do we really want to drift apart when it’s hard to discern about our future?

We can listen to one another, we can pray for one another, we can share tears, and we can share tears of joy.

Let us pray for for God’s mercy to strengthen us as we head into what lies ahead of us.

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Heinrich". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## CHURCH IS HARD (continued)

*It’s hard because on the outside it all looks shiny and perfect. Sunday best in behavior and dress.*

*However, underneath those layers, you find a body of imperfect people, carnal souls, selfish motives.*

*But, here is the beauty of church—*

*Church isn’t a building, mentality, or [set of] expectation[s].*

*Church is a body.*

*Church is a group of sinners, saved by grace, living in fellowship as saints.*

*Church is a body of believers bound as brothers and sisters by an eternal love.*

*Church is a holy ground where sinners stand as equals before the Throne of Grace.*

*Church is a refuge for broken hearts and a training ground for mighty warriors.*

*Church is a converging of confrontation and invitation. Where sin is confronted and hearts are invited to seek restoration.*

*Church is a lesson in faith and trust.*

*Church is a bearer of burdens and a giver of hope.*

*Church is a family. A family coming together, setting aside differences, forgetting past mistakes, rejoicing in the smallest of victories.*

*Church, the body, and the circle of sinners-turned-saints, is where He resides, and if we ask, He is faithful to come.*

*So even on the hard days at church—*

*The days when I am at odds with a sister.*

*When I’ve fought with my husband because we’re late once again.*

*When I’ve walked in bearing burdens heavier than my heart can handle, yet masking the pain with a smile on my face.*

*When I’ve worn a scarlet letter, under the microscope.*

*When I’ve longed for a baby to hold,*

*Church is hard for the person walking through the doors, afraid of judgement.*

Ariana Freelen

## CHURCH IS HARD (the Sexuality Conversation)

For three decades the Presbyterian Church in Canada has been having a conversation about sexuality — more specifically about same-gender covenanted intimate partnerships/marriage.

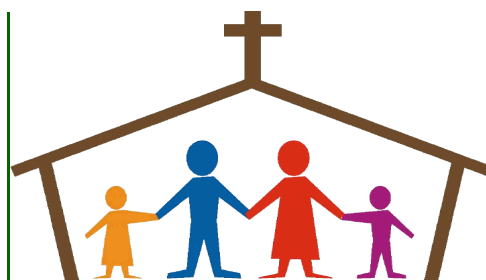
These are difficult conversations because of tradition and because there are biblical texts on both sides of the issue.

Many people would prefer not to have the conversation. They certainly cause a great deal of pain. They are hard.

Some leave because we are having the conversation and they believe that same-gender sexual intimacy is forbidden by the Bible.

Others leave because the conversation has been protracted and they believe that God would want persons who are gay or lesbian to be able to live in the same kind of loving relationship that is experienced by many heterosexual folk.

The 2019 General Assembly has attempted to find a middle way. During the next year, the presbyteries (area governing councils) of the denomination will be discussing whether to approve parallel understandings of marriage: (a) as a union between two opposite-gender adult persons **and** (b) as a union of two adult persons. If the majority of the presbyteries approve of these proposals, and the next General Assembly also approves them, ministers and members will have the right to agree or disagree with same-gender marriage. *jcc*



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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
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 Coordinator:** Position Vacant

### 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