

DAYSRING DAYBOOK

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

November 2019

POPIES

The tradition of wearing and displaying red poppies was organized by the British Royal Legion after the tragedies of World War I. This floral piece was intended to remember those who lost their lives during that world war. This tradition has been borrowed and observed throughout Canada for many years, and has come to be a sign of remembrance of the sacrifice of combatants in subsequent wars. This red adornment is now worn on lapels for several weeks preceding November 11.

The legend of the growth of poppies on battlefields began after the Napoleonic wars of the early 19th Century, when fields of blood red poppies began growing around the bodies of fallen soldiers. Once the conflict was over the poppy was the only foliage to grow on the otherwise barren battlefields.

A World War I cemetery in Waregem, Belgium, known as the famous Flanders Field, is the site where poppy flowers grew after the burial of fallen soldiers. In this field, bombardments left their mark – chalk soils became rich in lime from rubble - allowing this “popover rhoeas” to thrive. The famous poem, In Flanders Field, was written by a Canadian Soldier, John McCrae, to highlight the gravity of war.

Another tradition with floral symbolism began in 1933 by the Women’s Cooperative Guild in the United Kingdom - the wearing of a white poppy. It has gained attention beyond that continent and sales have been reported as increasing each year. The wearer of a white poppy sends a message of “no more war,” and a commitment to finding a nonviolent solution to conflict and a commitment that war should be avoided so there will be no more wasted lives. It was not meant to disrespect the wearing of the red poppy but to emphasize the effort of peace-makers for their commitment to prevent future wars. The design of the white poppy has its own pattern - a rounded flower with 4 to 6 petals, less than 2” each formed into a circular shape with a small green centre, stamped with the word “peace.” In its natural form, it is grown in eastern and southern Asia and South Eastern Europe.

By wearing a red poppy we are remembering the sacrifice of many. By displaying the white poppy we are remembering the persistent work of peace-makers for the cessation of wars. Can these floral tributes be combined and worn on lapels to remind us of the act of remembrance and a commitment for the elimination of warfare?

It might be surprising to know that there is a symbolic black poppy. It is a floral remembrance of Black, African and Caribbean contributions to the war effort. The “Black Poppy Rose” was launched in 2010 and aims to make the black poppy a national symbol of remembrance.

Marilyn Carr

Sources: *Wikipedia and Legion News, Advocating for Veterans*



In This Issue

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Ride for Refuge Raises over \$15,000 for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

On Saturday, October 5, more than 50 PWS&D supporters on seven teams from Victoria, Edmonton, London, Waterloo and Toronto, participated in the Ride for Refuge. This Canada-wide cycling and walking fundraiser helps charities provide refuge and hope for displaced, vulnerable, and exploited people.

Matched 4:1 through additional support from the Government of Canada, the \$15,000 raised through this year's Ride will go toward PWS&D's maternal, newborn and child health program. This program, which takes places in Malawi and Afghanistan, helps women and children survive childbirth, lead healthier and stronger lives and improve their health, well-being and quality of life.

Since PWS&D began participating in the event four years ago, the Ride for Refuge has raised over \$50,000 to help make healthy deliveries a reality. Here's what people are saying about the **Ride for Refuge!**



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Raising Money for Moms and Babies: *How fantastic that so much money was raised for PWS&D.* – Victoria Banfield, Team Lightning Bolt, Markham, Ont.

Accepting New Challenges

We had a good ride—think we'll sign up for 50k next year! – Laura Kavanaugh, Team PWS&D Victoria, B.C.

There's a good amount of enthusiasm in the group for participating next year as well, with the possible addition of a walk and/or shorter distance ride to

encourage more participants. – Kent Buchanan, London 4 Malawi, Ont.

We had 9 members and raised \$2,500. Not bad for a first year. Our goal for 2020 is set: 20 participants and \$5,000. – William Ball, Team PWS&D Mill Woods Presbyterian Church, Edmonton, Alta.

Building Relationships

As we walked, we talked and learned more about each other. We weren't just raising money for a cause, but also engaged in congregational relationship building. It helped Mill Woods Presbyterian Church connect with others and allowed them to hear about PWS&D. We reconnected with a number of children who had attended our Kids Kamp in August but were not part of our congregation. We also connected with a ministry in Edmonton which welcomes and assist refugees. – William Ball, Team PWS&D Mill Woods Presbyterian Church, Edmonton, Alta.

We answered the question of how many Presbyterians it takes to adjust a bike seat—at least 5! – Kent Buchanan, Team London 4 Malawi, Ont.

Source: **Presbyterian World Service & Development**

***PWS&D's maternal and child health program receives generous funding from the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada.**



FROM OUR MINISTER: Thinking about Tight Ideas

One of our previous ministers at Dayspring (Jan 1987 - Aug 1992), the Rev. Yme Woensdregt wrote the following in the

November 8, 2019 edition of the *Cranbrook Daily Townsman*:

“I was reading an interview recently with Richard Topping, Principal of the Vancouver School of Theology, about the place and role of religion in a secular society like BC. This secular society is particularly visible in Vancouver... Fewer and fewer people believe in God or find any value in being part of a church. Even among those who do attend church regularly, they feel free to come and go as they please.

Midway through the interview, Topping mentioned that he had been invited to a home in West Vancouver to meet with some university scholars and business leaders, most of whom don't believe in God.

He says, ‘They invited me to come and talk to them about God and the kind of God I believe in. I was sort of being set up, and they weren't counting on somebody who would fight back a little bit, in the kindest of ways. They maligned Christianity in one way or another. But I think we managed to get a conversation going ... At the end of our time together, they gave me all the cookies to take back to the school. So a group of predominantly atheists gave me the cookies to take back and give to divinity students, right? And they've invited me multiple times since. We've developed friendships, and we've come to agree on things, like, ‘Bad ideas about God are dangerous.’”

“Bad ideas about God are dangerous.” These words bring a person to a grinding halt. Do we perhaps harbour “tight ideas” about God that convince us that there are only certain people who can be used by, or who are acceptable, to God?

For more on this, go to:

<https://www.cranbrooktownsman.com/opinion/bad-ideas-about-god-are-dangerous/>

FILIPINO FIESTA

Nearly 200 Dayspringers and friends gathered for a delicious meal and entertainment Filipino style on November 2 — raising about \$5000 for the work of the congregation. A great time was had by all. Below and on page 4 are some pictures that attempt to capture the spirit of the evening.



FILIPINO FIESTA PICTURES (con)



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DayBook Deadlines

3rd Sunday of September, October
and June

2nd Sunday of November, 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: Saúl Carvajal

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