

# DAYSRING DAYBOOK

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

February 2020

## A beautiful day in the neighborhood

This issue celebrates the ministry of Fred Rogers, a Presbyterian clergyman who was known for his 5-days-a-week children's TV program - Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood.



The TV show was geared towards younger children (see page 2) and, although not "religious" in the traditional sense, was deeply grounded in core Christian theological truths.

That is true of the recently issued (November 2019) full-length movie, featuring Tom Hanks as Mr. Rogers. The movie, a fictionalized portrayal of Rogers' way of living his life has a powerful message for teens and adults about the healing power of authentic relationship and the importance of dealing with feelings in our relationships.

The film also offers an excellent example of doing theology and living theologically. One does not always have to quote Scripture in order to "do theology."

I resonate strongly with Fred Rogers' way of being, as enacted in the movie, because my own ministry, for nearly 4 decades, was a ministry of specialized pastoral care, counselling, and psychotherapy - often with persons who either were not "religious" or who practiced a religion other than my own.

In those contexts, it was my responsibility just to be fully present with the person(s) seeking care, counselling, or psychotherapy - sometimes to help them express repressed feelings that were impacting negatively on their relationships.

Fred Rogers undoubtedly had a therapeutic impact on the adults with whom he related. However, in his ministry with children, he was also highly effective in helping them to grow up, already having made progress in the important tasks of developing self-esteem and dealing with their feelings.

*John Carr*



## Quote of the Month

*Let me be  
your neighbour*

*- Fred Rogers*

## In This Issue

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## Mr. Rogers and his neighborhood

It was a summer day, late in the afternoon during the 1970s, when my children were hot and tired after an active play time, and just before dinner when grumpiness would set in. Thank goodness for PBS which scheduled the Mr. Rogers television program in the late afternoon. While they enjoyed the songs and conversations, especially the characters featured on the “Neighborhood of Make Believe” segment, I had a chance to prepare dinner. Mr. Rogers’ soft voice and serious discussions about pets, death, divorce, war, and anger captured their attention. When the closing music and credits came on, dinner was prepared, and everyone was happier and satisfied.



Fred McFeely Rogers was born in Latrobe, Pennsylvania in 1928. He attended Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida and graduated in 1951 with a degree in musical composition. In 1963, he graduated from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and was ordained as a Presbyterian minister.

There is an interesting Canadian connection in Mr. Rogers’ career: In 1963, he appeared for the first time on camera with the CBC in a program called “Misterogers.” This was the early prototype for “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood,” his long-running show on PBS. The emphasis for the program was to prompt children to get along with others, cope with their fears, and above all, know that they are important. Another puppeteer, Ernie Coombs, started his TV career with Mr. Rogers and then went on to host two children’s shows on the CBC – Butternut Square and Mr. Dressup.



When Fred Rogers returned to Pittsburgh, given his interest in music, puppeteering, and establishing television programs for children, he was commissioned by the Presbytery of Pittsburgh to a television ministry with children and their families. This launched the Mr. Rogers’ Neighborhood program on PBS. Fred Rogers wrote over 200 songs (see page 3 for two of those songs) and became known as a gentle person who made children comfortable - with his conversations, puppets and music, and the special way he made himself comfortable with a sweater and sneakers!!! (One of his famous sweaters “hangs” in the

Smithsonian Institute.) The Mr. Rogers’ Neighborhood television program aired on PBS from 1968 to 2001. You can still watch re-runs on PBS and on Fred Rogers Production's website ([www.MisterRogers.org](http://www.MisterRogers.org)). Fred Rogers produced 39 books for children, 8 songbooks, and 13 books for adults and those are also still available.

A follow up: The animated series, Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood debuted on PBS in 2012. This show is produced by the Fred Rogers Production Company and features characters and locations from Mr. Rogers’ “Neighborhood of Make Believe.” It is intended to introduce a new generation of viewers to the social and emotional style, initiated by Fred Rogers and his “friends,” 50 years ago.



Marilyn Carr

## FROM OUR MINISTER:

### Love your neighbour as yourself

When Jesus gave us two commandments, there was only one that came second to loving God. It was 'love your neighbour as yourself.' Wherever we live, we have a calling to love our neighbour as ourselves.

Where are those days when every child, every adult, men, women, boys and girls knew each other by the name? On the one hand, we can say times have changed. Or on the other hand, we can say that we have allowed times to change. The electric garage door has made it easy to arrive home from work or visiting, just to close it behind ourselves and to forget who the one is that is mowing the lawn or shoveling the snow, just as we were heading up the driveway.

There were times when we looked out for the families living beside us. Small children and those becoming frail had someone besides their families who were looking out for them. Unfortunately, our neighbourhoods have often changed so that they aren't our closest communities. Sometimes we even prefer that our neighbourhoods are now 'safe' in the sense that nobody can snoop any longer or know our names.

It is to my mind sad to see that we have become so cold and removed that the folks next door don't have any connection with us and us with them.

The challenge is indeed to change this trend. How about us becoming the neighbours who reach out with care and compassion to one another?

This could become a new way in which we bring the neighbourhood together. We can venture out, approach the city of Edmonton, and arrange block-parties or barbecues, and this way we can experience something of the Kingdom of God right in our midst. By being faithfully present, our lives can become simpler, safer, healthier and more connected.



*Heinrich*

## What do you do?

What do you do with the mad that you feel  
When you feel so mad you could bite?  
When the whole wide world seems oh, so wrong...  
And nothing you do seems very right?

What do you do? Do you punch a bag?  
Do you pound some clay or some dough?  
Do you round up friends for a game of tag?  
Or see how fast you go?

It's great to be able to stop  
When you've planned a thing that's wrong,  
And be able to do something else instead  
And think this song:

I can stop when I want to  
Can stop when I wish  
I can stop, stop, stop any time.  
And what a good feeling to feel like this  
And know that the feeling is really mine.  
Know that there's something deep inside  
That helps us become what we can.  
For a girl can be someday a woman  
And a boy can be someday a man.

© 1968 Fred M. Rogers



## It's a Beautiful Day

It's a beautiful day in this neighborhood,  
A beautiful day for a neighbor.  
Would you be mine?  
Could you be mine?

It's a neighborly day in this beauty wood,  
A neighborly day for a beauty,  
Would you be mine?  
Could you be mine?

I have always wanted to have a neighbor just like you!

I've always wanted to live in a neighborhood with you.

So let's make the most of this beautiful day,  
Since we're together we might as well say,  
Would you be mine?

Could you be mine?  
Won't you be my neighbor?

Won't you please,  
Won't you please?

Please won't you be my neighbor?

© 1967 Fred M. Rogers

## A GOOD TIME FOR BRUNCH

On January 12, despite the cold and snow, 10 young adults gathered after the service for a brunch and a time to socialize and formalize a process for future meetings.

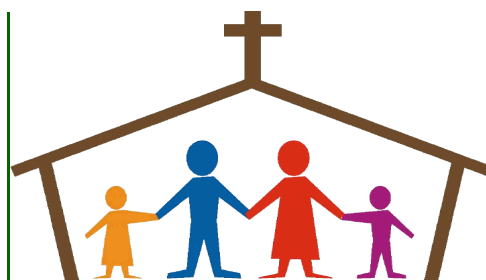
Everything begins with food and so a professional chef (Shane Johnson) and a sous chef (Peter Eerkes) organized a buffet consisting of a Hash Brown Casserole, Oven Baked French Toast, yogurt, fruit, sausages, bacon, coffee, tea and juice. We want to thank Ally and Saúl for also helping out! We hoped this would entice the young adults to come!

The response to the call was very encouraging, all youth contacted replied but because of exams, work or the weather, individuals had to cancel but did indicate a willingness to attend our next get together.

After meeting each other and comfortably sated, the group discussed some priorities for future meetings: They would like to have discussions on the Bible and other topics, participate in a Youth Service, undertake a Mission project, and try to meet regularly, and of course, plan an occasional brunch! It was decided that the best time to meet would be after the worship service on Sundays.

If young people in the postsecondary group, either working or in school are interested in attending, contact Peter Eerkes at [pdeerkes@shaw.ca](mailto:pdeerkes@shaw.ca) and be on a contact list. The next meeting will likely be in March.

Hope to see you there!  
*Peter Eerkes*



## Contact Us

Dayspring Presbyterian Church  
11445-40 Ave  
Edmonton, AB, CAN, T5J0R4  
Admin@DayspringChurch.ca  
780-435-3111

Visit us on the web at  
[www.DayspringChurch.ca](http://www.DayspringChurch.ca)

### DayBook Editors:

Marilyn & John Carr  
DayBook@DayspringChurch.ca

### 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