

# DAYSRING DAYBOOK

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

March 2020

## ON LENT AND PILGRIMAGES

We have now entered the season of Lent. As we do so, we are invited into the experience of thought and action leading up to the celebration of Easter.

The Moderator of the 2019 General Assembly of the PCC, the Rev. Amanda Currie, has written a letter about Lenten observance. Here is a “key” paragraph from that letter.

*As we begin the Season of Lent, we enter into a time of reflection and repentance. We are called to examine our lives, confess our sins, receive God’s forgiveness, and turn towards God’s ways of love, generosity, and grace once again. God knows the reasons for our temptations and the circumstances that lead us to stumble, but God only asks for our sincere “I’m sorry” and our desire to amend our lives. God is ready and waiting to wrap us in a spiritual hug of assurance, forgiveness, and strength for the days ahead.*

The full letter can be found using the following link.

<https://presbyterian.ca/2020/02/26/reflections-lent-moderator/>

Marilyn Carr, on page 4 of this issue, shares her experience of participating in an online Lenten study involving Presbyterians (including Amanda Currie) from across Canada.

Heinrich Grosskopf reflects on our movement through Lent to Easter — from our potential for stuckness to celebration of our liberation.

Finally, our peripatetic pilgrims, Cornelius and Susara are off on another trek, this time in Israel. On page 2 you will find some of Susara’s notes about their experience to date. More to come next month. Below and on page 3, are some pictures from their journey.

**John Carr**



## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*No act of virtue can be great if it is not followed by advantage for others. ...if you do no good to others, you do nothing.*

*John Chrysostom*

## In This Issue

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## SUSARA AND CORNELIUS ON THE MOVE AGAIN

On February 21, 2020 Cornelius and I started to walk the Israel National trail, also known as Shivil trail. At the Toronto airport the customs people had an interview with us because they wanted to know what our intentions are to visit Israel. I explain to the officer that we were going to walk from Eilat in the south to Dan in the north. He was very surprised and asked if I knew that the south part of Israel is desert. After a few minutes he was satisfied with our answers and we were on our way to Israel. When we arrived in Tel Aviv it was raining. We were so surprised that they scan you and your luggage before you can enter a shopping mall. We took the bus down to Eilat. The hostel that we stayed in is next to a night club. Needless to say that we did not get any sleep as the music stopped at 6 am.

On day 4 we walked from Be'er Ora over Timna mountain to Timna park Visitors Centre. At Be'er Ora we met an Israeli named Guy. He asked to join our group. Lucca from Germany also joined us and now we are a group of 5. We walked over Mount Hakill to an artificial pond. There was a restaurant and shower. It was so good to shower. It is on journeys like this that you realize how we take simple things in life for granted. The climb up mount Timna was very scary. I am not a rock climber but after this trip I might be one. There was lots of scrambling over big rocks and vertical climbing which is not my favorite. The view reminded me of Genesis 13:14-15 where God told Abraham that He will give this land from the south to the north and from the west to the east for him and his children. The way down was super scary and there was parts that I slid down on my bum. We did lots of rock sliding to get down and there was another Ibex watching us. He must be thinking that we are crazy. We wanted to sleep at the Visitors Centre but they forecast rain and the danger of flash floods. Our Israeli friend organized for us to sleep at the Elifaz kibbutz. It rained during the night and early morning.

The desert is wet and now it is even more beautiful. In the shade it is cool but in the sun it is hot. From Elifaz to Shaharut is 27 km. The route is over Ma'ale Milham mountain. You go up 500 meters in 1 kilometer. The scenery makes up for the hard work to get up the mountains.

We walked on from Sapir to Gev Holit night camp but our Israeli friend decided not to walk for a few days. We experienced a geological phenomenon. It is due to the different types of rock that form the area. The bottom layer is softer and eroded over time causing the upper layer to slowly collapse. This created the cracks. It was an easy 200 meter climb to the top of Mt. Yahav.

From Gev Holit to Gevanim night camp it was quite a day . We entered the Hahal Geled which is a high waterfall. We had to scramble up huge rocks and it was very steep and needless to say very scary. Next was the Karbolet Harerim. Karbolet means cock comb describing the up and down climbing. It was a never ending climb up. Every time we think we are at the top we go around a rock just to discover that it is still uphill. The view from the Ramon crater is spectacular and worth the effort. The last part of the day was over Mt. Saharonim. There were bus loads of students at the night camp. Needless to say, we did not get any sleep.

We woke up with raindrops falling on the tent. It was only a few drops so we decided to start walking. We were walking on the rim of the crater and just where the path narrowed the wind came up. It looked like a sandstorm but a few minutes later we know it was rain. Before we could get our rain gear out we were soaked. After about 5 minutes the rain stopped, then started again. This time we hid in a small cave. The field was breathtaking. There were purple flowers as far as you could see. It certainly does not look like a desert. Just before we walked into the campsite it started to rain again. We were so cold but after 2 hours in our sleeping bag we were warm.

We arrived at Ben Gurion. The walk was hard. It was mountain up and mountain down just to go up again with one part that was cliff hanging. It is still not my favorite and I was glad when the path was more stable again. From all the rain we have rolling hills of purple, green and yellow flowers. We even did some river crossing at the oasis. To be continued ...

**Susara**

*See pictures on page 3.*

## FROM OUR MINISTER:

### Easter Message

When we think about Easter and what it means for us, one of the main themes that come up, is New Life. So much happens at this time of the year that bears hope, that it would be silly not to pay attention. Just look at the days lengthening. Pay attention to Spring coming along very soon. There will be blossoms, and nobody has to give a guarantee, we just “know” it will happen. This is the way God created nature to be (of course, in the northern hemisphere).

Then, on a much larger level, there is a message that jumps out, right at a person this time of the year. It is the message of death that could not contain our Lord Jesus Christ! He suffered, which we take note of during the season of Lent. He was crucified, died and was buried, and this is what we commemorate on Good Friday. Above all of this, He was raised from death.

Many interpret Jesus’ resurrection in all kinds of ways. The main gist is that God refused to leave us without hope. God sent his Son to identify with us so that we don’t need to be imprisoned in all sorts of limiting experiences. There are situations where life seems very stuck, in addictions, in relationships, and in habits. This list is endless.

Despite all of these troubling scenarios of stuckness, there is hope! Whether it is in our life as a congregation or as families, or as individuals, the God of New Life wants to lift up our spirit so that we can be liberated, set free from that which binds us. Jesus Christ came to this world to bring the timeless message that “In our end is our beginning, in our time, infinity, in our doubt there is believing, in our life eternity...” (number 674 in the 1997 Book of Praise).

Let us await Easter with much expectation!

Happy Easter!



*Heinrich*

## SUSARA & CORNELIUS PICTURES



## LENTEN STUDY FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH

A Lenten Study is underway by the Presbyterian Church and congregations have been invited to journey with others through the Lenten season using online access. The study this year has been prepared by Dr. N.T. (Tom) Wright and is based on the Gospel of Matthew. The study book is titled ***Lent for Everyone***.

The online study is led by Emily Hill, Education Coordinator for Canadian Ministries. If you would like to take a look at the study book, contact Heinrich or me.

Dr. Wright is a former Bishop of Durham in the Church of England and a Chairperson of New Testament and Historian of Early Christianity at the University of St. Andrew's in Scotland and at Oxford. In this study, Dr. Wright explores Jesus' proclamation that "the Kingdom of Heaven is Near." This announcement has often been interpreted as Jesus coming to assist people to get to heaven. Dr. Wright emphasizes that Jesus was preaching and teaching that "the God of heaven and earth has come to earth to establish his sovereign saving rule."

Unfortunately, the information about this study arrived just a couple of weeks prior to Lent and not in time to circulate it. If interested, follow the feedback online at <https://presbyterian.ca/canadian-ministries/presbyterians-read/>.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada organized a national study during Advent 2019 and will repeat this again. Hopefully we will have more time to make these learning opportunities known.

Marilyn A. Carr



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### SESSION

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**Session Clerk:** Gina Kottke

**Deputy Clerk:** Iris Routledge

**Roll Clerk:** Jim Jeatt

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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  
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**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