



# THE DAYSPRING DISPATCH

January 2012

Dayspring Presbyterian Church

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## COMPASSIONATE LIVING

One of my favourite readings is a passage from a book by McNeill, Morrison, and Nouwen (**Compassion: A Reflection on the Christian Life**). I share it as a source of inspiration for the year that is unfolding.

*There is a beautiful expression in the Gospels that appears only twelve times and is used exclusively in reference to Jesus or his Father. That expression is "to be moved with compassion."*

*The Greek verb **splangchnizomai** reveals to us the deep and powerful meaning of this expression. The **splangchna** are the entrails of the body, or as we might say today, the guts. They are the place where our most intimate and intense emotions are located. They are the center from which both passionate love and passionate hate grow.*

*When the Gospels speak about Jesus' compassion as his being moved in the entrails, they are expressing something very deep and mysterious. The compassion that Jesus felt was obviously quite different from superficial or passing feelings of sorrow or sympathy. Rather, it extended to the most vulnerable part of his being.*

*It is related to the Hebrew word for compassion, **rachamim**, which refers to the womb of Yahweh. Indeed, compassion is such a deep, central, and powerful emotion in Jesus that it can only be described as a movement of the womb of God. There, all the divine tenderness and gentleness lies hidden. There, God is father and mother, brother and sister, son and daughter. There, all feelings, emotions, and passions are one in divine love.*

*When Jesus was moved to compassion, the source of all life trembled, the ground of all love burst open, and the abyss of God's immense, inexhaustible, and*

*unfathomable tenderness revealed itself.*

*This is the mystery of God's compassion as it becomes visible in the healing stories of the New Testament.*

*When Jesus saw the crowd harassed and dejected like sheep without a shepherd, he felt with them in the center of his being (Mt 9:36).*

*When he saw the blind, the paralyzed, and the deaf being brought to him from all directions, he trembled from within and experienced their pains in his own heart (Mt 14:14).*

*When he noticed that the thousands who had followed him for days were tired and hungry, he said, I am moved with compassion (Mk 8:2).*

*And so it was with the two blind men who called after him (Mt 9:27), the leper who fell to his knees in front of him (Mk 1:41), and the widow of Nain who was burying her only son (Lk 7:13). They moved him, they made him feel with all his intimate sensibilities the depth of their sorrow. He became lost with the lost, hungry with the hungry, and sick with the sick. In him, all suffering was sensed with a perfect sensitivity.*

*The great mystery revealed to us in this is that Jesus, who is the sinless son of God, chose in total freedom to suffer fully our pains and thus to let us discover the true nature of our own passions. In him, we see and experience the persons we truly are.*

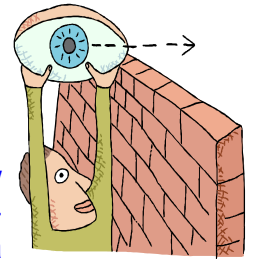
*He who is divine lives our broken humanity not as a curse (Genesis 3:14 -19), but as a blessing. His divine compassion makes it possible for us to face our sinful selves, because it transforms our broken human condition from a cause of despair into a source of hope.*

**John Carr**

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# BEYOND OUR WALLS

Parkland First Presbyterian Church,  
Spruce Grove



Continuing this series, we are featuring the beginning and ongoing adventure of a new congregation in the western section of the Greater Edmonton area. Parkland First Presbyterian Church began as a Bible Study group in the mid 1990s, officially became a congregation in 1997 and called their first minister in 2005. They began meeting in Pioneer Centre, beside the Spruce Grove City Hall and, in the Spring of 2011, moved into a store/warehouse. This building is located at 50 Shep Street (a block south of the Spruce Grove Grain Elevator). They meet for worship at 10 AM on Sundays. They have been busy renovating this meeting space and have installed a new heating/ventilating system, repaired the roof and installed a handicapped washroom. They are proud to share the space with Zumba classes and the Horizon Players Theatre Group.

They are largely a group of young families and retired seniors. They value hospitality and care deeply about the communities of Spruce Grove and Stony Plain. They place an emphasis on education and most of all they love to eat together. The minister, the Rev. Mark Chiang, asks us to pray for them as they discern ways in which God can use this renovated space to bless the community of Parkland County.

Here are some personal comments from Alex Kirkland, a member of Parkland First.

I first met the Rev. Mark Chiang and some other parishioners at the local food bank. A few years later when I was looking for a new church home, I prayed and was directed to Parkland First Presbyterian Church.

Another reason for choosing this church was because one of the parishioners had invited me to their Bible study. I was impressed with those studies because the pastor went deep into the topic and also asked us what we thought. He didn't tell us what was right or wrong. I started going to the church just as they began meeting in their new building. Again, the teaching was awesome and the congregation was so loving, friendly and inclusive.

One Sunday they had their annual meeting, and even though I was unable to vote, the congregation did ask what were the reasons for choosing them as my church home. My response was that I was drawn by the love that they had shown me. They are such a loving and caring church.

Around Easter, I was asked to be a member of the church. I did not have to think. I knew I had found my home church and the decision to join was very easy. I truly believe that this church will be used to draw people to Christ by their love.

Even though we are a small congregation, and we just bought a new building, and we have many areas in which we need to grow, I believe that as we are obedient to God and accept His mandate for this congregation, we will do great things. This church has a lot of love to show this area and we will use our new building to bring glory to the most high God.

Picture on the right: The Rev. Mark Chiang leads worship for the Parkland First congregation.



## FROM OUR MINISTER'S DESK: And it's yet another new start...

"I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown!' And he replied: 'Go out into the darkness and put thine hand into the hand of God. That shall be to thee better than light and safer than a known way'."



While striving to be cautious in every new step and eventual change we make at Dayspring, there is so often a great openness and I think that we can thank the Spirit of God for working amongst us in fresh and bold ways. I believe that the Spirit of God works in ordinary ways in our day-to-day living. It needn't be seen in "stunning and awesome revelations".

We at Dayspring are fortunate to have so many forward-thinking people and leaders among us. This enables us to put our hand into the hand of God and to trust Him for the future.

While the insights gained this past year from our discussions on our music director, Gord's papers will keep refreshing our Sunday worship services, we will also start off this year with some "congregational soul-searching" that has stemmed forth from the Stewards by Design Conference that four of us from Dayspring (David Burnett, Adrian Kottke and Lorraine Wheatley and I) attended at Orillia in Ontario.

For one, I am planning on organizing an evening Bible study based on the works of the presenter of this Conference, Dr. Kennon Callahan. His book "Twelve keys to an effective church – strong, healthy congregations living in the grace of God" will be the basis from which the Bible study is taken. Please feel free to sign up on a sign-up sheet for this purpose in the Great Room. This way we will be able to incorporate some of the refreshing and stimulating insights into our congregation's activities.

Happy New Year to you, and let's be inspired!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heinrich". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



## NEWS FROM THE WORLD CHURCH (Source: Ecumenical News International)

### Church of Norway to improve inclusion of native Sami people

The (Lutheran) Church of Norway in the next five years will be implementing a plan to enhance the role of the indigenous Sami people in church life. "We want Sami church life to be an equal and natural part of the church, and the Church of Norway to be a multicultural fellowship," said Jens-Petter Johnsen, director general of the Church of Norway National Council. He spoke with the Church of Norway Information Service. The Sami are an indigenous people in the northern parts of Norway, Sweden and Finland, and on the Kola Peninsula in Russia.

### Southern Africa archbishop tells Mugabe to end church persecution

The Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town has called on Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe to put an end to persecution of the Anglican Church after state police on 3 January broke up the annual prayer retreat of clergy from the Diocese of Harare. Episcopal News Service reports that about 80 diocesan priests were meeting at Peterhouse School in Marondera, capital of Zimbabwe's Mashonaland East province, when police intervened and halted the gathering, reportedly on the grounds that it had not received official legal clearance.

### Biblical psalm is inspiration for Japanese environmentalist

Japanese environmentalist Shigeatsu Hatakeyama, who is up for a "Forest Hero" award from the United Nations, has an unusual inspiration for his long-standing idea that healthy forests depend upon healthy oceans and vice versa: the Bible's Psalm 42. As the psalm compares a deer's thirst for water to the soul's desire for God, Hatakeyama's campaign of tree-planting, education and conservation is called "The Forest is Longing for the Sea, the Sea is Longing for the Forest." The name "is rooted in the 'longing for' [in Psalm 42]," said Hatakeyama, who is 68, a professor of field studies and practical learning at Kyoto University and a member of the Japan Baptist Union. He is a finalist for a Forest Hero Award from the U.N. under its 2011 International Year of Forests program. The awards will be announced on 9 February.

# TRANSITIONS



With sadness we take note of the death of Lloyd Dick on 21 December 2011. A memorial service was held at Dayspring on 30 December. Warmest sympathy to Andrea, Wynne, and James - and to Andrea's parents, Doug & Mickey, and her brothers, Daryl and Aaron.

## ANGELS ON ASSIGNMENT

During the Sunday Morning service on 18 December, adults, youth, and children of the congregation presented the Christmas play with this title. Pictures, taken by Lynne Vaughan and Ken Rooney, are available in the password protected version of this issue.

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Photography: Ken Rooney

Publication Deadlines:

3rd Sunday of September, October, and June

2nd Sunday of November through May

## LEADERSHIP AT DAYSPRING CHURCH

### SESSION

**Moderator:** Heinrich Grosskopf

**Session Clerk:** Darlene Eerkes

**Deputy Clerk:** Sam Jaikaran

**Roll Clerk:** John Carr

### Other Elders

Bill Davis

Jane de Caen

Peter Eerkes

Carina Grosskopf

Dixie Henderson

Mickey Johnston

Jacob Kellerman

Maie Kellerman

Gina Kottke

Peter Morrison

Walters Munde

Nick Nation

Stanley Ngwa

John Ross

Darleen Springstein

Mary Waugh

### CHURCH STAFF

#### Minister

The Rev. Dr. Heinrich Grosskopf

**Youth/CE Director:** Danny Garrison

#### Music Director

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:** Lynne Wawryk

**Custodians:** Lindsey & Jim Matthew