



# THE DAYSPRING DISPATCH

September 2011

Dayspring Presbyterian Church

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## HELLO! HOW ARE YOU?

This was a greeting exchanged among several people recently and then a discussion followed about how honest we were with our question.

Were we indeed willing and ready to listen to a litany of complaints or accomplishments that could follow this greeting, often in a public place?

Is it just a trite add-on to the “hello, good evening or good morning” opening, perhaps uttered without thinking?

Are we concerned about being so automatic in our greetings that we are not authentic in our interactions with others?

A long time ago, a person known to both of us as someone who is always direct and blunt, replied by saying “Do you really want to know?”

So, what IS a suitable response to a quick meeting in public?

We do not want to dismiss someone’s re-

sponse when we utter the question, perhaps quickly, to our automatic salute or welcome.

Just to respond with “you look good today, or what a pretty or handsome ...” may not be received as intended.

We are endeavouring to avoid a trite or hackneyed greeting, yet we want to be friendly but not invasive or impatient.

Is there a universal, friendly, short greeting that would not be spoken robotically?

Perhaps we should always just say what we mean and mean what we say in the moment - but always out of thoughtfulness about self and about the other.

Possibilities? I’m glad to see you... I’ve been thinking about you... When can we get together?

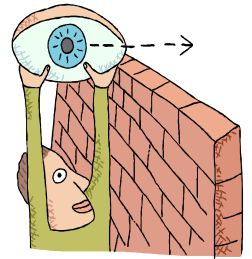
Add your own. Maybe let us know.

***Marilyn and John***



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# BEYOND OUR WALLS



## THE RIVERSIDE-ST. JOHN'S STORY

by Joan Cruickshank

Out of sadness, good things may still come.

After 50 years of congregational life, it was determined by the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod with Riverside Church, Medicine Hat, that the congregation was no longer able to maintain a full-time ministry, nor the costs of keeping up its facility.

Final services were held in October 2010. Among those who wept with the folk of Riverside, were their brother/sister Presbyterians from St. John's, Medicine Hat. During the last decade, there was increased cooperation between the two congregations and the former minister of St. John's served as Interim Moderator of Riverside for a year; summer worship services were shared; both choirs combined in special seasons; the busy women's groups of both churches worked closely together on a pre-Christmas downtown bazaar, known as "Midnight Madness."

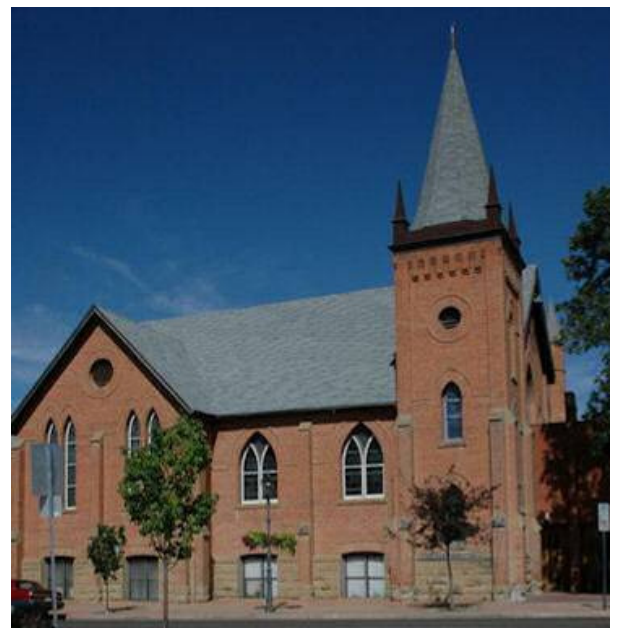
The idea of "merging" the congregations was rejected as an option early in the process. So, St. John's minister, leaders and members of the congregation at large, embarked on a welcoming ministry of hospitality to those in Riverside who wished to remain with their beloved Presbyterian tradition. Representatives of Presbytery worked with a team at Riverside to make decisions about the dispersal of furnishings and made suggestions to Presbytery how the proceeds of the property's sale might be apportioned. A parallel team at St John's considered each request to give special items from Riverside a new home. Of particular concern to Riverside members were the unique stained glass windows, created by a local artist, honouring many precious lives from that congregation. The St John's team worked hard to come up with a lovely design which will allow these windows to be installed at St John's.

On the "people" side of things, St. John's very intentionally began to make its invitation to Riverside people concrete and non-threatening. The two Sessions and Boards met together for social times. Riverside women were treated to a formal Tea by St. John's "Women of the Church" and a dinner was hosted by St. John's for all Riverside folk who would accept our invitation. Letters were sent to each member of Riverside inviting them to associate with St John's. Our minister was very clear in making sure no one felt pressured to join right away. She recognized that a grieving process may take place and people would need time to decide where and when they wanted to find their new church home.

A year or more since the "dating" began, perhaps two-thirds of Riverside members have made up their own minds to transfer to St. John's. And what a blessing this has been to the Presbyterian witness in Medicine Hat! Those stained glass windows, rich with Christian symbols and stories, are now part of a beautiful installation built into the fabric of St. John's. A Memorial Chapel area has been created where the chancel furniture from Riverside will be seen and used.

At an upcoming Thanksgiving dinner, a former and very respected minister of Riverside will be present from Ontario to assist in the dedication of the relocated "memories" of Riverside in St. John's.

Such big changes and transitions can work: To the Glory of God!



## FROM OUR MINISTER'S DESK

Study leave with a difference but much worthwhile!

A colleague of mine in ministry, Kobus Genis from Calgary, and I went to Los Angeles for six days towards the end of June this year. We wanted to get a feel for how Presbyterians and others do ministry in that metropolis. Kobus knows a few persons that are involved in the Presbyterian Church (USA) in that area.



To my mind our visit delivered some insights that would never have been found if we had attended a formal course of some kind. One of the contrasts that we encountered was between a large program-oriented congregation and a small community-sized congregation. Both had their positive sides to learn from. But it became clear that there are also pitfalls in being “large and successful”, from which I think I learned something. Without getting critical towards a specific congregation, I would rather just indicate some things to look out for.

When congregations become “large and successful” with between two and three dozen people on their payroll, all kinds of pressures could surface. It could become burdensome to pay so many employees, shifting the focus away from hospitality and care, towards a drive for increased attendance on a weekend. The more people that attend church on a given weekend, the reasoning could go, the greater the revenues. There are smart ways to draw people into a faith-community. We found that the one church even had an app for smartphones and that there are all kinds of ways to send your friends and family an “e-vite” to come and attend their church. But there wasn’t much of a personal touch to speak of. Perhaps when we let technology work for us, it becomes imperative to extend warmth towards the people that we encounter.

However, there was this flip-side that we experienced upon attending West Hollywood Presbyterian Church on Sunset Boulevard. This church’s size was dramatically smaller. It could take less than a hundred people and the tone was clearly much more pastoral and welcoming. The folks wanted to linger around for coffee, tea, lemonade or snacks after church. There was no particular emphasis on expanding attendance. You were simply welcomed very intentionally, without any pressure.

There were many more experiences, but I think that I can conclude with a single line, and that is: “Bigger isn’t always better, the warm welcoming love of Christ should always shine forth.”

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heimrich". The script is cursive and fluid.

## DAYSPRINGER AFGHANS

Some of the members of the Dayspring Arts & Crafts Group along with others have, for many years, organized the making of warm, cozy, attractive afghans!!!

Many other Dayspringers participate in this project by knitting or crocheting 8” x 8” squares for the afghans.

The afghans in the picture were destined for Shepherd’s Care. Others go to Edmonton’s Women’s Emergency Accommodation Centre (WEAC). Some are sold at the Annual Christmas Arts & Craft event. Still others are kept on hand at the church for needy families



Photo by Audrey Tod

If you would like to participate in this project, please contact Audrey Tod.

# DAYSPRING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, EDMONTON

- Our Mission:** To worship God, grow in Christian Faith, and Share our Gifts
- Our Purpose:** To be a Christian community of Faith and Care
- Our Vision:** To be a Presbyterian congregation: focused on faithful Christian discipleship and spiritual growth; exploring and expressing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in an engaging, dynamic, and balanced manner to all generations within the congregation and the community; developing in our stewardship of our time, talents, and treasure, and of God's creation; and caring for our Dayspring family and wider community



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## LEADERSHIP AT DAYSPRING CHURCH

### SESSION

**Moderator:** Heinrich Grosskopf  
**Session Clerk:** Darlene Eerkes  
**Deputy Clerk:** Sam Jaikaran  
**Roll Clerk:** John Carr

### Elders

Bill Davis	Gina Kottke
Jane de Caen	Peter Morrison
Peter Eerkes	Walters Munde
Carina Grosskopf	Nick Nation
Mickey Johnston	Darleen Springstein
Jacob Kellerman	Mary Waugh
Maie Kellerman	

### 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.

**Administrative Assistant:** Lynne Wawryk

**Custodians:** Lindsey & Jim Matthew