



# Trinity Dove

January 20, 2008 + Epiphany 2 + Bright New Year II  
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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## ✚ Sabbaths & Celebrations

### Sunday, January 27 ~ Epiphany 3

- ✚ Anchor Worship at 9:30 am (Parish update, 9:20 am)
- ✚ Community Fellowship at 10:30 am
- ✚ Nurturing Faith: Faith Adventures at 10:45 am
- ✚ Nurturing Faith: Adults. Caring & Coping (McKinnon)
- ✚ Sanctuary Worship at 5 pm

### Sunday, February 3 ~ Transfiguration

- ✚ Anchor Worship at 9:30 am (Parish update, 9:20 am)
- ✚ Community Fellowship at 10:30 am
- ✚ Nurturing Faith: Faith Adventures at 10:45 am
- ✚ Nurturing Faith: Adults. Caring & Coping (Wurdell)
- ✚ Sanctuary Worship at 5 pm

### Wednesday, February 6 ~ Ash Wednesday

- ✚ Affirmation Supper at 6 pm; worship at 7 pm

### Sunday, February 10 ~ Lent 1

- ✚ Anchor Worship at 9:30 am (Parish update, 9:20 am)
- ✚ Community Fellowship at 10:30 am
- ✚ Nurturing Faith: Faith Adventures at 10:45 am
- ✚ Annual meeting at c. 10:45 am
- ✚ Sanctuary Worship at 5 pm

### Sunday, February 17 ~ Lent 2

- ✚ Anchor Worship at 9:30 am (Parish update, 9:20 am)
- ✚ Community Fellowship at 10:30 am
- ✚ Nurturing Faith: Faith Adventures at 10:45 am
- ✚ Nurturing Faith: Adults. Caring & Coping (Lougheed)
- ✚ Sanctuary Worship at 5 pm

### Sunday, February 24 ~ Lent 3

- ✚ Anchor Worship at 9:30 am (Parish update, 9:20 am)
- ✚ Community Fellowship at 10:30 am
- ✚ Nurturing Faith: Faith Adventures at 10:45 am
- ✚ Nurturing Faith: Adults. Caring & Coping (Mills)
- ✚ Sanctuary Worship at 5 pm

✚ *andré lavergne*

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## ✚ Pastor André ~ Bright New Year II

Grace and peace, friends.

On Monday, December 31, 2007, at 11 am, Barbara Edwards and I were married here at Trinity Church. Pr. James Brown presided while Pr. Anne served as a reader. Lynda Baxter of Guelph and Mark Harris of Waterloo stood up for us. Brian Racho rang the bells!

Our small company included Barbara's birth family: Helen Schmidt (mom), David (brother) & Nadine Schmidt and Diane Haymes (sister); our kids: Dayna Edwards & Eric Duncan, Blake Edwards, Ruth Lavergne & Ian Zwier, John Lavergne & Paulina Wandzel; together with James & Paula Brown, Graham Brown, Lynda & Brian Baxter, Mark & Connie Harris and Pr. Anne.

We've posted our guide-to-worship, wedding texts and some photos on the Trinity web-site. By January 25, Barbara—she prefers *Barbara*—will have fully relocated to the Peel Street parsonage—our new home. Thereafter, we look forward to spending some time with family and friends and to celebrating our new life together.

We are very happy and very, very grateful.

All blessings.

✚ *andré lavergne*

## ✚ Time for God

*Pr. Anne writes...*

Have you heard of *Time For God*? No, it's not the latest devotional book. It's a program for young adult volunteers from around the world.

Before I entered seminary, I spent a year as a youth-and-family worker in London, England, in a four-point parish. It was a great year of learning and growth. Trinity's Council is looking at the possibility of bringing a young adult volunteer (age 25 or older) to serve in our congregation for a year. He or she would be from the United Kingdom and would come to experience a year in Canada while spending *Time for God* with us!

### What would such a volunteer do here?

Well with our growing youth and children's programs, it would be helpful to have an extra hand for planning and

preparation of events. Depending on their interests and skills they would be involved in our worship life and possibly with parish visitation — in a role not unlike that of a seminary intern.

### What is asked of Trinity?

There are three significant ways in which we will be responsible for our volunteer.

1. There is a need for regular supervision.
2. The volunteer will need a vehicle and small stipend.
3. We would need to recruit one or more host families.

*Pr. André writes...*

### How might we address these needs?

1. Supervision would be Anne's responsibility as a volunteer would be working primarily in her areas of ministry. I would provide back-up.
2. We will place two alternative Endowment Fund budgets before the congregation at our February annual meeting. The preferred option will make provision for the *Time for God* program and will include projected expenditures for 2008 and 2009. Our preliminary research indicates that we can do it!
3. We would seek four host-families with whom our volunteer would spend a quarter of his or her time, three months each with a different host-family (rural, town, etc...). This would have the virtues of giving our volunteer a variety of experiences while not asking too much of a single family. Interested? Speak to us!

Our journey would begin with our making an application with *Time for God* detailing our needs. If a potentially suitable applicant were found, we would conduct an interview without obligation on either side. If it seemed that we had a match, we would sort out the details with a view to welcoming our volunteer in the fall of 2008 for a one-year stay through August, 2009.

That's the basic stuff. If you have any questions, please chat with one of us. You can also visit the *Time For God* website at [www.timeforgod.org](http://www.timeforgod.org).

Stay tuned as we sort things out. Look for a proposal in February. As ever, Trinity's faithful journey continues in new, interesting and exciting ways!

✚ *anne anderson & andré lavergne*



## ✚ Sacraments & Seasons

### Baptisms

On December 30, Adrian Nickolas, son of Debbie (Ting) and Todd Nickolas, was baptised. On January 13, the following were baptised: Isabella and Nicholas Ceccardi, children of Val (Fisher) and Matt Ceccardi; Jordan Snyder, son of Melanie (Hallman) & Shane Snyder; Kyle Kuepfer, son of Ross Kuepfer & Danita Fisher. We welcome you into the Lord's family!

### Marriages

On December 29, 2007, Kitch Radke and Dee Roth were married. On December 31, 2007, André Lavergne and Barbara Edwards were married. Congratulations!

### Deaths

Our community grieves the (December 29) death of Mildred Ziegler at the age of 91 and the (January 4) death of Gerry Minnie at the age of 73. Blessed are they who mourn.



### February Birthdays

**1** - Stephen May, Marina Baker; **2** - Erma Cheeseman, Howard Weicker, Tammy Bingeman, Anesa Wettlaufer; **3** - Janice Ritz, Dwane Arnott, Tara Otto, Kirsten Danner; **4** - Ella Luckhart, Sherry Wallace, Dave Randerson, Dale Schaaf, Jackson Normandeau; **5** - Anneliese Kraehling, Tom Boehler, Ricky Long, Aidan Bruce; **6** - Christina Butz, Jessica Gascon; **7** - Hans Lass, Darryl Smith, Kate Gingerich, Peyton Mayer, Rachel Steinberg; **8** - Joanne Aitken; **9** - Bruce Briand, Paul Buehlow, Rob Murray, Todd Seltzer, Rachel Heise, Jeremy Wagler; **10** - Rose Swartzentruber, Susan Leclair, Tyler Legare; **11** - Keith Heise, Sayde Campbell; **12** - Calvin Swartzentruber, Anita Hanson, Brad MacDonald; **13** - Lynn Zoeller, Laurie Clarke, Beth Bender, Maureen Ruthig, Derek Snyder; **14** - Jean Hammer, Klaus Jahn, Valerie Gerber; **15** - John Wallace, Jim Burchatzki, Jeff Lindner, Sara Mann, Caitlyn Burchatzki; **16** - Irvin Quast, Arlene Kropf, Greg Martin; **17** - Paul Sostar, Jeff McClenaghan, Diane Hatchwell, Geri Prues, Jessica Parkin, Justin Gerber; **18** - Michael O'Donoghue, Troy Hammer; **19** - Mary Ann Keller, Kevin Bingeman, Steve Aitken; **20** - Barry Wallace, Michelle Bergman; **21** - Bruce Hammer, Brent Shantz; **22** - Richard Zoeller, Tracy Sheard, Jacqueline Bailey, Bradley Drexler, Isaac Seltzer; **23** - Judy Hillar, Heather Leu, Angie Scheid, Justin Brennan, Michael Lagace-Roote, Olivia Knackstedt; **24** - Roy Berfelz, Sara Baker, James Schiedel; **25** - Pete Bast, Shelley Lindner, Ashley Leu; **26** - Christine

Klaassen, Martha Cook, Anthony Medley, Kevin Schwartz; **27** - George Mueller, Sheila Hooisma; **28** - Tom Murray, Doug Kaminska, Jason Holst, Shelby Junker. Happy birthday, friends!

### February Anniversaries

**4** - Corey & Kate Gingerich; **6** - Pete & Sharon Bast, Kimberley & Mark Murray; **14** - Mark & Stacey West; **16** - Ray & Jill Merner; **19** - Paul & Stephanie Sostar, Dwane & Lori Arnott; **24** - David & Holly Bast; **26** - David & Holly Bast; **26** - Steve Dramnitzke & Teresa MacVicar; **27** - Jackie & Pete Buehlow. Congratulations, friends.

✚ *jill merner*

### ✚ Council Bases Covered

In February, 2008, Earl Nickolas, Cy Ridout and Ray Merner will each complete a second term on Council while Lori Arnott will complete her first term. All have blessed us with excellent ministry! Only Lori is eligible to serve again—and she has agreed! We have therefore been seeking three candidates for Council.

Marcus Buehlow (property), Ken Seltzer (service) and Jess (Chester) O'Donoghue (youth) have all indicated their willingness to serve. What a terrific team! Their names will be before the congregation at our annual meeting.

✚ *andré lavergne*

### ✚ Dave Mello: There Will Be Cake!

Council Proclamation: Sunday, March 30, 2008, shall be observed as Easter 2 and celebrated as Dave Mello Sunday. As always, there will be cake!

✚ *andré lavergne*

### ✚ Soup, Sandwich, Sermon & Song

Trinity will participate in the New Hamburg and Area Ministerial's *Soup, Sandwich, Sermon and Song* series held Wednesdays during Lent beginning February 6. This year, we'll reflect on the "I am" sayings of Jesus. Trinity will host the February 13 devotions and lunch. Pastor André will reflect on the theme "I am ...light". Betty Ritz, Pat Schmetzer and friends will co-ordinate the lunch effort. We gather at Zion United Church on Peel Street.

✚ *andré lavergne*

## ✚ Dear Kim, This is what I believe...

*Explaining Christian Faith Today*

*Each month, by permission, we publish an extract from Bill Loader's book, Dear Kim, This is what I believe...*

### Chapter 2 (Continued): What About Jesus?

#### The cross, a symbol of love

But when we look back, we see that the killing of Jesus becomes one of those big events where lots of things come together. Here was love which kept loving right to the end. One account of his death even has him pray for his killers while he hung on the cross; he kept true to loving to the end. This was a revelation of love. The cross became a symbol of this love. It became a symbol of God.

In a fascinating way it turned traditional values upside down. The Roman soldiers ridiculed Jesus by dressing him up as a king. The charge against him was that he was wanting to be a king of the Jews. That charge hung above him on the cross. It was false. Yet people soon realised that at another level it was true; Jesus had shown what being a king or leader really means. He showed what kind of king God is: not a king of power, but a king of love. This challenges all prevailing systems of power which think 'might is right'. The powerful powerlessness of the cross has been an amazing symbol.

#### The cross, a symbol of evil

The other side of the coin is that the event of Jesus' death has become a symbol of what is evil: the killing of love, wherever it occurs and whatever justification people use to excuse it. The justification in Jesus' case was the need to keep law and order, to maintain stability on the eastern flank of the Roman empire. Sadly, people always seem to find a way of justifying the destruction of love and justice. The cry for law and order is frequently the impulse for actions which lead to the violation of human rights.

Jesus' suffering was not greater than that of other human beings. Many have suffered far worse. But it is the fact that human beings conspired together to kill someone so unique as Jesus that is the horror of the event. People snuffed out the brightest and clearest expression of love that world had ever seen. It was a crime not only against him, but against all humanity, and ultimately against God. So, as well as being a revelation of the best in humankind, love, it is also a revelation of the worst in humankind, a symbol of evil.

The death of Jesus, therefore, is one of those events which makes waves. It continues to make an impact across history right into the present day. In one way it sums up what Jesus' life was all about because it shows he loved to the end. It is a symbol of his life. Paul, later, could sum up all that Christianity was about by speaking simply of 'the cross'; he preached 'the cross'.

It has become a symbol of the central issues in all human life: do I kill the love which wants to be alive in me? Each of us knows how to crucify love in ourselves and in our world. So the words of the spiritual ask: 'Were you there when they crucified my Lord?'



#### Finding our way into the story

If we keep coming back to this event, we can keep in touch better with what is happening in our own lives and in our world. When they function well, Christian communities help us feel our way back into the story - whether we are on the side of the crucifiers or the crucified. That alerts us to what is going on around us and within us and we can get in touch again with what that love is all about.

A uniquely powerful event like this explodes into the world with so much energy that no human imagery of explanation can really sum it up. Little wonder that one of the earliest Christian responses was to say: Christ died for us, for our sins. The wrong we do, our lovelessness, has been foisted onto this human being. They experienced this event as a source of enormous healing for their own lives. The goodness concentrated in this event overflows to the benefit of all. It was like he died as a representative of all human beings.

In a world where temples and sacrifices were common it is not surprising that people began to speak of Jesus' death as being like a sacrifice which removed guilt and impurity. They spoke of the healing power of his sacrificial blood. It is strange to our ears. They understood themselves to have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus. This was their way of talking about the impact of Jesus' death, or better of his life and death. It has been off-putting for many that some Christians have persisted in using such language in modern society where temples and sacrifices are no longer part of our common way of life. There are lots of other ways of talking about the impact of Jesus than to speak in the language of blood and sacrifices, but we can know what they meant and share their faith.

#### Resurrection

It is possible to think of Jesus and his impact as simply an

event in history of enormous, even unique, significance. The first Christians went further than that. Their understanding of life included life after death, and especially resurrection. By resurrection they meant that a person begins a new form of existence at a different level of reality. Usually they envisaged this transformed life as entailing a transformation of the dead corpse into a new spiritual reality. This belief went along with the hope that ultimately everything would be transformed to the new level of existence. Some saw it all happening at a set time in the future. Others saw it as something which could start happening already in the present. The details of such beliefs are somewhat vague, but they form the backdrop for the earliest Christians' first great claim about Jesus.

Our earliest Christian sources speak of Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, coming to a new startling belief: instead of remaining in the sleep of death like other human beings who had died, Jesus had been resurrected and Peter had glimpsed him in this new state. Unfortunately there is no description anywhere in earliest writings of what exactly Peter saw, but apparently others had similar visual experiences, women and men. Some accounts even have women as the first to have had the experience. The conviction that God had raised Jesus to the new level of existence became fundamental for Christian faith and turned dejected men and women, disappointed at his death, into enthusiastic propagators of Jesus and his message.

Inevitably this belief called out for further elaboration. The pictures drawn for us in the New Testament vary considerably. Sometimes we read of Jesus walking about and talking as though an actual resuscitation had taken place and he had a normal body of flesh and blood. Others are more careful and speak of appearances and revelations. In all four gospels there is an account of Jesus' tomb being empty. The assumption here is that the corpse of Jesus had been transformed into the new reality. It is difficult to be sure whether this story grew out of the conviction that Jesus was alive or whether it represents memory of finding the tomb actually empty. I'm inclined to the former view; but on the central issue I want to affirm: I believe that Jesus is more than a figure of past history. I believe he belonged to God in his life and I find it hard to believe that he does not belong to God now.

Using very personal language of God, we could say that God raised Jesus from the dead and took him home. He is with God. One of the earliest claims was that God had given Jesus a seat on God's right hand side in heaven. He was to reign as king. If we try to translate these images into other language we could say: Jesus is alive with God

and God has identified him as key spokesperson and representative, who embodies God's will and God's being. God has said 'yes' to all that Jesus said and did. This is a way of saying that Jesus truly is what he claimed to be. What he said about God and what he lived out in his life is true. He is the place where the light shines through.

### Jesus as good news

You can imagine that now the earliest Christian community had a message that had something extra. They still preached and taught what Jesus had said and done; but, added to that, they had the message of his death and his resurrection. In the years that followed they went out and about through their native Judea and Galilee, then spread north to Syria, across to Greece, over to Rome, south to Egypt, and finally throughout the Mediterranean world and also towards the east. They met many different cultures. They were safe most of the time speaking the common Greek language, but, even then, cultures differed considerably. How could they speak about Jesus to people with very different backgrounds from their own without losing the central thrust of what were Jesus' concerns?

This continues to be a major task for people who are part of the continuing Jesus movement; otherwise the message of Jesus gets lost in a ghetto community with its own in-group language and strange ceremonies and institutions and loses relevance for the world around it. One of the reasons I'm writing this book is that I fear this has been happening too much in recent years.

*Next month: Jesus as good news (continued)*

✚ *bill loader*

### ✚ Secret Sisters' Pot-Luck

Our ELW hosts one of Trinity's most wonderful ministries. It's the Secret Sister program in which women are paired with one another as "secret sisters." During the year, each secret sister sends birthday and anniversary greetings, seasonal cards and small gifts to a "secret sister." The latter does not know the identity of the former. Participants gather for a pot-luck supper, at which identities are revealed.

Are you a current participant? Terrific! Not? Consider joining on February 4, 6 pm, at this year's Pot-Luck Supper! Shirley Unrau, 662-1515, has details.

✚ *andré lavergne*



## ✚ Tintinnabulations

### February 4 ~ ELW Gathering

Trinity's ELW gathers, 6 pm, for Secret Sisters' gathering. All women are welcome. Contact Mildred Knackstedt, 662-3739, or Shirley Unrau, 662-1515, for information.

### February 5 ~ Prayer Circle Update

Shirley Unrau & pastors meet, 9:30 am.

### February 6 ~ Congregate Dining

Community Care Concepts organizes a monthly lunch for seniors and for adults with a disability. A poster with current details is posted in the narthex. In general, meals are served at Zion United with doors open at 11:30 am. Next date: Wednesday, February 6. Details: (519) 669-3023.

### February 10 ~ Annual Meeting

The date is Sunday, February 10, and the time is 10:45 am. This year's most significant piece of business is the possibility of taking a *Time for God* volunteer.

### February 14 ~ DOVE Prep Team

The DOVE Preparation Team gathers at 9 am.

### February 19 ~ Gentle Friends

The Gentle Friends Readers gather, 7:30 pm, at members' homes. Information from Kathryn Ritz, 519.662-2960. This month's pick: *Booked to Die* by John Dunning.

### February 21 ~ TT@MM!

It's Not Easy Being Green! Professor Christina Vanin of St. Jerome's University joins us for conversation, 7 pm, at Third Thursdays at MeMe's.

### February 25 ~ Blood Donor Clinic

Our next clinic will be held on Monday, February 25, from 2 to 8:30 pm at W/O.

### Mondays, 8 pm ~ CLEAN

CLEAN —Community Link Empowered Against Narcotics— meets in the Martin Luther Room.

### Tuesdays, 6:45 pm ~ TOPS

TOPS —Taking Off Pounds Sensibly— meets in the Martin Luther Room.

### Saturdays, 8 pm ~ A/A

A/A meets for an open meeting in Trinity Hall.

✚ *andré lavergne*



## ✚ Adults: Caring & Coping

The premise of this winter's 8-session series is that we need to look at how partners and family members find themselves caring and coping in difficult situations, typically around ageing, medical and related issues, at home or in institutional settings.

January 20: What's Our Congregation's Story. Pr. André introduces series based on local pastoral experience.

January 27: Care for the chronically ill with Grand River's Michelle McKinnon.

Example: "My partner has complications from diabetes ... has had a stroke."

February 3: Care for the intellectually impaired with the Alzheimer's Society's Tiffany Wurdell. Example: "My partner has Alzheimer's / Parkinson's / or..."

February 17: Care for the Dying with Grand River's John Lougheed. Example: "We've been together for a life-time but my partner is dying."

February 24: Care-giver stress & respite with Interfaith's Marian Mills. Example: "I just can't take it any more. Isn't there anywhere I can get help?"

March 2: What is CCAC? with Community Care Access Centre's Laurie Larkin. Example "We need help but we don't know where to turn. We've heard about 'CCAC'"

March 9: What is palliative care? With Dr. Donna Ward. Example: "They're telling us that it's time for palliative care... What does this mean?"

March 16: Putting Ourselves in the Story. Pr. Anne does a wrap-up.

✚ *andré lavergne*

## ✚ Finances to December 31, 2007

	General Fund	Capital Fund	Transfers
Income	\$ 255,791	\$ 15,344	\$ 22,083
Outgo	258,505	14,665	22,083
Balance	(\$ 2,713)	\$ 679	\$ 0

### PAR Update

We receive \$10,767 monthly from 81 PAR households. Of this, \$9,534 is earmarked for the General Fund. That's close to 45% of our General Fund requirements for the year. The rest is allocated to Capital, Global Hunger, etc.

✚ bob ruthig & andré lavergne

## ✚ Nurturing Faith

### Faith Adventures

While our regular Sunday program continues, we have a special event — a workshop on prayer— planned for Sunday, February 10, at 4pm. A variety of experiential stations will provide ideas on how to pray. All ages welcome. Come take an hour to explore prayer and finish up your time with us at the Sanctuary service at 5pm. Sign up in the narthex!

### Affirmation! Grades 7 & 8

Please check the on-line calendar for information!

Grade 8: Tuesday, January 22, 7-8 pm - regular session in the Katie Luther Room.

Grade 7 & 8: Tuesday, February 12, 7-8pm - We Serve: Amnesty letter-writing session in Katie Luther Room.

✚ anne anderson

## ✚ Canadian Blood Services Thanks

Canadian Blood Services has thanked us for sponsoring the annual Trinity Christmas Blood Donor Clinic. 169 people registered with 150 actually giving. We thank volunteers Mark Buehlow, Paul Diebel, Karen Haffner, Sophia Haffner, Lisa Hagen, Anne Hammer, Reta Klaassen, Dave Mello, Arlene Meyer, Doug Miller, Betty Murray, Judie Seltzer, Henry Simon, Pat Schmetzer, Chris Thomson, Mary Trussler & Shirley Unrau.

✚ ken seltzer

## ✚ The TYGers' Den

### Junior TYGers (Grades 6-8)

Seminary Youth Day is coming up! That's Saturday February 2, 2008. A day with music, workshops, swimming and gym activities. Please have your permission forms back to Pastor Anne by Sunday January 20. The cost is \$20. We will meet at the church at 8 am and return by 5:15 pm.



### Senior TYGers (Grades 9 and up)

Cosmic Bowling takes place on Sunday, February 17, at 6pm after Sanctuary Community worship. We will be bowling ten-pin at Brunswick Bowl in Kitchener. Come on out and get a turkey! (Ha ha) . Cost is \$10. Sign up in the narthex!

### Halifax-Bound TYGers

We'll have many opportunities for TYGers to get ready for their Halifax trip. We're currently holding an Elmira Poultry fund-raiser. Families are asked to check in with Val Gerber or Tracey Erb for forms and pick up/drop off dates.

✚ anne anderson

## ✚ You, Too, Can Save Your Can!

The Merner family will be collecting aluminum pop cans, from now through June. Everyone is asked to keep a box or bag in your garage and to save your cans so we can raise funds for Halifax by taking them to the recycling plant.

We will collect your stuff in the spring but ask people to start saving now. Questions? Speak with Dave Merner at (519) 662-6530.

✚ anne anderson

## ✚ Sanctuary Community

Look for a Potluck Supper on Sunday, February 10, after Sanctuary Community worship (c. 5:45 pm).

Our February musicians will include Emily Ritz and Mike Murray, Lisa Hagen, Alicia Becker and the Clarke Family.

Join us for great worship, conversation and community.

✚ anne anderson