



Trinity Dove

September 23, 2007 + Pentecost 17 + Molly & Bill
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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✦ Sabbaths & Celebrations

Sunday, September 30 ~ Pentecost 18

- ✦ Worship at 9:30 am (Ministry update at 9:20 am.)
- ✦ Community Fellowship at 10:30 am.
- ✦ Nurturing Faith / Faith Adventures at 10:45 am.
Adults: In Mission with Others: A/A
- ✦ Sanctuary Worship at 5 pm.

Sunday, October 7 ~ Thanksgiving

Bruce Hammer & Brian Racho Sunday

- ✦ Worship at 9:30 am (Ministry update at 9:20 am.)
- ✦ Community Fellowship at 10:30 am.
- ✦ Nurturing Faith / Faith Adventures at 10:45 am.
Adults: No adult learning this morning
- ✦ Sanctuary Worship at 5 pm.

Sunday, October 14 ~ Pentecost 20

- ✦ Worship at 9:30 am (Ministry update at 9:20 am.)
- ✦ Community Fellowship at 10:30 am.
- ✦ Nurturing Faith / Faith Adventures at 10:45 am.
Adults: In Mission with Others: Kelly Sproule for
Community Care Concepts
- ✦ Sausage & Sauerkraut Lunch at 11:45 am.
- ✦ Sanctuary Worship at 5 pm.

Sunday, October 21 ~ Pentecost 21

- ✦ Worship at 9:30 am (Ministry update at 9:20 am.)
- ✦ Community Fellowship at 10:30 am.
- ✦ Nurturing Faith / Faith Adventures at 10:45 am.
Adults: In Mission with Others: Trish Robinson for the
Wilmot Family Resource Centre
- ✦ Sanctuary Worship at 5 pm.

Sunday, October 28 ~ Reformation

- ✦ Worship at 9:30 am. Confirmation youth offer their
witness. (Ministry update at 9:20 am.)
- ✦ Community Fellowship at 10:30 am.
- ✦ Nurturing Faith / Faith Adventures at 10:45 am.
Adults: In Mission with Others: Creative Beginnings
Day Care
- ✦ Halifax TYGers gather with their parents and Pastor
Anne at 11:45 am for a lunch meeting.
- ✦ Sanctuary Worship at 5 pm.

✦ *andré lavergne*

Inside TRINITY DOVE

Pastor André ~ MOLLY & BILL	2
Bruce Hammer Honoured	2
Sacraments & Seasons	3
Many, Many Thanks	3
Bill Loader ~ DEAR KIM	4
Road to Peace ~ Benefit for Interfaith	5
New Shepherds	6
Nurturing Faith ~ Affirmation!	6
Nurturing Faith ~ Adults	6
Tintinnabulations	6
The TYGers' Den	7

TYGers... Join the rest of the TYGers on Facebook.
Contact Pastor Anne anderson@telc.ca for an invitation!

✚ Pastor André ~ Molly & Bill

Grace and peace, friends.

For many years, Molly Wolff has been a staple in *Trinity Dove*. Her work has been much appreciated and her words have touched the lives of many. With the last issue of *Trinity Dove*, the *Sabbath Blessings* series came to an end. Molly is turning her hand to other things and contemplating new horizons in her life. We are grateful for all that she offered over so many years.

This month, we introduce a new writer. His name is Bill Loader. Bill is an Australian teacher and pastor whose writing I have enjoyed for many years.

Among other things, Bill produces a commentary on the Sunday readings which I often read in preparation for a Sunday sermon. A couple of years ago, I read a short book that Bill had produced called "Dear Kim, This is what I believe..." It carries the sub-title "Explaining Christian Faith Today." I liked what he had to say. He is gentle, careful and often profound. He is a terrific scholar whose scholarship inhabits his writing in ways that are helpful and accessible.

So, for the months to come, we'll be reading Bill Loader together. You can learn all about him at wwwstaff.murdoch.edu.au/~loader/home.html. Bill writes:

I wrote this book because people in my family and among my friends have often asked me: "Bill, what do you believe?" about so many aspects of Christian faith. My niece, Kim, now a woman in her 30's was one of many of all ages. As a biblical scholar and theologian it would have been easy for me to take a deep breath, survey all the complexities and begin a long explanation which would have covered all the bases, shown fine academic balance, earned respect as profound exposition from my peers, but which would have left Kim and others yawning.

So I decided it would be a good idea if I wrote simply what I believed about some of the key aspects of Christian belief without trying to meet all those other worthy goals. Can I say it plainly and simply? I have tried in this book to do so. It has worried me that too few people write like this and that many who do so produce not something that is simple and straightforward but something that is simplistic. I have tried instead to share openly what I think. I am not wanting to imply that others should think as I do. Some people like to be told what they should believe because some high authority declares it to be right or 'because the Bible says so' or because they believe themselves to be the authority.

This book is not for them. It is for people who want to think critically about their faith and want to find a way of making sense of it so they can live from it in today's world.

I hope that you enjoy Bill's writing as much as I do.

All blessings.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Bruce Hammer Honoured

Last month, we published news of Bruce Hammer's recent retirement from his duties as sexton. Thereafter, Council contemplated how best to honour Bruce for his years of service to the parish. It was suggested that Bruce would want somehow to affirm and support the young people of our parish and those who minister with them.

Responding to a staff recommendation, and with the support of the Mutual Ministry Team and Nurturing Faith Team, Council has directed as follows:

"Trinity's Faith Adventures renovations honour the ministry of life-long member and long-time Trinity staff-member Bruce Alexander Hammer.

Trinity's Faith Adventures facilities reflect the ongoing renewal of our ministry in the New Hamburg community, a ministry in which Bruce has offered a gentle, quiet and compelling witness.

Trinity's Faith Adventures Theatre is named in his honour —the "Bruce Hammer Theatre."

This information has been inscribed on a dedicatory plaque dated the 15th Sunday after Pentecost / Sept. 9, 2007, and placed in the Faith Adventures corridor.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Terrific New ELW Executive!

We have a great new team leading Trinity's ELW. Taking office in 2008 are Mildred Knackstedt (president), Pat Schmetzer (vice-president), Arlene Kropf (secretary). Back for another tour of duty is Nancy Hallberg (treasurer). Our retiring executive is made up of Shirley Unrau (president), Millie Faruzel (vice-president), (Betty Ritz) secretary and Nancy Hallberg (treasurer). We have been —and continue to be!— well-served and supported by our ELW.

✚ *andré lavergne*



✚ Sacraments & Seasons

October Birthdays

1 - Joshua Stewart, Brittany Brooks; **2** - Ruth Lindner; **3** - Nancy Hallberg, Maxwell Junker; **4** - Paul Diebel, Ted Seyler, Tara Keller, Holly Boshart, Meghann Otterbein, Zachary Whittaker, Justin Steinmann, Zack Winhold; **5** - Burt Flood, Tara Schaaf, Jessica O'Donoghue, Bradley Egerdee; **6** - Reta Ridout; **7** Dave Pauli, **8** - Joan Cook, Dhana Clements, Kelly Jantzi, Jeff Malloch; **9** - Tim Pearson, Patty Ingold, Patty Steinman, Jeremy Baan, Stephanie Rogers, Hailey Gingerich; **10** - Brett Witzel, Madison Erb, Olivia Farr; **11** - Shayna Dramnitzke; **12** - Kara Patton, Cody Klaassen; **13** - Virginia Schmidt, Ed Danner, Tim Junker, Trevor Steinmann, Rowan Gravill; **14** - Mackenzie Leclair; **15** - Barb Schwartzentruber; **16** - Lorraine Schroeder, Bev Yule; **17** - Jean Hammer, Rodrick Bender, Gailen Ludington; **18** - David Bast, Stephanie Morrison; **19** - Henry Simon, Pat Diebel, Kris Ferguson, Laura McCurdy, Ali Pearson; **20** - Ebba Petersen; **21** - Larry Roth, Chris Leu; **22** - Lynn Prues, Dee Cashen, David Butz, Tim Bailey, Alexandra Glencross; **23** - Earl Cressman, Marjorie Forler, Karen Jutzi, Laurie Bingeman, Sandra Cook; **24** - Eileen Miller; **25** - Jane Klem; **26** - Frieda Mueller, Arlene Roth, Peter Klem, Lori Persaud, Kyle Power, Kaileigh Lindner; **27** - Jo-anne Randerson, Kyle Kaminska, Rochelle Becker; **28** - Lou Sippel, Kathryn Eichler, Kim Pearson, Josh Brennan; **29** - August Popp, Joanne Snyder; **30** - Bruce Hammer; **31** - Otto Berg, Janice Junker, Amanda Morrison. Happy birthday, friends!

October Anniversaries

1 - Christine & Marty Normandeau, Judy & Bob Hillar; **2** - Keith & Rachel Heise, Jo-anne & Dave Randerson; **3** - Karen & Rick Haffner; **5** - Kevin & Stephanie Price; **6** - Joyce & Verne Hammer, Melanie & Michael Eichler; **7** - Doug & Nancy Kaminska; **9** - Paula & Bob Povey, Matt & Valarie Ceccardi; **11** - Dorothy & Don Jardin, Kelly & Mark White; **13** - Kevin & Krista Durrer; **18** - Diane & Bob Anger, Dorothy & Victor Hobbs; **19** - Pam & Paul Koehler; **20** - Keith & Nancy Ropp; **21** - Karen & Ken Barnes; **22** - Glad & Merv Roth; **23** - Clarence & Marlene Schamber; **24** - Brenda & Edward Ingold, Gaye & Ron Preikschas; **27** - Muriel & Wilfred Greulich.

Happy anniversary, friends.



✚ jill merner

✚ Many, Many Thanks!

In recent weeks, an astonishing number of people contributed their energy to refurbishing our Sunday School area and to creating our new Faith Adventures theatre, story-telling room, music centre and art room.

We are especially grateful ... to Lori Arnott, Nancy & Glen Brodrecht, Kevin Durrer, Pat Eichler, Larry Keller, Jo Knackstedt, Hans Lass, Bill Lindner, Doug Miller, Brian Racho, Cy Ridout, Kim Ruthig, Ken Seltzer and Henry Simon for their construction and refurbishment efforts;

... to Trevor Anderson, Lori Arnott, Nancy Brodrecht, Marc Buehlow, Laurie, Dean, Meghan & Sarah Clarke, Krista Durrer, Ross & Jane Eichler, Rachel Gueguen, Jo Knackstedt, Barb Quehl, Erika Mueller, Jess O'Donoghue, Carl Schroeder and Judie Seltzer for their artistic endeavours, fabric work, design and painting;

... to Lori Arnott, Nancy Brodrecht, Val Gerber, Mary Ann Keller, Sheri Morrison, Carol Murray, Judy Riley & her staff,

Janice Ritz, Joyce Roth and Judie Seltzer for cleaning and preparing the work area;

... and to the many, many parishioners who lent their financial support or made donations-in-kind to this formidable project. Well done, good and faithful servants!

By the way, financial contributions are still welcome as a few remaining bills come in and a few refurbishment items are taken up at the October 20 Parish Work Day.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Engagement Announced

On Sunday, September 9, amidst much unintended confusion about the state of the universe and against a background of people whispering something about "family way", I announced that Pastor André had asked Barbara Edwards to marry him.

We have received word that she's inclined to accept and that a small family wedding will take place sometime this year, or perhaps next, and that sometime thereafter, perhaps sooner, perhaps later, André and Barbara will seek our community's blessing at worship. You now know as much as I do. Almost. And Trevor sends his regards.

✚ *anne anderson*

✚ Dear Kim, This is what I believe... *Explaining Christian Faith Today*

Chapter 1: What About God?

Dear Kim,

You asked me about God. I think about God in a number of different ways.

Sometimes I think of God as being like the life energy that is in everything, that joins us all together. God is in everything. God is also in me and in you. I can be in tune with this life energy or out of tune with it. For me as an individual it has a lot to do with being at one with my true self. You know how sometimes you feel at odds with yourself or you know you're not really being true to yourself? Well, for me, that's the same as being true to God or it can be. I need to try to live in harmony with God and, if I do, then I'll live in harmony with my true self and with the world around me.



Conscience?

Some people call that conscience, but for me it's bigger than that. It's life; it's being in touch with the spirit and life of the universe. So it's much more than knowing what is right and wrong. It's a sense of oneness with other people, with nature, with myself. It is like knowing that they all draw on the same life energy - or they can. We all drink from the same stream. God is like the stream of life and love that flows through all things. I can let that flow in my life or I can block it. I can help it flow in the world or I can dam it up.

I can think of myself as a tree with my roots deep in the ground drawing up the moisture of that stream. The life moisture comes up into my being. Even to contemplate it can be very physically relaxing and renewing. I find it important to make time every now and again to get in touch with my roots and to sense the sap flowing up into my body. It also helps me be aware of where I block that flow so I can decide to change things.

It's also a bit similar to that when I think of those around me and of the world of human beings. The life energy is about bringing harmony and wholeness. So, when I am in touch with it, I become more aware where there is disharmony, where the life stream is being blocked - in others, by others, by me, by us. So this is all connected with concern for justice and equality among people, with concern for , peace in that sense, because the same spirit energy which wants to make me whole and healthy wants

this also for the world of human beings. It's not just all about me and it's not about peace or harmony at the expense of justice. Sometimes the sense of oneness is a sense of shared pain as much as it is of shared joy.

I feel that also for the world of nature. I am connected with every other person and I am also connected with the world of nature. There's a sense in which what happens to them, and to it, happens to me. When I see nature savaged I feel a bit violated inside myself. When I see people treated like dirt, I feel dragged down too. We all belong together. So I'm not talking about me and my navel and how to escape this troubled world onto an isle of inner bliss now or in the future, but about how to live in the world in a way that is connected and engaged with what is going on.

As well as thinking of God as being like the life energy in all things, I also think of God as behind everything. It's like saying: if it weren't for God, there wouldn't be anything; nothing would exist. That is not simple, but it has its roots in a sense of wonder. There is the wonder at the minute, the beauty of a tiny flower. There is the wonder at the

immense: looking out into the universe of stars. If you have sat and gazed into the night sky away from the city lights, you will know the experience. How vast it all is: an endless array of worlds, stars, solar systems - and we see only a fraction of what there is! I find it hard to believe that there is not some intelligence behind it all. Something is behind all of this. I call that 'something' God.

The simplest way of expressing this is to say: 'God made the universe', but I'm not always sure that is so helpful. Immediately some people will think about the stories of creation in the Bible and take them literally. One of them says God created everything in six days. The other one says that humans were made like clay models and then breathed on and they came to life. These are ancient myths, which Israel shared with other cultures of its day and which it retold in distinctive ways. As such they are full of deep meaning, but I don't treat them as literal descriptions of what happened. I don't believe creation took place in six days. I'm not even sure that it makes a lot of sense to try to pin-point a beginning of time. But I do believe that God is the ultimate reason why there is not just nothing. So when I am close to the world around me, I feel close to God - and when I am close to God, I feel close to the world around me!

God as a person

When I talk about or think about God, I still prefer to speak of God as a person, not an 'it'. For me, being a person is

more than being a thing. So, I can speak of God as the life energy of the universe, but I soon find myself speaking of God in much more personal terms. I've always been used to speaking of God as a person; it comes naturally; and I also want to keep doing it. But when I speak of God as a person, I am aware of how easily that can be misunderstood.

The main thing is: God must be greater than things and greater than persons. God must be quite different from things or people. Even to think of God as a being seems not quite right. It might be better to think of God as Being itself, Life itself. Yet that all sounds too abstract. We know what we are driving at, but any attempt to define God seems doomed to failure. That seems inevitable because of what or who God is. When the Old Testament says people should not make images of God, it seems to be aware of this point. When Moses asks what he should call God, he is told that God should be called: 'I am who I am'.

Shut up about God?

If we can't define or describe God, we should perhaps simply shut up - and that is not a bad idea at times, especially when people have been talking about God as if they know everything. If rabbits could think about God, they would probably think about God as a rabbit. Human persons think about God as a person. To do so is quite inadequate, but at least it is saying there is something in God I can relate to. It is better to say something than to say nothing about God. If I tried to remain silent, I would soon find myself inventing something.

I would find myself inventing something, because out of my inner self I find myself wanting to respond at a very deep level to God. There's a kind of primitive cry of thank you inside. Or sometimes there's a sense of awe and wonder at the magnificence of the universe. Or sometimes there's a sense of pain and anger which I feel God shares, too, at what goes on in the world. And some people with much harder life experiences than I have had would say: also a sense of pain and anger at what is happening to me. It is like there's a 'God frequency' inside along which the human heart expresses its deepest joy and pain.

Problems about God as a person

There are a number of problems in thinking of God in personal terms and some of them are big enough to turn people off religion altogether. Some people believe that God has plans for people's lives and sets those plans into action, like a puppeteer pulling strings. I don't think of God like that. Not that I think we are completely free to shape

our own destiny; we are much more shaped by what has gone on around us and by hereditary factors than we think. But that is very different from believing God has a detailed blueprint or that our fate is locked up in the stars.

For the same reason I also have difficulty with the idea that there is a God who pulls strings only sometimes, though I know that many people think this way. Some people understand prayer in this way: if I pray enough or rightly, God will alter the scheme of things for me (or for others): send the right weather, fix the car, find me a job, make me rich. It is easy (and probably a good thing) to poke fun at the self indulgence of many such prayers, but I don't want to overlook that many of these are prayers for others made out of love and concern.



The difficulty is that if we believe God intervenes in weather and the like in response to prayers, why doesn't God intervene in major famine and disaster areas? Is this 'God' unwilling, uncaring, needing more persuasion?

This idea of God makes little sense to me and I am not comforted by the explanation that it is all part of a plan

which I shall finally understand in the next world. I find it hard therefore to make sense of people saying God saved them from a motor accident or 'took someone' through a motor accident or cancer or the like. It might help people to accept and come to terms with what has happened by saying it was 'meant to be', but it does not fit my understanding of God. I am not being irreverent about God; I am being irreverent, perhaps, about some people's ideas of God.

Next month: Love: making room and staying in touch

✚ *bill loader*

✚ Road to Peace Benefit

Come to the Trinity sanctuary on Friday, September 28, from 7 to 9 pm, for the Road to Peace benefit concert for Interfaith Counselling. The concert will feature New Hamburg's Keith "Papa" Thom and friends. Guest artists will include Sarah Gropp, Tammie Shantz, Mika Alviano and Mike Erb. The intermission snack will be provided by The Waterlot. Tickets are \$10 (\$12 at the door), and are available from the church office. For information, call (519) 404-1836 or drop a line to positiveimpact@rogers.com.

Oh, and by the way, Keith Thom is one of our excellent Sanctuary community musicians.

✚ *anne anderson*

✚ Tintinnabulations

October 1 ~ ELW Gathering

Trinity's ELW will gather on Monday, October 1, 7:30 pm, in Trinity Hall for a program with a Thanksgiving theme. All women of the parish and community are welcome. Contact Shirley Unrau, 662-1515, for information.

October 2 ~ Prayer Circle Update

Shirley Unrau & pastors meet, 9:30 am.

October 16 ~ Gentle Friends

The Gentle Friends Reading Group gathers, 7:30 pm, at members' homes. Information from Kathryn Ritz, 519.662-2960. This month's pick: Charlotte Gray's *Sisters in the Wilderness*.

October 17 ~ Susan Celebration!

At 7 pm, we'll gather at St. Peter's Church, Kitchener, to celebrate the ministry of newly-ordained Susan Johnson, National Bishop of the ELCIC.

October 18 ~ DOVE Prep Team

The DOVE Preparation Team gathers at 9 am.

October 18 ~ TT@MM!

Prof. Christina Vanin is on at 7 pm for Third Thursdays at MeMe's. You should be there too!

October 20 ~ Parish Work Day

We'll gather at 8 am at the church to be about a number of fall tasks. There's a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

October 22 ~ Blood Donor Clinic

The Lions & Lionesses will host a clinic on Monday, October 22, 2:00 - 8:30 pm at W-O. Speak to Ken Seltzer for information or please call 1-888-TO-DONATE.

Saturdays, 8 pm ~ A/A

A/A —Alcoholics Anonymous— meets Saturdays, 8 pm, for an open meeting in Trinity Hall.

Mondays, 8 pm ~ CLEAN

CLEAN —Community Link Empowered Against

Narcotics— meets in the Martin Luther Room.

Tuesdays, 7 pm ~ TOPS

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

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Reminder: Council Proclamation

October 7, 2007 shall be observed as Thanksgiving and celebrated as Brian Racho & Bruce Hammer Sunday.

✚ *andré lavergne*



✚ Nurturing Faith: Adults

For September/October we're offering a five-session series called "In Mission with Others". We'll be joined by guests from CLEAN, A/A, Community Care Concepts, Wilmot Family Resource Centre & Creative Beginnings Day Care.

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ New Shepherds

Don & Rita Coxson and Marc & Edna Buehlow have retired from their years of shepherding. We are grateful to them for their excellent service to the parish. Darryl Smith & Susan Yutzi-Smith and Brad & Claire Otterbein have taken over their neighbourhoods. Thank you, friends!

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Nurturing Faith: Affirmation!

Grade 7

Tuesday, September 25, 7-8 pm, regular session
Tuesday, October 23, 7-8 pm, regular session

Grade 8

Wednesday, September 26, 7-8 pm, regular session
Wednesday, October 24, 7-8 pm, regular session

Grade 9

Sunday, October 28 (Reformation), 9:30 am, Witness
Sunday, November 4 (All Saints), 9:30 am, Confirmation

✚ *andré lavergne*

✚ Finances to August 31, 2007

	General Fund	Capital Fund	Transfers
Income	\$ 157,597	\$ 9,776	\$ 12,255
Outgo	168,539	2,024	9,547
Balance	(\$ 10,942)	\$ 7,752	\$ 2,708

While our General Fund offerings are running about 5% ahead of last year's, in 2006 we covered much of the year with a single pastor. This year, we are at full strength, and very, very busy! As well, expenditures are up owing to a large heating repair and increased costs related to our much-expanded program. We are therefore showing a General Fund deficit.

At the same time, our Capital Fund is in good shape. We are moving ahead on the new furnace and kitchen counter for Peel Street. These projects, together with some other current work will essentially deplete our Capital Funds.

✚ bob ruthig & andré lavergne

✚ Property

Energy Audit

During the week of June 10, a comprehensive energy audit was undertaken of Trinity Church and parsonages. The audit was performed in cooperation with Greening Sacred Spaces - Waterloo Region, itself a cooperative venture of Faith and the Common Good and the Residential Energy Efficiency Project. The results will become available to us this fall.

Property work

One of the front porch pillars was rebuilt at the Peel Street parsonage. The stair treads leading from Trinity's main entrance to the lower level have been replaced and the entire entrance area refurbished and repainted. A new side door was installed at the Wilmot Street parsonage. A great many items related to our new Faith Adventures Sunday School program have been completed including the construction of a new theatre and creation of story-telling room, arts & crafts room and more.

Please note that a parish work day is planned for Saturday, October 20, at 8 am. Please sign up and sign on!

✚ bill lindner & andré lavergne

✚ The TYGers' Den

Junior TYGers (Grades 6-8)

On Saturday, October 27, at 6 pm, the Junior TYGers will gather for a Mystery Dinner. Time to sign-up!

Senior TYGers (Grades 9 and up)

On Sunday, October 14, the Senior TYGers will be hosting a Sausage & Sauerkraut Lunch for the congregation. All hands on deck!

The Senior TYGers gather at 7 pm on Friday, October 26, in Trinity Hall for a session of Fear Factor. Time to sign!

There will be a planning meeting for Halifax-bound TYGers and parents on Sunday, October 28, at 11:45 am (After Nurturing Faith). We'll meet over lunch to review fund-raising and to plan for our trip to Halifax in 2008.

A Word of Gratitude

The TYGers Annual Golf Tournament is the major fund-raiser for the TYGers. We are indebted to Bill Lindner and to all who assisted in making this year's tournament such a terrific success: corporate sponsors, golfers and donors. The TYGers cleared around \$2,000 and received an additional \$1,000 in matching funding from Faithlife Financial. Terrific! ...and for a great cause: Next Summer, some Senior TYGers will travel to Halifax for fellowship & to do community work. Wow!

✚ anne anderson

✚ Sanctuary Community

Over the next few weeks, the Sanctuary Community can look forward to the following:

Sunday, October 7 ~ Fellowship snack after our 5 pm worship. Come, welcome and be welcomed!

Sunday, October 28 ~ The *Parable Players* from Bethany Church, Kitchener, will join us for our 5 pm gathering. All invited. All welcome.

Sunday, November 18 ~ *Captive Free*, a young-adults music team will join us for our 5 pm worship. The 6 members—two girls and 4 boys—are based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and come from all over the world. We're looking for host-families. Can you assist?

✚ anne anderson

