

# First Baptist Church



## *Inside the newsletter:*

Achievers

Congregational Care

Church Website

Diaconate

Men's Breakfast

(re)Conciliation

Learning for Life

Library

Music@First

Voice!

Katepwa Lake Camp

Prayer Times

Children and Youth

Tuesday Nights Together

Finance

Missions

Interview

## **Semper Reformanda! Always Reforming**

Happy 500th anniversary of the Reformation this Oct 31st! To celebrate, here are four of Martin Luther's 95 theses:

1. When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "Repent," he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance.

48. Christians are to be taught that the pope [*and the church - JRM*] needs and thus desires their devout prayer more than their money.

94. Christians should be exhorted to be diligent in following Christ, their Head, through penalties, death, and hell.

95. And thus be confident of entering into heaven through many tribulations, rather than through the false security of peace. *In love, Pastor Joel*

## Achievers

**Achievers' Luncheons** are open to those who are young at heart, 55+ years of age, and who want to enjoy a wonderful time of celebration, fellowship, humour, inspiration, spiritual connection, and tantalizing food.

Come and join us on November 23, January 25, February 22, March 22, and April 26. Our lunches are catered by Dean Gilchrist from our own church family. The cost of each meal is \$10, except for November 23's Christmas banquet, when the cost will be \$11.

November 23 Jennifer Holtslander--Christmas Banquet with carol singing & special music.

January 25 Dennis D. Henriksen

February 22 Joel Russell-MacLean

March 2 TBA

April 6 Tim Coleman

For more information on speakers/topics, check out:  
[www.achieversregina.ca](http://www.achieversregina.ca) or [www.firstbaptistregina.ca](http://www.firstbaptistregina.ca)

## Achievers' Bible Study

The Achievers' Bible Study is for the 50+ adults. We meet at 10:00 AM in the Board Room in the office area of the church.

We are continuing our study in the Book of Acts this fall. It is a time of lively discussion, as well as researched input. There is no question or comment that is unwelcome. If you are available on Wednesday mornings, we would love to have you join us.

**November sessions:** November 8 and November 22

## **Congregational Care/Visitation Ministry Team**

*Carol Hepting, John Nelson, Martha Pauls, Ron Phillips, and Eleanor Russell*

We have several people who visit members of our church family on a regular basis, but we could always use more volunteers. Winter presents a greater challenge for those who have difficulty getting out. It can be a lonely time. If you would like to offer friendship and brighten someone's day, please call John Nelson or Carol Hepting.

Also, please remember to let our pastors know if you are in hospital and would like a visit. Pastors don't know you are ill unless someone tells them.

## **Church Website**

### **The Case of the Invisible Church!**

What can we do to make ourselves "visible?" Ah, you've asked the million-dollar question! An entire industry has been built to answer this question.

- Become mobile-friendly for smart phones and tablets. We recently did this.
- Build a smarter website. We will soon embark on a program to use more and better key words, use better web addresses, and write in a more accessible format.
- Improve our "bounce rate"-- visitors who visit more than one page of our site.
- Make the FBC website your starting page when opening your browser. Visit the website often.
- Encourage other sites and personal pages to be linked to our home website. For instance, when a special event happens, link to it from your Facebook page. Then get a discussion

started about that event so that others will visit and give us a “like” or “comment” as well.

- Join the 100+ people who are already members of the “First Baptist Church Regina” Facebook page. Contribute worthy articles, discussions, and links to our FBC home website.
- Consider paying a modest fee for a higher ranking in search results.
- Offer suggestions for improvements. Go to the “Get-Connected” tab -> “Let’s Communicate” menu item to share your words of advice.

We can be proud of our website. It is relevant, informative, up to date, and visually appealing. People who visit our website are invariably drawn to visit in person. Thank you to the many contributors who participate.

## **Did You Miss Us?**

Did you happen to be away during Eleanor Friesen’s excellent **Achiever’s presentation** entitled, “*Pilgrimage to Vimy Ridge?*” You can find a link to it on the bottom of the “Achievers” page or at the “Folks at First” page on the FBC website.

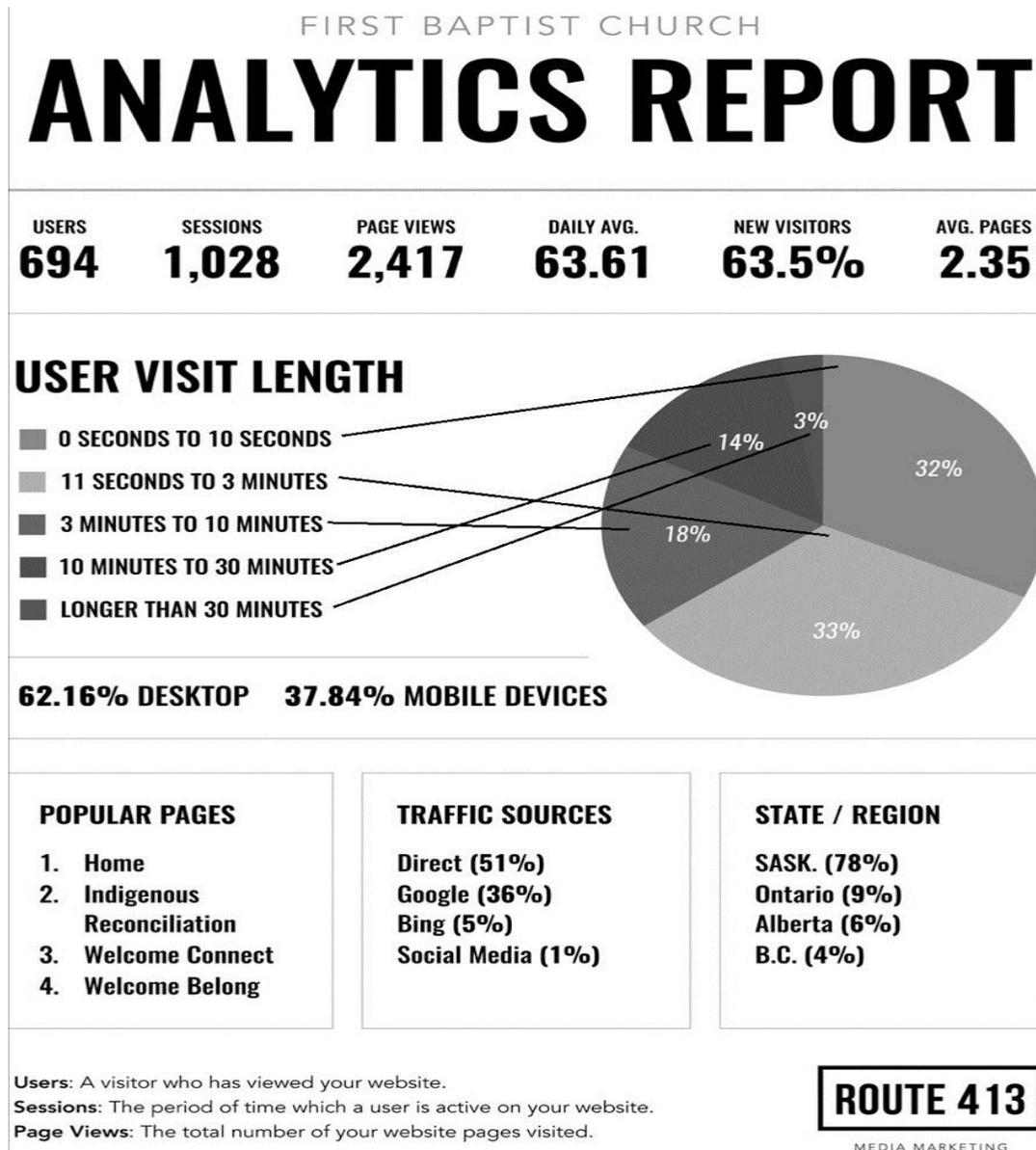
Or did you miss a critical “*Luther and the Reformation*” presentation by Mark Anderson? You can find it by going to the *Learning for Life* page. You will find his presentation, along with slide images, notes, and other excellent resources.

No need to feel sad any more. You can find both of those links on the right-hand “Upcoming Events” column on the FBC home page.

## **What Do We Know About Who Visits Us?**

Following is a summary of what we know about the people who visit our website. What does this say to you? Does this tell us anything

about how we can improve or better serve our visitors? We'd like to hear from you!



## Diaconate

November marks the end of the Christian year, after a long stretch of ordinary time. Most of my newsletter articles about the diaconate have focused on ordinary things: budgets, planning, staffing, programs, connections, and meetings. This month I should

be reminding everyone about the upcoming congregational meeting (NOVEMBER 19<sup>th</sup> after church). But underlying all this ordinary doing, the heart of our service is in *being* Christian.

So, this month I turn to prayer. As a Christian people, prayer is central to our being, part of our daily living, and critical to our life. As Christians we pray privately daily, as a congregation we pray corporately weekly (or more often if we join Joel for Morning Prayer 5 days a week). As deacons we intentionally gather with one or two others to pray.

There is a deacon on duty every Sunday morning after the service inviting anyone to come with specific prayer requests. We have been following the 77 days of prayer initiative of CBWC in our homes, and Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in the upper east balcony. If concerns arise during the week, we pray as individuals or in groups when we hear of a need. Please join us!

For more information see:

[HTTPS://CBWC.CA/RESOURCES/PRAYER/](https://cbwc.ca/resources/prayer/)

## **Men's Breakfast**

Our next "Saturday Morning Together" will be on Saturday, November 18, 8:30-10:00 a.m. at Nicky's Cafe. Let Pastor Joel know if you plan on attending. Mark your calendars and invite someone to join you. All ages welcome.

## **First Steps: Charting A Path for re(Conciliation)**

On October 13 and 14, First Baptist hosted an event designed to foster education, conversation, understanding, and healing around the situation of Indigenous Peoples, while also considering the role of the church.



Photos: Blanket Ceremony – Friday evening.

On Friday evening, the “Blanket Exercise” helped participants to understand indigenous history. Blankets covered the floor representing the land. All participants were asked to be indigenous people and to take their place on the land by standing on the blankets. Historical accounts of events, legislation, and stories spanning the time from the arrival of settlers to the present one were read aloud. The consequences of each event were played out on the land. As a result, the number of people on the land became smaller and smaller, until only a few were left. The activity closed with an opportunity for each participant to give their feedback on what they had learned.

On Saturday morning, an overview of the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission* and the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* was presented. Afterwards, indigenous presenters shared very personal stories on many topics such as: the impact of residential schools, the reality of being an indigenous Christian, and the burden of maintaining traditional indigenous culture. A traditional Indigenous leader also spoke briefly about the role of the pipe carrier. Participants had the opportunity to ask the

presenters questions. The event ended with a drum song followed by a handshake between all participants and presenters.



The conversations were not easy, and reactions to the event varied. We were gently reminded by one indigenous participant that we were here to love each other.

*Heartfelt appreciation and thank you to the event presenters. Event leader – Jodi Spargur (Grandview Calvary Baptist Church in Vancouver). Jodi has an organization called: "Healing at the Wounding Place." Invited presenters were Daniel, Erin, Ben. Diane closed the event with drumming and singing an honour song.*

The following are remarks by some participants

*"I really enjoyed the seminar. It was a real eye-opener. I can't believe how, as a senior, I was/am so ignorant of the history of the indigenous peoples of my country. We heard so little of this history in schools; only negative things were said. I look forward to more learning experiences, whatever that looks like."*

*"What I found most gratifying was the warm atmosphere throughout. I think most of what happened was well received."*

*"I really appreciated hearing from indigenous Christians about their faith and some of the challenges they are facing daily. I was emotionally exhausted after the first two sessions, and my prayers go out to them."*

*"I came away from the weekend with a real sense of optimism - optimism both about our church, based on the attendance as well as the sharing circle on Friday night. I also have optimism in regard to the indigenous community, especially as I listened to Ben and Erica on Saturday morning. Their ability to communicate, their evident education, and their Christian faith make me optimistic about their future, one that I hope we can share with them."*

# Learning for Life

## The Reformation

Dr. Mark Anderson, September 10 to November 19

In 1517, the great reformer Martin Luther produced his 95 theses, which articulated his objections to perceived corruptions in the Roman Catholic church. This year Christians around the world celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that seminal occasion that forever altered the next six centuries of church history. Join us as we examine the celebrated, intriguing life of Martin Luther, and discuss the defining moments of the Reformation, including the political and social realities that allowed Luther to succeed when so many other would-be reformers paid with their lives. Most importantly, perhaps, we will contemplate together the relevance--if any--of the Reformation to the contemporary Christian church (including First Baptist, Regina), and will ask ourselves the critical question: Is Christianity in need of another Reformation?

Go to the church website at [firstbaptistregina.ca](http://firstbaptistregina.ca) and find **L4L: The Reformation** under “Upcoming Events” for class notes, an audio recording of each class, and other class information.

## Great Books

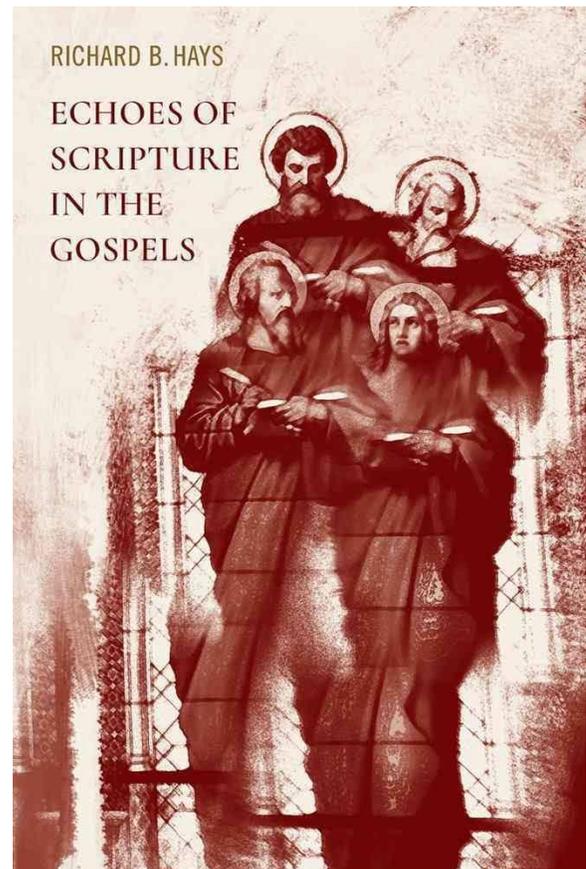
From November 26 to December 17, four people will share their enthusiasm for either a great book, or a great author who has impacted their lives. Presenters are: Reid Robinson, Esther Wiens, and Brenda Beckham-Long, and TBA.

Our hope is to celebrate the power of books, to expose the class to particular books/authors, and to understand one another’s spiritual journeys more deeply. And to celebrate the God who uses books to call us and to shape our lives for our good and his glory.

## Lord, Save us from a Proof-text Faith

Annabelle Robinson, January 2017

Richard Hays is a Professor of Theology at Duke University, but started his career as a high school teacher of English. He has recently written two books, *Echoes of Scripture in the Gospels* and *Reading Backwards*, challenging the way we traditionally read the New Testament and presenting us with new ways of seeing Jesus. The Evangelists, he argues, summon readers to a conversion of the imagination. The Gospel writers conveyed the story of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, using the Old Testament to frame their message. The Evangelists' use of scriptural echoes beckons readers to believe the extraordinary: that Jesus was Israel's Messiah, that Jesus is Israel's God, and that contemporary believers are still on mission.



I will never read the Gospels the same way again.

Read more at:

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/jesuscreed/search/Proof-text+faith/#Tv8PFFT-woumjgTc7.99>

## Library

*Practicing the Presence of People (how we learn to love)* by Mike Mason (1999). This book was written as a kind of sequel to *Practicing the Presence of God*. Mike Mason is a pastor, and his journey to this book came from reading *The Presence of God* over one hundred times in more than a decade. I found this a powerful book. He says,

The way we feel about people is the way we feel about God, and the way we treat people is the way we treat God.

To practice the presence of people is to choose deliberately to focus on the new creature rather than the old, to see the light in people rather than the darkness.

To believe in God is to believe not only that He is real, but that He is good. Believing in people is similar.

(We often falsely think) A little taste of love here and there - yes, that is fine. That much we'll accept. But to make love the central purpose of our lives, to build everything else around it to the point of filling entire days, hour after hour, with nothing but love - why, such a life would be unthinkably idealist, silly. (And wonderful beyond our wildest hopes!)

The gospel grants us full permission to devote ourselves unashamedly to this foolishness of love.

Jesus' second great commandment implies that we will love others only to the extent that we love ourselves. You will love your neighbour as yourself.

Collin Carbno (Church Librarian).

## **Music@First**

### **Hymns and Songs of Faith**

Contemporary songs & a carol we have sung, or will sing written by gifted writers:

*Hear the Call of the Kingdom* (Keith & Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend)

Kristyn Getty writes, “We wanted to write a song that we could send people out with at the end of a service; one that would be a call to go out confidently and positively as salt and light to the world. Verse one considers how we respond first and foremost to the cross, coming into the Kingdom of Christ and seeking to praise Him. Verse two was inspired by the Sermon on the Mount, where Christ teaches what it means to be children of the Kingdom--loving righteousness and justice, walking in humility, with mercy, and letting His light shine through us. Verse three reminds us of our call to declare the Gospel and the kingdom to the lost. The chorus is our response to follow, and ultimately in all we do - helping the sick, feeding the hungry, working for justice, explaining the faith, our aim is to proclaim salvation in Jesus’ name.”

### **JuBELLation Ringers**

Are you looking for a most refreshing and exciting ministry opportunity to lift your spirits? Why not consider joining our adult handbell group, JuBELLation? Our ding-a-lings....I mean our adult ringers, rehearse on Tuesday nights from 6:00-7:00 p.m. The only prerequisites are that you be able to read music and have a smile on your face. For more information, contact the head ding-a-ling . . . I mean director, Pastor John.

## Calling All Seasonal Singers!

So, you would like to sing? Join the Sanctuary on any of the Thursdays of November 16, 23, 30, Dec. 7 & 14 and become a SEASONAL SINGER in preparation for CHRISTMAS GLORY: Sunday, December 17, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Short term commitment for a long-term reward!

Bells ♪ Exaltation Singers ♪ JuBELLation Ringers ♪  
Sanctuary Choir ♪ Instrumental and vocal numbers ♪ Guest  
musicians ♪ Special readings

PLUS MORE! Contact Pastor John for more information!

“Music is more than an art. It is a matter of the heart!”

## The Sanctuary Choir

Music at FBC is focused upon PEOPLE rather than on PROGRAMMES. The Sanctuary Choir is the longest serving “small group ministry” at FBC, with over a 107 years of faithful ministry to date. The sanctuary choir serves as an encouragement to everyone, for each one of us has a SONG to sing, and we should be inspired to know that “God is more concerned about one’s AVAILABILITY, rather than one’s ABILITY.”

YOU are invited to come join this caring choir community on Thursday nights from 7:00-8:30 p.m. For more information speak to Pastor John.

## **VOICE!**

Voice! is a reading/discussion/support group that meets every other Wednesday 7:00 to 9:00 at 77 Motherwell Crescent.

The book we are studying is a gripping telling, in novel format, of the Passion story as seen through the eyes of the Centurion (Soldier) who was in charge of the proceedings during that violent collision between pagan Rome and temple Judaism. All women who like to read are welcome. Call 306-586-7015 if you have questions. (A Novel Study including a potluck breakfast to be announced later in the year).

Voice will meet on November 1, 15, 29th

## **Katepwa Lake Camp Gala**

Recap of Summer Success, KLC Plans and Visions for the Future!

November 18<sup>th</sup> Living Hope Alliance Church, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

\$20.00/plate (\$25.00/plate at the door).

Register online through KLC/Canada Helps (Please register online if you can. It will help us estimate the numbers; we hope not to run out of plates like we did last year!)

If you are buying at the door, an RSVP by noon the day before would be appreciated. But if you show up, we'll fit you in!

## **Prayer times at First Baptist**

*Half an hour each*

Morning Prayer: 7:15 am, Monday to Friday.\*

\*Some of Friday's prayers may be sung!

Wednesday:    7:15 am                    12:15 (noon)                    8:15 pm

We will open the front doors on Lorne St. at these times and welcome anyone who comes in. So many folks pass by our worship sanctuary, and this is a small and appropriate way for us to encourage them in faith and neighbourliness. The times are set to allow people working downtown to attend.

Knowing we are doing this, might also encourage and motivate all of us to make time to pray each day and throughout our day.

Each prayer time will include psalms, scripture reading, and prayer for our world, our church, and people in our lives.

“Where two or three are gathered” Jesus said, so we would love company! Alone or with a crowd, we will be praying for our church and others. We could also use help: setting out some food and coffee or making posters to advertise these opportunities throughout the downtown.

## **Prayer Breakfast**

It is important for God's people to gather for corporate prayer. Please join us for Prayer Breakfast on Wednesday mornings from 8 to 9 a.m. for a light breakfast, short Bible study and prayer for the needs of our church and the wider world.

## **Children and Youth**

Nearly 40 children take part in our children's program, from the nursery through to Oasis. They are invited to go downstairs most Sundays.

### **Nursery**

Hello all! I've had the opportunity to be involved in coordinating the nursery for the past 4 years, and just like the little ones themselves, the nursery is changing quickly! As we observe the little ones from their first Sunday in the nursery, to their first Sunday in Godly play,

we amazing growth. It's wonderful to see the littlest ones in our congregation growing into the people that God has intended.

I want to say a huge "thank you" to all the volunteers and youth helpers who have stepped up over the years to be a part of these young children's lives. Your investment in them is not overlooked, and impacts them immensely. To see the young friendships forming among them is truly a beautiful thing to see. So, THANK YOU!

There is a great group of volunteers and helpers who have dedicated their time on Sunday mornings to being downstairs with the children. And although the number of children fluctuates all the time, if being a part of this ministry is something that you are interested in, please contact Lynette Wollbaum via email at [lynjrussell@hotmail.com](mailto:lynjrussell@hotmail.com), or at 306-520-4474. It's not a hard job, and it's well worth it!

### **Godly Play - ages 3 - 6**

Godly Play is a method of Christian education and spiritual direction offered by First Baptist Church for children aged 3-6. The goal of Godly Play is to teach children the art of using religious language, parable, sacred story, silence, and liturgical action to help them become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence around them and in their lives.

During the month of November, Bonnie Austring-Winter and Debbie Nelson will be guiding the children in their worship downstairs.

November Stories:

Nov. 5 - All Saints Day - Children are upstairs

Nov.12 - The Temple, a House for God

Nov.19 - Exile and Return

Nov.26 - The Prophets

We are in need of leaders and shepherds! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Esther Maeers at [emaegers@yahoo.ca](mailto:emaegers@yahoo.ca)

## **Oasis - students ages 7 - 11**

Our students spend 3 to 4 weeks reading through one Bible story. Every Sunday is different: after reading from their Bibles, the children explore the passage through painting, drama, quizzing, games, cooking, science experiments and any other way we dream up.

## **Youth**

Nov.3: Event - Laser Quest! Meet at Laser Quest at 7:20. Pickup will be at 8:45 at Laser Quest. Address is 10a Hesse Bay, Regina.

**Please bring \$10.00 to help cover the cost of the event**

Nov.10: Remembrance Day weekend - No event

Nov.17: Bible study and games night. Meet at the Senger house at 7:00 for Bible study. We will play games afterwards, so feel free to bring a game that you like to share with others!

Suggested: \$2.00 to cover cost of food and snacks

Nov.24: Event - Progressive Supper. Meet at First Baptist Church at 6:30. At 9:00 the youth will be at First Baptist, ready for a home pick up.

N.B. Please contact Chris Senger if you are willing and able to help drive youth for this event (306)216-5729.

## Tuesday Nights Together (TNT)

Please join us at 5:15 p.m. In the lower hall for a time of fellowship. We ask that you bring your own supper-and something to share. TNT will be studying some Christian DVDs. Other options may be a Bible study or movie night.

## Finances

As we start our final fiscal quarter, finances continue to be strong.

Our revenues are still down slightly from this period in 2016; however, our expenses continue to be even lower. The decreased revenue is mostly in Offerings which is 5% lower than this time last year. The decreased expenses are mostly in personnel (-37%) and property (-21%). It is noteworthy that our spending on missions has increased about 23%, and this is a good thing!

Our net operating position is that we have money in the bank and no debt on our operating *line of credit*. This has us well positioned to plan for the future and approve the 2018 budget at the Fall Congregational Meeting.

Below are some figures to the end of September:

Approved Operating Budget (prorated):	\$335,500
Operating Revenue:	\$293,000
Operating Expenses:	\$250,000
Restricted Reserve Balance:	\$128,000

Notes: Not including bonds. The new Organ Fund is \$96,000 of the reserves and has decreased slightly with the final payment on the organ project.

## 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fundraiser Update

The past month has been a bit slow. The total raised has surpassed \$131,000, and the outstanding bonds payable are steady at \$398,000. However, we still have a way to go. On December 31 we will pay out all outstanding bonds. With current cash in bank, we will have a mortgage of more than \$350,000. If you haven't yet joined the campaign, we encourage you to prayerfully consider helping to make that mortgage as small as possible.

### Missions

#### Shopping that Makes a Difference!

1. *The Hopeful Gifts for Change* catalogue from Canadian Baptist Ministries offers meaningful gifts that change lives. From school supplies to clean water, you can make a lasting difference in the lives of people around the world. Order a free card to go with your gift. There are special "teacher cards" available this year!

Catalogues available on entryway tables; or shop online at [www.cbmin.org](http://www.cbmin.org)

2. The CBM "323 Collective" online store features one-of-a-kind handmade ornaments for your tree this year. This Christmas, decorate your tree with handmade ornaments for good!

100% of the proceeds from the sale of these ornaments will go to support CBM projects around the world.

The "323 Collective" store features global craft makers and entrepreneurs willing to contribute their handiwork of many kinds in service of those who need a hand-up. Shop at [cbmin.org](http://cbmin.org)

## Esther Wiens interviews Carol Oxelgren

1. Carol, first I want to thank you for agreeing to this interview. We are hoping this will help us to become a closer fellowship at First Baptist. We want to love and support one another.

*Thank you for asking about my life and family with the goal of closer fellowship in the church family.*

2. Please tell us something about your personal history with our church. When did you first come to our church and what brought you here?

*In 1955, while I was training to be a nurse at the General Hospital, a friend invited me to accompany her to First Baptist. Because we worked on Sundays, we often attended Sunday evening services. I was baptized in 1955 and became a member the following year. In 1962 Stan and I were married here.*

3. In what ways have you participated in the church throughout the years? What are some of your good memories, both distant and recent?

*I was involved in many activities throughout the years and have many very good memories of them. I have worked in the nursery, on the Christian Education Committee, and have taught Sunday School. I have participated in telephoning, visitation, food donation, small group Bible Study, and the last remaining ladies Jubilee Circle. I even stuffed stockings for needy people at Christmas. I sang in the choir for 8 years. As a public health nurse, I felt compelled in the interests of good hygiene to persuade our church to replace glass communion cups with disposable ones.*

4, What a list, Carol! You have certainly been a great blessing to our church. I believe you have family here in the city. Tell us about them: who are they, and what enjoyable things do you do together?

*Regina is my home. I have nieces in the area and a sister and brother-in-law who spend part of the year in Saskatchewan. My younger daughter Lisa and husband Darcy, their 2 sons, Madison and Skylar, live nearby, so we can celebrate holidays and birthdays together. Lisa and I are close: we walk together, text several times a week, and just “hang out.” Lisa visits Connie when she has time off; her sons visit her at least once a year.*

4. I know you have a daughter who is an invalid living in Ottawa. Tell us about her; why is she so far away from home?

*Connie, my eldest daughter, was born Feb. 14, 1964. At age 2 she was still unable to walk and was diagnosed with a disorder of deteriorating motor nerve cells in her spinal cord. Her illness was called Kugelberg-Welander disease but today it is simply called Spinal Muscular Atrophy, a disease which is progressive and incurable. Her muscles waste away because of disuse. Currently, she is unable to move, except for her jaw and tongue. Nonetheless, her speech and brain are not affected.*

5. Thank God for that! What kind of help does she need and how is she able to get that help?

*Connie lives in an apartment in Ottawa together with several other disabled people. Staff people who help them 24/7 live*

*in the same building. These people are with her and help her at scheduled times during the day. When she is alone during an emergency, she uses voice-controlled electronic equipment to telephone for help. She uses a Morse Code program to activate her computer by sipping and puffing into a straw. She is also learning to operate her iPad by voice.*

6. Why is she living so far from home?

*As a young woman, she earned a Bachelor of Social Work from U. of Regina and then pursued a Masters Degree at Carlton U. in Ottawa, but had to drop out because of her health. She chose to stay there because she found a medical program that met her needs. Both she and I believe nothing comparable is available in Saskatchewan.*

7. How does Connie deal with her situation? Can you tell us how she feels without in any way betraying her trust?

*She manages her life with the help I've mentioned. She has some degree of independence, because she can train and evaluate the people who help her. Thus, she has some sense of control over her life and her failing body. This is extremely important, because she is very vulnerable to injury. Connie is not mobile, since she no longer has the use of her thumb. When she has a medical appointment, she is transported by stretcher in a non-emergency ambulance.*

*Also, Connie is a Christian; her faith helps her to cope. Contact with Christians allows her to participate in prayer for others; the Christians also pray for her.*

8. Recently you told me that Connie was taking a creative writing course. How amazing and wonderful! Please tell us how she manages that.

*Connie hoped to take a creative writing course, but it has been stalled, because her computer isn't working right now.*

9. I know you spend part of the year in Ottawa with her. This must be a great help and comfort. What specific things are you able to do for her when you go there?

*I am always alert for seat sales. I usually go to Ottawa 4 times a year for 3–6 weeks. If she is hospitalized, I spend the days with her and usually return to her apartment for night. When she is at home, we visit together, play games, and watch TV. We also read the Bible and pray. I help fill out forms, post things, shop, cook and freeze food, and answer the phone. If she wishes, I attend meetings in her apartment or go with her to doctors' appointments. We sometimes visit with a couple of disabled friends from her apartment, have tea, or even a birthday supper.*

10. You have previously told me, you have a good church here in Regina and a good one in Ottawa. Can you expand upon that statement a little? Tell us something about Connie's relationship to the Ottawa Baptist Church.

*Both congregations have had challenges to solve, but I'm happy that both remain active, since this helps to serve my sense of security in a turbulent world. I connect with the Bromley Road Baptist Church in Ottawa, attend the church, and eat out with friends. Later, I relate church news to Connie.*

*Two sisters from BRBC visit monthly for fellowship and prayer. They might watch TV, a DVD, or play a game with Connie.*

11. I'm sure those who read this interview will want to support both you and Connie more effectively. What can we do to make that happen? Please don't be afraid to ask for whatever would be helpful.

*Both Connie and I sing the same song: "It's me it's me it's me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer." I am asking First Baptist to understand that I cannot make firm commitments here, because I need to be able to leave for Ottawa at any time. When Connie was diagnosed, the doctor said the oldest child he had seen with her disease was 13 years old. Connie is 53, and I'm realizing she may outlive me. I struggle with that possibility.*

*Regarding specific prayer requests, I would like to say that a group of specialists are currently working on finding and supplying special seating that will allow Connie to sit in a wheelchair. Please pray for this process to be successful. Connie is asking for prayer support for the team who are building and doing custom modification for a new seat and wheelchair, so that she can have some degree of independence.*

*In closing, thank you to all in our church who labour in this "caring place," that we may proclaim and demonstrate to a broken world what is written in John 3:16 (The Message).*

*This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why; so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again.*

## **First Baptist Church Staff**

Joel Russell-MacLean, Lead Pastor  
John Nelson, Associate Pastor  
George Mackenzie, Caretaker

First Baptist Church Office hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The church office is closed on Fridays as it is a day off for staff.

Website: [firstbaptistregina.ca](http://firstbaptistregina.ca)  
Email: [main\\_fbcregina@sasktel.net](mailto:main_fbcregina@sasktel.net)  
Phone: 306-359-1450

## November Calendar at a Glance

Sunday 5	9:30 a.m.	Learning for Life
	10:30 a.m.	77 Days of Prayer
	11 a.m.	Worship Service
Tuesday 7	5:15 p.m.	Tuesday Nights Together
	6 p.m.	JuBELLation Practice
Wednesday 8	8 a.m.	Prayer Breakfast
	10 a.m.	Achiever's Bible Study
Thursday 9	7 p.m.	Choir Practice
Sunday 12	9:30 a.m.	Learning for Life
	10:30 a.m.	77 Days of Prayer
	11 a.m.	Worship Service
Tuesday 14	5:15 p.m.	Tuesday Nights Together
	6 p.m.	JuBELLation Practice
Wednesday 15	8 a.m.	Prayer Breakfast
	7 p.m.	Voice!
Thursday 16	7 p.m.	Choir/Seasonal Singers
Friday 17	7 p.m.	Youth Bible Study & Games
Saturday 18	8:30 a.m.	Men's Breakfast
	5 p.m.	KLC Gala (Living Hope Alliance)

<b>Sunday 19</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Learning for Life</b>
	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>77 Days of Prayer</b>
	<b>11 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
	<b>12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Congregational Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday 21</b>	<b>5:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Tuesday Nights Together</b>
	<b>6 p.m.</b>	<b>JuBELLation Practice</b>
<b>Wednesday 22</b>	<b>8 a.m.</b>	<b>Prayer Breakfast</b>
	<b>10 a.m.</b>	<b>Achiever's Bible Study</b>
<b>Thursday 23</b>	<b>12 p.m.</b>	<b>Achiever's Luncheon</b>
	<b>7 p.m.</b>	<b>Choir/Seasonal Singers</b>
<b>Friday 24</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Youth Progressive Supper</b>
<b>Sunday 26</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Learning for Life</b>
	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>77 Days of Prayer</b>
	<b>11 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
<b>Tuesday 28</b>	<b>5:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Tuesday Nights Together</b>
	<b>6 p.m.</b>	<b>JuBELLation Practice</b>
<b>Wednesday 29</b>	<b>8 a.m.</b>	<b>Prayer Breakfast</b>
	<b>7 p.m.</b>	<b>Voice!</b>
<b>Thursday 30</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>	<b>Choir/Seasonal Singers</b>
<b>Friday 1</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>	<b>Youth Event</b>