

# First Baptist Church

[www.firstbaptistregina.ca](http://www.firstbaptistregina.ca)



Wilf Perreault, "Silent Light"

## ***Inside the newsletter:***

Church-Wide Survey

Congregational Care

Week of Prayer

Diaconate Update

VOICE!

Achievers' Bible Study

Achiever's Luncheon

FBC Website

Music at First

Interview: Eva McMillan

Missions

Men's Breakfast

Learning for Life

Children and Youth

TNT

125 Anniversary Fundraiser

An Experiment

A new year can bring with it a feeling of a fresh start and a sense of optimism about what is ahead. First Baptist has good reasons to be looking forward to this year as you can read inside.

New Year's also reminds us life can feel like it is going in circles: we've been here before; day follows day, the years add up, and New Year's returns faster every year.

There is a larger cycle going on and the greatest new beginning coming. God's kingdom is coming. God will bring about the end of evil and death. God will redeem history and our lives.

In our daily routines, in the cycle of year upon year, may God give us strength and hope to persevere joyfully in prayer, love and good deeds.

With love, Pastor Joel

## **Church Health and Renewal**

**Church-Wide Survey  
January 14th to 21st**

Sam has been a CBWC pastor and Area Minister and currently helps CBWC churches with ministry review and renewal.



We are calling in Sam Breakey to help us understand where we are now and the opportunities ahead so that we can develop a shared focus as a church.

We will begin the survey January 14th. The survey will be available online for anyone with an email address. Paper copies will be available for people without email. We hope that everyone over the age of thirteen will take part.

- January 14**    **Survey Starts**
- January 21**    **Survey Ends**
- January 22**    **Survey Entry (paper copies) to be finished**
- February 9**    **Town hall with Sam Breakey and Mark Doerkson**
- February 10**   **Sam Breakey and Mark Doerkson meeting with FBC leadership team.**

“The real power of this process is when congregations listen together to what the Lord is saying to their church, about their past, present and future. Sam is just one facilitator of Christ revitalizing the church.”

- Southwest Community Church

Find out more by visiting [firstbaptistregina.ca](http://firstbaptistregina.ca)

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

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

We have several people that 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.

## **Week of Prayer for Church Unity**

*Sunday, January 21 at 3 p.m.*

*First Presbyterian Church, 2170 Albert St.*

Using materials prepared by the church in the Caribbean, churches around the world will be gathering Sunday, January 21st to worship across denominational lines.

This year in Regina, the message brought to us will speak to the relationship between Indigenous peoples and the church. God's Spirit appears to be placing the same concern on many hearts.

The pastors from the downtown churches have been working together to prepare this event. They have sensed that this may be a special moment to build new relationships between our churches and to work together.

Mark this date on your calendar. Speak with Pastor Joel if you have any questions or might be able to help prepare this special event.

## **Diaconate Update**

As we go into the Church Health Engagement Strategy, led by Sam Breakey, and as I begin my term as Chair of the Board of FBC, I would ask for all your prayers and support for the Diaconate. The government of Canada treats churches as non-profit charitable corporations, and as such it requires that they have a board of directors (which we call the Diaconate). This board of directors has a set of responsibilities, including oversight of the legal and financial obligations of the corporation to the government of Canada, and to the membership (and owners). I'm currently serving on boards of First Baptist Church and Katepwa Lake Camp. Typically, these boards meet for a few hours a month during which they have to deal with a host of complex issues, digest information and make many decisions with long term consequences. A challenge!

FBC has made a dozen or so changes in the last year, and we are now bearing significant fruits from those efforts. Not all the changes were planned, nor expected, nor pleasant. Often initial changes made in a strategy will make things worse, and to some extent that held true for us too. Naturally, we never want to lose anything that we worked hard to build in the past, and treasure—so there is a tendency to sometimes do nothing—which unfortunately is often the worst strategy of all.

Churches in general, and FBC are facing a barrage of societal changes and challenges. Often the best way forward is neither clear nor painless. If we can get agreement through Church Health Engagement Strategy on where we are as a church, and where we want to go, then we can be creative about how to get there! Having spent 25 years in process improvement at SaskTel, I know that opportunities to improve abound. How to exploit those opportunities is however, neither obvious nor simple. What is usually required is willingness to experiment, to do things

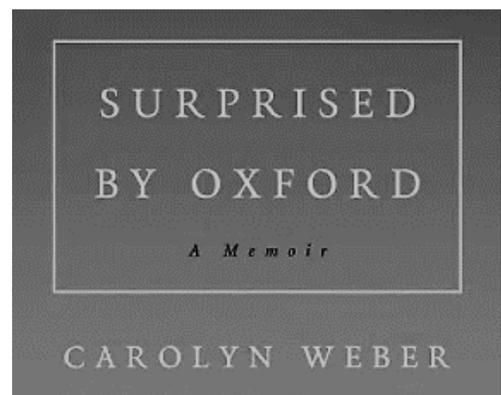
differently, knowing full well that many of the changes will fall flat. I know that it is very easy to be skeptical, that many in the church have gone through a variety of processes in the past, and that it has often felt like very little good 'fruit' came from it. Can I promise that this time will be different, that FBC will come up with a brilliant strategy of positive change that will be welcomed by all the church? Given that 90% of change efforts tend to fall short on the first attempt, it would appear to be a poor bet. However, if we stick with it, managing risk, praying, working passionately together, we are almost guaranteed to be successful.

Collin Carbno  
Chair of the Diaconate

## VOICE!

On January 13th, a breakfast brunch is planned, aka the Novel Study. The meal will be potluck, each person bringing their favorite breakfast dish, beginning at 10 A.M. at Tracy Sailor's house on 3427 Keohan Crescent. Please read and be prepared to discuss the novel. The book is *Surprised by Oxford* by Carolyn Weber. Books are available at Amazon and as ebooks.

Weber is a Canadian woman from Ontario who went to Oxford on scholarship to study Romantic literature, and feeling no need for God. This book documents her experience in what Allister McGrath calls "A hugely readable journey of cultural and spiritual discovery sparkling with wit and wisdom".



Go to [www.pressingsave.com](http://www.pressingsave.com) for more about the book.

## **Achievers' Bible Study**

The Achievers' Bible Study is held every second Wednesday at 10am in the upstairs conference room. January's dates are the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 24<sup>th</sup> and will pick up with Acts 22.

## **Achievers' Luncheon**

An enthusiastic group for those 55+ years young who enjoy fantastic food, fabulous fellowship, and stimulating spiritual connection. January 25 will feature guest speaker, Rev. Dennis D. Henriksen, lead pastor at Christ Lutheran Church. Dennis is both an amazing speaker and outstanding musician. Dennis will share his love of music and the impact that music has had on his life journey.

Menu: pork, vegetables, salads, buns, dessert, and beverage.  
Cost- \$10.00

RSVP by Tuesday, January 23 at noon by phoning the church office, dropping a note into the offering plate, or emailing Pastor John at: [jonel3454@hotmail.com](mailto:jonel3454@hotmail.com)

February 22 - Pastor Joel Russell-MacLean  
March 22 - TBA  
April 26 - Rev. Tim Coleman, Associate Pastor Westhill Park Baptist Church

For more information pertaining to upcoming Achievers' Luncheons, go to:

[www.achieversregina.ca](http://www.achieversregina.ca)  
or  
[www.firstbaptistregina.ca](http://www.firstbaptistregina.ca)

## **FBC Website**

**“Re-discover” the Good Things.** Do you sometimes wish that you could go back and listen to that excellent talk from a previous Learning For Life session? Or re-visit the quote that seemed to embody what you wanted to remember? Or follow up that reference that was mentioned too quickly for you to take a note?

Well, actually, you can!

Click on the “Get Connected” tab and then on “Ministries & Events” in the sidebar. The “Re-Discover” section provides links to several recent memorable events – the 4 Books presentation series, Luther and Reformation series with Mark Anderson, and the first two steps of the (re)Conciliation series. We’ll add more if you are interested.

## **Speak in Confidence**

Did you know that you can write directly to a pastor, or a Diaconate board member, or even a denominational leader in complete privacy and complete confidence, directly from the FBC website? You can set up a meeting to speak face-to-face later on if you prefer to move in that direction.

Click on the “Get Connected” tab and then on “Let’s Communicate” in the sidebar. Or you can send an email directly to the church office from any page on the FBC website. Just click on the “[main\\_fbcregina@sasktel.net](mailto:main_fbcregina@sasktel.net)” link at the top right location. A blank addressed page will pop up immediately, waiting for you to finish your note.

Now that’s communication!

## MUSIC at FIRST

### JuBELLation Ringers

This exciting group will resume rehearsing on Tuesday, January 16 at 6:00 p.m. Interested ringers, please contact Pastor John.



### The Sanctuary Choir

The Sanctuary Choir of FBC has a rich ministry history spanning over 117+ years. This ministry is the longest serving “small group” of FBC. The present choir membership reflects a commitment level numbering as few years as 2, to over 50 years. The average commitment level of the choir membership is 20.95 years. Total years represented by each choir section:

Sopranos: 158 years	Tenors: 64 years
Altos: 63 years	Basses: 134 years

419 years of ministry = 20.95 years of service per singer!

The music ministry of FBC is also very privileged to have two faithful and committed music ministry leaders in Christa Walsh (church pianist- 10 years) and Dr. Mark Anderson (organist, 27 years).

We thank each and every member of our music ministry family for their leadership and commitment.

\*The Sanctuary Choir will return to the choir loft on January 7 and their first rehearsal for 2018 will be Thursday, January 11 at 7:00 p.m. New members warmly welcomed!

JOY TO THE WORLD (Isaac Watts, 1674-1748)

“There could be no hymn which can boast of such famous parenthood as this two-hundred-fifty-year old Christmas carol. The words were penned by that master of English hymns, that giant of sacred verse, that most famous of hymn writers, Isaac Watts.

The music was composed by that wonder of divine sound, that leader of choral interpretation, that most famous of song writers George Frederick Handel (an adaption from “Messiah”). Who can say which one has more responsible for the continued popularity of “Joy to the World”? Contemporaries, Handel died (1759) some eleven years after Watts. But what they created together has never died-and probably never will!”

(excerpt from *Stories of the Christian Hymns*, Revised Edition by Helen Salem Rizk- Abingdon Press)

## **Interview: Eva McMillan**

*When I first approached Eva about sharing her story in this newsletter she was reluctant. But I pressed her by telling her how much other people would enjoy reading this, and she conceded with the words "I try to do what other people want."*



**Eva, you grew up on a farm near Carmichael, which is not far from Gull Lake, in the 1930's. What was your childhood like?**

Well, I was the oldest of five children, and my father died when I was ten. There was no church close to us, though in the summer there were church services in Tompkins where the pastor had a three-point charge. He did Carmichael and Grassy Hill when the weather was good. Then a lady from the Bible Society came and gave us leaflets with Bible verses.

My mother was a Baptist from New Brunswick, and was strict in her observance. We never worked on Sundays, and even now I never knit on Sundays. Knitting is work!

**How did your mother manage after your father died?**

We struggled. She never complained. And we all helped.

We had a garden, and a cow . . . The soil was too dry for any more animals.

**Then you came to Regina in 1941. Tell us about those years.**

My mother, who was starved for a Baptist church told me when I came to Regina to find a Baptist church and get into it. I came to First Baptist the first Sunday I was in Regina and have basically been here ever since. First Baptist has always been my home church.

I went to Balfour Collegiate, and learned secretarial skills. I had no house and no money and needed a job. They needed people in the army, so I joined the army and worked there as a secretary until the war was over. Then I got a job with the Federal Government.

My mother came to live with me. For a while we were in light housekeeping rooms. Then In 1954 I bought a house on Robinson street just north of Dewdney. When my mother needed more care I retired to be home with her. Cameron Memorial Church (now Westhill) was only 2 blocks away and she could still walk that far. Rather than just stay home it only made sense to me to attend Cameron Memorial. I still went to First for the 9 o'clock service we had in those days and then went to the 11 o'clock at Cameron. I went to both the Sunday after she died. I continued to attend both services for a while so I could help out with the children at Cameron. Cameron were very good to us. But after a year I went back to First full time.

**I think what most people who knew you in the past remember about you is how much you used to visit seniors and shut-ins all around the city. And you didn't have a car, so most of the time you walked.**

I was always a walker. It started with one person in a care home and grew from there. Even now I miss walking,

### **Were you involved in other activities in the church?**

They needed someone to give leadership to the Explorers, a midweek meeting for 9-11 yr. old girls, so I agreed to do that. I was there every Tuesday. Sometimes the weather was bad, but I had no way to get in touch with them, so I always went. Brenda and Barbara Ziolkowski and Louise Krueger were part of that group, and also a number of street kids. We had sleepover parties at my house. I remember one occasion when there were 19 girls. They all slept on the floor. And they loved it.

### **But you find other things to do for people now . . .**

I started knitting toques and sweaters for children and Vera Radford would take them to the schools. Other people were doing this too. Then after Vera died I started knitting caps for babies in the neonatal unit at the hospital. I still do that. (Eva showed me two bags of the cutest tiny pink and blue caps.)

### **Anything else?**

I write notes to people. People love getting a card in the mail.

### **You were in First Baptist Place for a while, weren't you?**

I loved First Baptist Place, but my sister felt I needed to be somewhere where meals were provided, so I moved here to Mutchmor Lodge. I still miss First Baptist Place. But I try to do what other people want.

## **Missions**

### **Make a New Year's Resolution re: Missions!**

Thank you for your generous support for our special Missions projects in 2017! Project offerings are always appreciated by our partners in mission!

However, regular monthly supporters are also needed by all our partners, so they know they can count on the funds needed throughout the year. Is there a ministry God might be calling you to commit a monthly offering to in 2018?

Canadian Baptist Ministries - [www.cbmin.org](http://www.cbmin.org)

Katepwa Lake Camp - [www.katepwalakecamp.com](http://www.katepwalakecamp.com)

Inter-varsity Christian Fellowship (Fran Purvis) - [www.ivcf.ca](http://www.ivcf.ca)

Youth for Christ - [www.yfcregina.ca](http://www.yfcregina.ca) (Diane Campeau, Housing Director, needs support. She shared a brief testimony at the First Steps seminar.)

"Give and it will be given to you. A good measure... for with the measure you use it will be measured to you." (Luke 6:38)

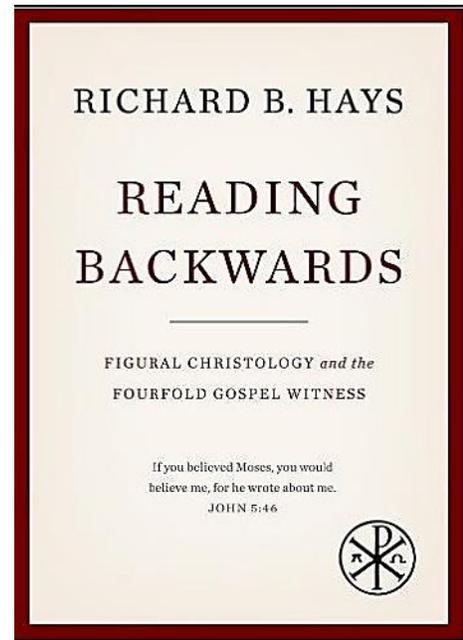
## **Mens' Breakfast**

Our breakfast this month will be on Saturday, January 20, 8:30 - 10 a.m. at Nicky's Café. Let Pastor Joel if you plan on attending. Mark your calendars and invite someone to join you. All ages welcome.

## Learning for Life

Lord, Save us from a Proof-text Faith  
Begins Jan 14 -Facilitated by Annabel  
Robinson

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, Hays 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 echo 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.

RJS in the blog, JesusCreed, writes of *Echoes of Scripture in the Gospel*, "This is an outstanding book - well worth the time and effort to read and ponder."

## **Children and Youth**

Children from 3 to 11 are invited to go downstairs most Sundays.

### **Nursery**

If being part of this ministry is something that you are interested in, please contact Lynette Wollbaum at 306-520-4474 or via email at [lynjrussell@hotmail.com](mailto:lynjrussell@hotmail.com). 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. 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.

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 (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**

Hello and welcome to the new year! We are very excited for what we have planned for FBC Youth this year, and hopeful that God will continue to work in our hearts and lives. We want to continue to have a space for youth to connect with one another, but we also want to find ways to strengthen our relationship with FBC and find ways to serve one another and our community. To this end some of

our events will have a focus on service within our community. Please pray for us as we seek to find ways to have the Holy Spirit move among us, and guide us to be transformed into the image of Christ as we seek to live out His Kingdom here on earth.

Below is a brief outline of some of the dates and events for FBC Youth in January. More details are available on the youth section of our webpage <http://firstbaptistregina.ca/events/event/youth-together/>

### **January Schedule**

**5th:** No Youth

**12th:** Regina Pats Game - \$10/person

**19th:** Cooking and Bake night - meet at FBC @7

**26th:** SERVE night

### **TNT**

TNT resumes January 16, with a Bring Your Own Meal (not potluck). Supper is served at 5:15 p.m. Please let the office know the previous day if you will be attending (call 306-359-1410 or email [mail\\_fbcregina@sasktel.net](mailto:mail_fbcregina@sasktel.net)). Mitchell Michie, missionary and Bible translator, will be the guest speaker at 6 p.m.

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

At year-end we completed the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fundraiser. In total we raised more than \$200,000 to reduce the bond debt. The bonds are now all paid and we have a loan with the Canadian Baptists of Western Canada for less than \$300,000. Final numbers will be reported next month. Thank you to all who participated in the fundraiser and helped get the residual debt down.

## Scripture Lessons This Year - An Experiment

How do pastors choose what part of the Bible to focus on each Sunday? Well, have you seen the dartboard John and Joel have in the office?

Often pastors use a “lectionary”: a list of scripture passages agreed upon by the entire church for every Sunday.

A lectionary is a way of submitting to God, of choosing to be influenced and changed by something you didn’t come up with. In the 1960s, most of the churches in the west created together a brand new, three-year lectionary. We are going back further than that.

This year, from Advent to Pentecost, we are going to use the lectionary that was common in the west before the new one was made, one from outside our modern way of understanding the world.

This lectionary is as close as we can come to going to school every Sunday with the early church. It was used with few changes back through the Industrial Revolution, the Enlightenment, the Reformation, and Charlemagne’s reign. Parts of it—maybe all of it—are older than the “dark ages.” It is the school that it appears Augustine and Chrysostom and others attended.

Except they didn’t seem to look at preaching as learning or “school.” They thought of it as worship. Matching the church season, they chose passages that the Holy Spirit used to change people’s hearts as Jesus came to meet them.

Sometimes the Bible reading will seem out place (Palm Sunday in Advent?). Let’s see if and how it changes us and maybe deepens our relationship with Jesus.

## 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, because 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



## Life Together

---

<b>Sunday</b>	9:30 a.m.	Learning for Life
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service

---

<b>Monday</b>		
---------------	--	--

---

<b>Tuesday</b>	5:15 p.m.	Tuesday Nights Together
	6:00 p.m.	JuBELLation Practice

---

<b>Wednesday</b>	8:00 a.m.	Prayer Breakfast
	10:00 a.m.	Achievers' Bible Study

---

<b>Thursday</b>	7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
-----------------	-----------	----------------

---

<b>Friday</b>	7:00 p.m.	Youth Event
---------------	-----------	-------------

---

## January at a Glance

- Jan. 10 Achiever's Bible Study (p.6)
- Jan. 11 Sanctuary Choir practice resumes (p.8)
- Jan. 13 VOICE! Brunch (p.5)
- Jan. 14 Church-Wide Survey starts (p.2)
- Jan. 16 JuBELLation practice resumes (p.8)  
TNT resumes (p.15)
- Jan. 20 Men's Breakfast (p.13)
- Jan. 21 Church-Wide Survey ends (p.2)  
Week of Prayer for Church Unity (p.3)
- Jan. 23 RSVP for Achievers' Luncheon by noon (p.6)
- Jan. 24 Achiever's Bible Study (p.6)
- Jan. 25 Achievers' Luncheon (p.6)
- Feb. 9 Town hall meeting with Sam Breakey and Mark Doerkson
- Feb. 10 Meeting with Sam Breakey, Mark Doerkson, and the FBC  
Leadership Team