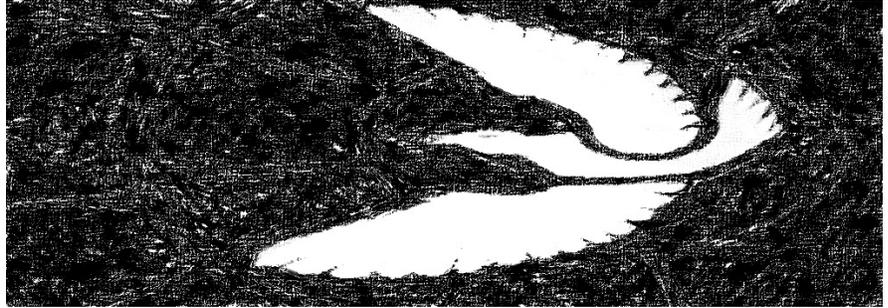


First Baptist Church

April 2018



www.firstbaptistregina.ca

Photo courtesy of Merv Hepting

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Life Together

“Peekaboo,” the daddy said, pulling his hands away from his eyes. The baby’s eyes widened in surprise and then they both laughed. This game works because all babies are learning “object permanence” - just because they can’t see something, doesn’t mean it is not there.

For several weeks after his resurrection, Jesus kept appearing and disappearing. It’s like he was helping his friends learn, “Just because you can’t see me, doesn’t mean I’m not there.”

Jesus said, “I will be with you until the very end.” During these Easter days, let’s learn to recognize that Jesus is always with us.

With love,
Pastor Joel

Prayer Breakfast

We meet at 8 am Wednesday mornings in the library. Please join us.

TNT

Tuesday Nights Together takes its Easter Break March 27 - April 3. We resume on Tuesday the 10th of April at 5:15 p.m. Bring Your Own Meal.

Missions

New Mission Partnership!

In wrestling with where to invest our international missions budget this year, we were seeking a place:

- where we could be involved on a longer term basis than a one-time project;
- where we could invest not only financially but relationally;
- where we could invest in urgent needs, and also in leadership development for the future.

After meeting with Dennis Shierman, our Canadian Baptist Ministries Western Representative, the Missions Commission felt led to our work in **Lebanon** with the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary and the Syrian refugee ministries. CBM sent us a partnership proposal based on our priorities and those of our Lebanese mission partners, which was presented for discussion at our AGM on March 18, 2018. The Missions Commission will now move ahead to accept and facilitate the proposal, summarized as follows:

Purpose:

- to go deeper in building relationships with Christians in the

- developing world;
- to partner and connect intentionally with the church in Lebanon, through CBM.

Commitment: FBC

- **Program commitment:** 3 years (2018, 2019, and 2020) - to be reviewed annually.
- **Financial commitment:** Our budgeted CBM funds (2018 - \$7500) + annual fundraiser offering*, to be designated as follows:
 - **One Third - Emad and Almess Botros Team Support** for their ministry in Lebanon. Emad serves as a lecturer in Old Testament and Islamic Studies at ABTS, helping to equip students for ministry across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).
 - **One Third - Middle East Consultation (MEC) Bursaries** for registration and travel costs for participants at MEC, held annually at ABTS. MEC brings together pastors and church leaders from MENA to address issues of mutual concern, and “seeks to breathe new life into our Evangelical churches' witness to Muslim communities globally.” (Martin Accad, ABTS)
 - **One Third - Syrian Refugee Support** to enable Syrian refugee children to go to camp. Approx. 460,000 Syrian refugee children are in Lebanon, living with trauma from a 7 year war. Camps include music, Bible-based messages, games, crafts, and visits to farms and other places they would not normally go. Building confidence and strong relationships are key aims.
- **Ministry commitment:** Minimum of one SENT (short-term

ministry) trip to Lebanon within the 3-year commitment. During the serving and learning trip, our team will have an opportunity to see first-hand God at work in the ministry we support. Could this perhaps include you?

Commitment to FBC from CBM

- Educational support, including print material on the partner country.
- Updates on how our ministry funds have been used to advance God's work.
- Priority facilitation of SENT team.
- Participation by CBM staff (including global field staff) with missions commission once a year.
- Priority scheduling for speakers from the partner country when in Canada.

***Note:** Our annual CBM Fundraiser Luncheon is planned for Sunday, May 27, 12:15 p.m.!

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, contact Lynette Wollbaum via email at 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. 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.

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. This month the young people are studying the stories of Jesus’ appearing to Peter after the resurrection and forgiving him.

Youth

April	
6 th	Easter Break: no youth event
13 th	Bible Study at FBC - 7:00 - 9:00
20 th	Girls Paint night: meet at the Church at 7:00. Please bring \$2.50 to help cover the cost of the canvas and supplies. Guys Event: TBD
27 th	BBQ and Games at Candy Cane Park (weather permitting) - meet at Candy Cane park at 6:30 - 8:30 for supper and outdoor activities. Bring \$2. each to cover the cost of food.

VOICE

Voice will complete the study of Max Lucado's Grace 18th of April. We meet at 77 Motherwell Cres. at 7 p.m.

During one of these sessions, we will decide what to study during May. The thought is that we will do a couple of the Bible studies produced by Faye Reynolds for CBWC.

There seems to be a lot of interest in reading and discussing the biographical novel, I am Hutterite by Mary Anne Kirkby. Annabel has volunteered her home for a potluck breakfast brunch that precedes this discussion. All that remains is for participants to get a copy of the book (e-book, library, or Chapters), read it and come to the novel study. Watch for a date to be announced close to the end of April.

During the fall semester Voice read: The Soldier Who Killed a King, an exciting, moving presentation of the passion story. On April 3, the author of this book, DAVID KITZ, will be at Annabel's house at 91 Windfield Drive. Come and meet DAVID KITZ: he is a church dramatist, so the program will be fun and inspirational. Call Martha at 586 7015 for further information.

Men's Breakfast

Our breakfast this month will be on Saturday, April 21, 8:30 at 10 a.m., location TBA. Let Pastor Joel know if you plan on attending. Mark your calendars and invite someone to join you. All ages welcome.

Learning for Life

Beginning April 8th: "The Lost World of Scripture": reading the Old Testament for God's revelation of himself.

This class, based partly on John Walton's book, The Lost World of Scripture will offer a background to the Old Testament, a plan for reading it (optional), and a discussion of some of its great themes.

Facilitated by Annabel Robinson.

Katepwa Lake Camp

Summer camp dates are open for all ages.

Visit www.katepwalakecamp.com for dates and registration.

Sponsorships This year, the camp is hoping to sponsor 100 young people who otherwise wouldn't be able to attend. Contact Tim and Shelly Keizer, Katepwa Lake directors, if you wish to help support this initiative: 306.332.4727

Interview with Barry Lyons



1. Barry, tell us something about your childhood, your family, and your growing up.

I was born in Regina, Saskatchewan in 1953. Since I was three months premature, my birth weight was about two pounds and my body not fully developed. I was given too much oxygen, which damaged my optic nerves and left me blind. I do not have light perception.

I lived with my parents until both had passed away in 1993.

From my 6th to my 18th year, I attended the W. Ross Macdonald school for the blind in Brantford Ontario, and completed grade 12. From there I went to Central Collegiate in Regina to get full Saskatchewan accreditation. I attended the University of Regina and graduated with a B.A. degree, majoring in psychology and sociology in 1976.

2. I really appreciate the fact that when I speak to you, you answer me by name. Do you have special hearing skills?

I do not have hearing skills above what most sighted people have. I think that the brain compensates for sight loss by taking in more from the hearing, and smelling, and touching senses.

3. Where do you live and how do you manage your everyday life? Do you have help with everyday jobs such as cooking, doing laundry, and cleaning?

I live in the Uplands area of Regina at 108, 15 Alport Crescent. A lady comes in once a month to clean my condo; I do my own cooking and laundry. I have two nephews, who help me with shopping, reading mail, and other needs that arise.

4. Do you ever go shopping?

My nephews do my shopping for me. I sometimes go along with them, and sometimes I just give them a list of what I need.

5. How did you come to First Baptist Church? In what ways in the church important to you?

In 1985, I took an independent living course through the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. My father was supposed to drive me and three other students to the course. However, CNIB hired another driver named Dan Sali to do this. We were travelling to the CNIB building in his car, when a song came on the radio that was sung by Amy Grant. Dan remarked that it was interesting that a Christian singer was being played on a secular radio station, and I agreed. He asked me if I was a Christian, and I said I was. He invited me to attend First Baptist for a Sunday evening service. I enjoyed the service and have attended since that time, first in Young Adults and then throughout my adult life.

I enjoy the Bible-centred preaching and the music that is performed. I appreciate the fact that the congregation has been very accepting of me and that my disability does not get in the way of my participating in the life of the church. I appreciate the love and kindness and acceptance that have been shown to me over these many years.

6. I think it's great that you sing in the choir. What about it do you enjoy the most? How do you manage to learn the music?

I enjoy the fellowship and the many different styles of music that we sing.

I have help from the other choir members and from Pastor John, who often sings in front of me during the rehearsals and also gives me audio versions of the music, when he has them. I also do my best

to listen to the people around me as they sing their parts. Also, God has given me the ability to learn.

7. I have noticed that you come to church by Paratransit. What arrangements, financial and otherwise, do you have with them? Do they give you as many rides as you want?

I use Paratransit to travel around the city. You have to book your trips by phone or email seven days in advance and you must supply the times you want to go and return, realizing that you may not get the exact times you want. Paratransit is a shared ride service, meaning you go from door to door picking up people. Since 2008, the service has been free for persons with a CNIB registration card. I used to ride to work each day, and have had other trips as well, such as doctors appointments, and social events.

8. When I spoke with you a few years back, you had a job. How did that come to an end?

I worked at Viterra, which used to be the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. I operated a convenience store in the building for the staff. I sold soft drinks and candies and ice cream and other items and snacks. I worked from 1985 to 2015. The building had a subsidized cafeteria until the end of 2015. They decided to no longer subsidize the operation and put in facilities for a private restaurant into the building. The restaurant did not want competition from another operation in the building, so the convenience store was closed and my position was eliminated.

9. How are you supported financially? Do you find what you are given adequate?

I have a work pension and receive CPP as well. I will be getting Old Age Security some time this year, since I turned 65 on February 15th. This means there will be a reduction in my work pension. I

have been able to live in my condo since 2014 and pay the mortgage, and so forth. Previously, from 1993 until her death in 2014, I lived with my sister. I used to pay rent to her and help with groceries too.

10. I've noticed that the men in the choir are always ready to help you when you need it. What else could we as your church family do to make your life better?

I would appreciate prayer always, as living on my own is quite challenging. I want to thank the many people in the congregation and choir and in the TNT group for helping me as I adapted and continue to adapt to living on my own.

11. What kind of social life do you have?

I am a member of the Regina Central Lions Club and help them with different community activities, fund raising, and so forth. I also am a member of the Canadian Council for the Blind, and we have a social activity several times a year. These can be meals together, social and games nights, and so on. I am also in a Seniors' support group for people who are visually impaired. We have guest speakers and workshops on how to live with vision loss.

12. Is there anything else you would like to say to our congregation?

Thank you for your love and acceptance of me as a person. I appreciate being treated as a normal person in spite of having a disability. I appreciate being welcomed and being able to participate with the rest of the congregation in the building of FBC.

13. Barry, I can't think of any reason why you would not be accepted and loved as a member of our church. After all you are our brother, and a fine one too. Interviewer: Esther Wiens

Diaconate Report

As FBC moves towards developing a fuller vision with ideas to support that vision, it is good to think clearly about improvement/innovation. Common thinking is that the closer one gets to perfection, the greater the cost for any incremental improvement/innovation, and the less the return. This thinking is dead wrong on two accounts: 1. quality improvement and innovation are actually free, 2. the more one does, the better the return one gets. Moreover, Jesus said that we should aim for perfection (Matthew 5:48). It might seem an impossible goal to us, and we might foolishly think that since we are already pretty good overall, why bother pursuing being even better? But what we fail to understand is that sin is so terribly expensive, so very disruptive in our lives, that avoiding every bit of it always pays huge dividends. Recently, I talked with a friend, who had to have a double lung transplant, because he had smoked in his younger years. He will tell you that sin costs. Similarly, following God's leading and developing virtues and grace in our lives pays spiritual dividends that always exceed our wildest expectations. In organizational terms, lack of quality is like sin, and innovation is like virtue. Innovation in our context is seeking God's will and direction to meet better the needs of our congregation and our wider community, and society.

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. If you would like to offer friendship and brighten someone's day, please call John Nelson or Carol Hepting.

Achievers

ACHIEVERS' WIND-UP LUNCHEON - a group for those 55+

Thursday, April 26, 11:55 a.m. Tantalizing menu of roast beef, with all the trimmings, buns, dessert, & beverage. Cost \$10.00

Guest speaker: Rev. Tim Coleman, Associate Pastor, Westhill Park Baptist Church

Topic: "One's Windy Road of life"

Special entertainment! Roberta Nichol will be providing special music. Invite a friend to attend! For more information contact Pastor John [306-584-7434](tel:306-584-7434)

Achievers' Bible Study

This group will meet in the church boardroom on April 4 and 18 from 10:00 -11:00 a.m. We are continuing to study the Book of Acts.

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

Email: main_fbcregina@sasktel.net

Phone: 306-359-1450

Financial Report

The Finance & Audit Committee has already met several times this year to prepare for the AGM and to discuss the best ways to manage the church finances. We are also in continual communication with one another via email. As presented at the AGM, the audit report shows a healthy financial picture for the start of 2018. Payments are now proceeding on the loan from the CBWC, that replaced the bonds. We will make lump sum payments as funds become available, to reduce the principal and amortization period. The committee has also discussed possible ways to reduce the banking fees that we are paying.

Our operating income was 17% below the prorated budget to the end of February. However, our expenses were under budget by 18%. Historically, we have lower income in Q1 of the year, and higher income in Q4. Each month will have unique expenses that will cause deviations from the projected budget expenses, but this will average out over time. The Restricted Reserve funds balance increased due to a gift of \$55,000 to the Organ Fund in February.

Approved Operating Budget to end of February 2018: (prorated monthly)	\$64,648
Operating Revenue to end of February 2018:	\$53,799
Operating Expenses to end of February 2018:	\$53,115
Restricted Reserve Balance:	\$183,242
CBWC Loan Balance:	\$287,409

On PAR PAR-ticipation

For those of you who were not aware, our church has an option for regular donations and tithing through a Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) function. This may be a preferred way to contribute to the ongoing finances of the church for a number of reasons:

- No cheques to write every week (or month).
- No costs for cheque books or associated fees (of course that depends on your bank or financial institution).
- No donation envelopes to forget at home.
- Clear and obvious entry on you bank statement, which makes financial management easy. e.g. First Baptist Church Regina Pre-Authorized Debit.

It will also greatly help our church:

- Provides a steady, known income for the church throughout the year.
- Reduces amount of work for our volunteer Tellers each week.
- Simplifies many of our financial management functions.
- Saves the cost to the church for offering envelopes and printing.
- Reduces our bank management fees.

It is simple to set up: just drop the church an email (main_fbcregina@sasktel.net) stating that you are interested in “PAR-ticipating.” Someone from our Finance Committee will get in touch with you to CONFIDENTIALLY work out the details.

April at a Glance

April 4 Achievers' Bible Study (p.13)

VOICE (p.6)

April 28 Men's Breakfast (p.6)

April 18 Achievers' Bible Study (p.13)

VOICE (p.6)

April 26 Achievers' Luncheon (p.13)

Life Together

Sunday	9:30 am	Learning for Life
	11:00 am	Worship Service
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Monday	7:15 am	Morning Prayers
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Tuesday	7:15 am	Morning Prayers
	5:15 pm	Tuesday Nights Together
	6:00 pm	JuBELLation Practice
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Wednesday	7:15 am	Morning Prayers
	8:00 am	Prayer Breakfast
	12:15 pm	Noon Prayers
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Thursday	7:15 am	Morning Prayers
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
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Friday	7:15 am	Morning Prayers
	7:00 pm	Youth Event
