

First Baptist Church

www.firstbaptistregina.ca

October 2018



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The Thanksgiving Meal

As the harvest nears its end, not many of us are directly involved in bringing the food from the land to the tables. The prairie men and women driving combines late into the nights don't just take care of us, they help feed the world. God's grace often reaches us in material and practical ways through other children of Adam and Eve.

Every month this church family gathers around a table. We eat and drink the meal Jesus prepared for the life of the world. Once again, God's abundant grace comes to us thanks to someone else.

May thanksgiving overflow in our words and deeds before God, "who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment" (1 Tim 6.17).

With love, Pastor Joel

Achievers (55+)

The ACHIEVERS' LUNCHEON is the second longest running small group ministry at FBC. It is made up of those people who are 55+ years young. Some might say this is a group full of JOY: Just Older Youth. The Achievers' Luncheon group meets the fourth Thursday during the months of Sept-Nov/Jan-May, enjoying fabulous fellowship, tantalizing catered meals, a devotion, prayer, stimulating speakers, and a joke or two. Check out our Achievers' website for more information: www.achieversregina.ca



Schedule of Future Guest Speakers:

October 25- Alicyn Miller
November 22- Henry Friesen
January 24- Dianne Campeau

February 28- Marilyn Braun-Pollon
April 25- John Robinson
May 23- Reade Holstlander

Achievers Bible Study

The Bible study meets Wednesdays in the church boardroom from 10:00 to 11:00 am.

Prayer Times at First Baptist

Morning Prayer 7:15 am, Monday to Friday
(Friday's prayers are chanted)
Wednesday, 12:15 noon

Everyone is welcome. Each prayer time will include psalms, scripture reading, and prayer for our world, our church, and the people in our lives. "Where two or three are gathered" Jesus said - so we would love company!

Mino-maawanji-itiwag:

“Coming Together in a Good Way”

Join Indigenous Christian leaders from across Canada for two days of training and discussion meant for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous people together. What does it mean to be both Indigenous and Christian? What could it look like serve and minister to Indigenous people? What steps can the church take to further reconciliation? YFC, First Baptist, Living Hope, and other local churches are working together to bring about this major event.

November 2 and 3 at Living Hope Alliance church.

\$75 General Admission (includes admission and four meals)

For more information, visit the event website:

<https://housingdirector.wixsite.com/mysite>

“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” - Matthew 18:20

Diaconate Report

The Diaconate is pleased to have had 20+ responses to our EOIs and has begun the process of short-listing and interviewing. Joel's medical crisis has slowed the process slightly, but we still hope to make some progress and perhaps recommendations before the AGM in November.

Collin Carbno

Chair of Diaconate FBC

Financial Report

Both our operating income and expenses were 12% below the prorated budget for the year-to-date to the end of August. We are noting that our year-to-date offerings for General Operations continue to be 4% less than last year, which is becoming a concern. The interest rate on the loan from CBWC rose 0.25% to 5.20% as of August 1st.

We had expenses drawn from Restricted Reserves to pay for the new dishwasher and the repair of the front steps. But we also had substantial donations to the Building Fund and the Loan, so the overall balance did not change significantly.

Approved Operating Budget to end of August 2018: (prorated monthly)	\$ 258,592
Operating Revenue to end of August 2018:	\$ 227,420
Operating Expenses to end of August 2018:	\$ 226,410
Restricted Reserve Balance:	\$ 182,620
CBWC Loan Balance:	\$ 282,076

Our church management system (ChurchTrac) has a Congregation Access feature, which allows members of our church to access their own profiles and view their contribution statements. If you have provided an email address to us for the system, you will be able to use this feature. In order to view your personal profile, please use the following link:

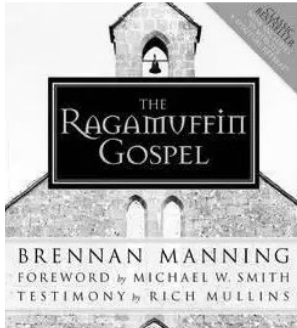
https://churchtraconline.com/member_access.php?church=3063591450

Men's Breakfast

Please speak with Pastor Joel if you would like to organize the Men's breakfast this month as Joel is not able to be there.

VOICE!

Voice is open to any woman who enjoys reading and discussing the material we've read. We are a small group study, meeting every other Wednesday evening at 77 Motherwell Crescent. Meetings usually run from 7 till 9. We focus on spiritual growth and prayer. We're currently reading *The Ragamuffin Gospel* by Brennan Manning. Call 306 586 7015 for more information.



Missions

“SENT” to Lebanon Trip!

Application deadline: October 31

Plans are underway for a group from First Regina to see the work in Lebanon first hand next June!

- Participate in the annual Middle East Consultation at Arab Baptist Theological Seminary (Read about MEC 2018 here - <https://abtslebanon.org/mec2018/>)
- Visit and be involved in our mission partners' other ministries, including participation in local churches and refugee relief.

Estimated Cost for a 10-12 day SENT experience, including flights from Toronto, insurance, and ground costs: \$3500/person. Complete cost is tax deductible.

Interested? Need more info? Please speak to Marilyn Phillips or Pastor Joel.

Music

First Baptist Sanctuary Choir Wants YOU! A message from John!

We are so very fortunate at FBC to have a regularly functioning adult choir in our worship services. Furthermore, we have two awesome people playing piano (Christa) and organ (Mark) respectively. Why do we hold onto our choir here at FBC? In what ways is a church choir uniquely valuable, worthy of support and maintenance?

1. The choir can support and enhance congregational singing by strengthening the sound of a congregation and by teaching newer songs.
2. A choir enhances the worship experience by setting and reinforcing the tone and mood of worship.
3. A choir can play a teaching and proclaiming role by performing songs related to the theme and scripture of the worship service.
4. A choir can lead the congregation in responding to and participating in prayers and litanies.

In order for us to hold on to this valuable ministry of our congregation, our choir needs people to sing in it! You need not have a lot of training or experience in order to come and sing with us. As the director of the Sanctuary Choir, I would like to invite YOU to join our choir family. “What’s in it for me?” you might ask? Here are some things to consider:

1. Studies have shown that people who sing in choirs are happier than those who do not. (It’s true!)
2. Singing in a Sanctuary Choir is a great way to get together and fellowship with fellow FBC people.
3. Participation can strengthen your faith by always having a song in your head and heart.

4. People who sing in a choir, or play in a band or orchestra must simultaneously perform a complex set of operations that call on more aspects of the human being than any other activity.
5. Music plays a unique and important place in our culture, and an understanding and appreciation of music is a hallmark of the educated person.
6. Science shows that singing in a choir makes a person healthier.

Our first Sanctuary Choir rehearsal this fall was held on Thursday, September 13 at 7:00 p.m. However, YOU are invited to come to our following rehearsals where you will be warmly welcomed by enthusiastic choir members.

Questions? Call Pastor John at 306-584-7434 or email jonel3454@hotmail.com

JuBELLation Ringers,

COME RING with us! JuBELLation Ringers offers a most invigorating and refreshing music group activity! The FBC handbell programme has been running for 32+ years, utilizing a 5 octave set of Schulmerich Handbells and 3 octave set of Suzucki Chimes. To ring such intriguing musical instruments, we require at least 12-14 ringers who can read music. We presently have 10 enthusiastic and committed ringers, but we would like to add TWO more ringers. Interested individuals may contact Pastor John (306-535-0001).



Katepwa Lake Update

The septic tank upgrade has been completed! The old tanker rail car



was badly compromised, but fortunately appears to have been taking in water more than releasing contaminants. We have removed the old tanker rail car and replaced it with a brand new septic tank. As for the old tanker car, we are now hoping to get it removed from the property to be used for scrap iron.

In other news, our camp tractor, which we use for snow removal and for delivering the honey wagon loads and other important jobs, has completely died. If anyone has leads on a good used “smaller” tractor (ideally with a snow blower and plow attachments), know that the camp is looking for one. Donations towards a new tractor are also kindly welcomed.

We are also pleased to report that Cameron Mohan, Lana Wilkenson, and Donna West have joined the KLC board, bringing with them a wealth of camping, financial, and youth experience.

Executive Director Tim Keizer will be joining us on October 23rd to share what God has been doing.

Collin Carbno
Secretary on the KLC board.

First Baptist Church Fall Retreat

We have booked Katepwa Lake Camp for October 26-28, for an all-ages, church-wide weekend retreat. There will be a mix of reflection sessions, free time, and gathered worship, set in the Qu'appelle Valley. It is a great time of friendship, rest, and spiritual renewal. The suggested cost is \$50 per person (excluding younger children). Everyone is welcome. Contact the church to register.



Tuesday Nights Together

This is a pot-luck meal: bring what you want to eat and something to share. This group frequently watches a short video followed by a discussion. Sometimes there is a guest speaker or special event. The first session was a planning event to decide the direction in which the discussion group will go. Please come and add your thoughts to the discussions. Participation in the meal is not mandatory: anyone is welcome to come for the discussion only.

Children at First

Children from 3 to 11 are invited downstairs most Sundays for their own service of worship. Speak to Pastor Joel if you can help with this ministry.

Nursery

If being part of this ministry is something you are interested in, contact Kayely Rich via email at kayelyrich@icloud.com.

Godly Play (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 emaeers@yahoo.ca

Oasis (7-11)

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, games, cooking, science experiments, and any other way we dream up. This month our students will be reading through the story of Joseph and learning as they create graphic novels, tie dye shirts and perform simple science experiments.

Youth at First

- October 5 NO YOUTH (Thanksgiving Weekend)
October 12 Bible Study at FBC - 7:00-9:00
October 19 NO YOUTH
October 20 Meet at Cheryl's, Mark's, Adam's and Dustin's place in Pilot Butte for a wagon ride and bonfire! This event will be in the afternoon. Specific times will be communicated closer to the event.
October 26-28 Church Retreat at Katepwa Lake

Learning for Life

Learning for Life offers an opportunity to learn more about our faith, to grow in the company of others, and to be encouraged in the living out of the faith. We would love to have you join us!

The new season of Learning for Life has begun and continues through October. Three classes are being offered:

- "A Christian perspective on Work," led by Len Pauls and Derrick Bellows."
- "Basic Christianity," led by Ron Phillips.
- "Thrive," led by Deirdre Sentis (A 15 minute teaching video, discussion, and weekly family activity).
- "Thrive" will continue through November. A second option is in the works for November on the challenges of ageing and facing those challenges as Christians.

Please note that there will be no class on Thanksgiving weekend (October 7).

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes will be printed next month. If you currently do not receive offering envelopes and would like to, please contact Tracy Sailor at tsailor2013@gmail.com or leave a message at (306) 789-9228. If you are receiving envelopes and wish to switch to PAR (pre-authorized remittance), please contact Kevin Rich at kevin.rich@sasktel.net or at (306) 775-1497).

Interview: Annabel Robinson

Annabel, could you tell us something about your childhood, your family, and your growing up?

I was born in Kew, just outside of London, right next to the famous Kew Gardens. We were the third house from the gardens and I spent a lot of time there. So I grew up with a great love of plants and flowers.



My parents weren't Christians and my dad was very hostile to Christianity. But this was England so the schools I attended were Anglican, and it was written into legislation that every child had to learn Scripture, but it was all formality. It didn't mean anything all.

How did you become a Christian?

When I was in my teens, I started to ask questions. I started to turn over in my own mind: if Jesus died for the whole world, then why was the whole world such a mess? And how could the death of someone 2000 years ago have any meaning for me today?



Kew Gardens

Did anything in particular cause you to start thinking about these things?

Jesus dying for the whole world was just something I'd been taught at school. But the crux came when I was 16, and my parents let me go to camp with some friends from school. It was jointly run by Scripture Union and InterVarsity. There I heard the gospel and everything clicked. I surrendered to Christ. He was right there. Everything changed overnight. I was a different person.

What changed for you?

One thing was that immediately, Scripture came alive and made sense. Until that point, it had been a big, boring book. Now it spoke to me. The second thing was that I discovered God had the power to deal with temptation. I think that part of my general misery as a teenager was that I knew there were all sorts of things wrong with me. I was stuck in a morass that made me unhappy. When I surrendered to Christ I discovered that I could do something about it.

How did your parents respond?

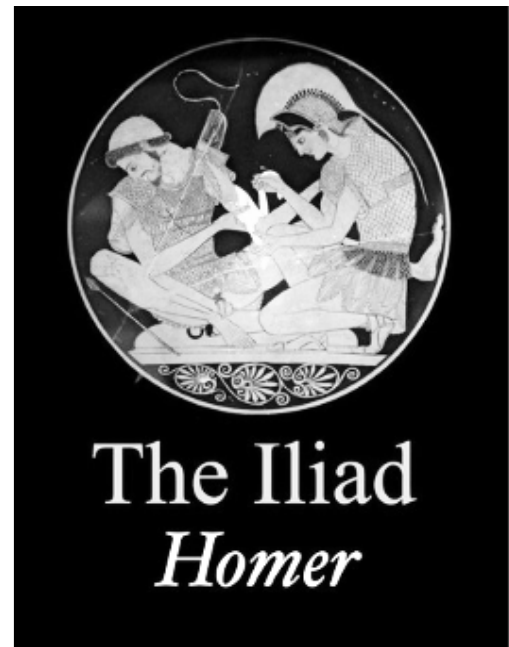
Badly. They thought I'd joined a cult. They were worried about me. I lived at home for two more years, and they wouldn't allow me to go to church or do anything Christian. But I had Scripture Union notes, which I received through the mail. I read the Bible, and it all just came alive.

What did you do after you left home?

I got a scholarship to Oxford. I loved it there!

I understand your academic background is in Classics. What led you to that field?

My parents were both teachers and really encouraged me to read. They put me in touch with all sorts of good influences, so I did well at school. Everybody did Latin at that time. When we misbehaved in school, we were kept behind for detention for an hour, where we were made to learn Latin irregular verbs. I often misbehaved, so I got very good at Latin irregular verbs. But I loved it! At the age of 14, you had to choose from one of four subjects: Greek, physics and chemistry, biology, or German. The school encouraged the best students to do Greek, so I did five years of Greek at high school.



My parents also sent me to a tutor in London. At school, we were reading one book of Homer (in Greek) a semester. My tutor made us read one book a week. Mind-boggling stuff. She said “Do it,” and you tried, and found out that you could. It was a lot of pressure, but it was pressure that I loved.

How did you go from studying at Oxford to teaching in Regina?

I met Reid through InterVarsity when we were both students at Oxford. He left two years before I did and came to North America for a job at Cornell. After I finished my degree, we were married, and he did one more year at Cornell. Then we faced the question of where to go from there. This was the 1960s, when universities were being built all across Western Canada, and looking for faculty. Reid applied to the U of R and was accepted in 1965. We weren't going to stay, but found that we really liked it here. Then someone urged me to apply for a job at the U of R. I wasn't sure I wanted to, but I applied, and I got it, and I taught there for 41 years.

It must have been quite a difference to go from Oxford and Cornell to Regina!

You know, I had opportunities here that I wouldn't have had anywhere else. For example, I'd played the violin when I was young. But when I came to Regina, Howard Leyton-Brown, who'd been the concert master of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, was teaching here and I had the chance to study with him.

I would never have gotten near him in London! I joined the symphony and loved it, but had to give it up for a while when I had small children and as I became more involved with the church and life got busier.

What, if any, challenges did you encounter as a Christian in secular academia?

I didn't find it difficult. You're in a secular setting, you want to give it your best and show integrity. You want to respect people. Sometimes that was difficult! But on the whole the university was a good place. When I was in England at university, Christians were despised as being unthinking people. I didn't find that here. There were very good Christians in leadership at the university. For some years David Barnard was the president, an outspoken Christian. I can't think of a single instance where I was put down for being Christian.

Could you tell us something about your personal history with First Baptist Church? How have you been involved over the years?

When we first came here, we went to Hillsdale Baptist. Then Reid went to an evening service at First Baptist and liked it, so we started attending. We were asked if we could give leadership to the youth group and then I started teaching adult Sunday school and Reid sang in the choir. We made such fantastic, good friends here! Later I was asked to serve on the board of Carey, which I did for quite a while.

You've mentioned the role Scripture Union played in your life as a young Christian. Are you still involved with them?

I'm on staff, editing for them now. It's a volunteer position, but they've given me the title "Publications Editor." We do a daily online devotional, "theStory," which I edit, and I've done quite a lot of writing for them as well, particularly for "theStory." You can find it at Scriptureunion.ca.

What's one thing people might not know about you?

I wrote a book called *The Life and Work of Jane Ellen Harrison*. I read an article which suggested a number of projects which needed to be undertaken by people with a background in Classics. One of them was to write the life of the first woman Classicist at Cambridge.

Writing a biography was something I'd always wanted to do. I wanted to understand a different person as much as one possibly could, and I've always loved reading biographies. Jane Harrison was one of the first women students at Cambridge and did pioneer work in the area of ancient Greek religion.



What things bring you life? Where do you find joy and delight?

In music, especially classical music. More than that, friendship. I've also enjoyed travel, and in fact I'm writing this from Norway, where my daughter, Heather, now lives. The open air. The natural world. Birds and flowers. I've always enjoyed cooking, reading cookbooks, anything to do with cooking! The Bible. And I love writing, so I love everything I do with Scripture Union.

Thank you, Annabel, for offering your experience and knowledge through your sermons and Learning for Life classes. And I look forward to reading more of your work with Scripture Union!

Interviewer: Tiffany Lai

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, since it is a day off for staff.

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Fall Scripture Lessons and the Hebrew Bible

Centuries ago, Protestants re-organized the bible into an order many of us are familiar with: law, history, poetry, wisdom, prophetic. These categories say quite a bit about how we read the Old Testament and even about how we understand the world.

Compare our order with the order in the Hebrew bible: *The Law*, *The Prophets*, and *The Writings*.

First, most of the books that we call “history” are included in *The Prophets*. Our concern about historical accuracy down to every last detail does not seem to have been as important back then. What mattered instead was the prophet’s search for God’s purpose, activity, and judgement in the world, especially among God’s people. Regionally powerful kings are barely mentioned except to be dismissed (see King Omri) while less significant kings get full treatment (see Josiah).

Secondly, the scripture lessons this fall all come from *The Writings*. Proverbs ends with the ode to “a woman of virtue” and Ruth appropriately comes next. Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations, and Esther all follow, each one just the right length to fill one scroll each. Later Jewish traditions sometimes include reading one of these books on each of their five annual holidays.

There’s a handy acronym to remind us of the Hebrew order. Mind you, it’s in Hebrew. The Old Testament is called *The Tanakh*:

T orah (The Teaching, usually called The Law in English)

a

N evi’im (The Prophets)

a

K etuvim (The Writings, sometimes just called *The Psalms*)

h

Life Together

Sunday	9:30 am 11:00 am	Learning for Life Worship Service
Monday	7:15 am	Morning Prayers
Tuesday	7:15 am 5:15 pm 6:00 pm	Morning Prayers Tuesday Nights Together JuBELLation Practice
Wednesday	7:15 am 8:00 am 10:00 am 12:15 pm	Morning Prayers Prayer Breakfast Achievers' Bible Study Noon Prayers
Thursday	7:15 am 7:00 pm	Morning Prayers Choir Practice
Friday	7:15 am 7:00 pm	Morning Prayers Youth Event

October at a Glance

Oct 3	VOICE
Oct 13	Leadership Retreat
Oct 23	Executive Director Tim Keizer's update on KLC
Oct 17	VOICE
Oct 25	Achievers' Luncheon
Oct 26-28	Church Retreat
Oct 31	VOICE
Oct 31	Application deadline for "SENT" to Lebanon Trip
Nov 2-3	Mino-maawanji-itiwag: "Coming Together in a Good Way"