

# First Baptist Church

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



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There are a few special events in February to keep in mind.

At our Town Hall, February 9th, 7 p.m., we will listen to God for direction. God has assembled among us a surprising range of strengths and gifts, of hospitality, teaching, spiritual direction, arts, and service. God has a reason for this.

Ash Wednesday, February 14th, 7 p.m., follows right away because we cannot serve God without prayer and repentance. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit," says the Lord. As much as want to see things happen, we will practice waiting in prayer.

"I wait for the Lord, my soul waits."

With love, Pastor Joel

## **Ash Wednesday**

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If you have never come to an Ash Wednesday service, consider coming out February 14th at 7 p.m. for a reflective worship service of repentance for all ages. Those who wish may receive the imposition of Ashes on their forehead as a reminder of our mortality and a sign of our life hidden in Christ.

## **Lent**

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Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts for 40 days plus 6 Sundays. We set aside these weeks to intentionally reflect on Jesus' suffering and death and to prepare for the resurrection. Lent can be a time of fasting, self-examination, and prayer as we take further steps to pick up our cross and follow Jesus. Consider committing to one practice for the 6 weeks of Lent such as a weekly volunteer commitment, fasting from certain foods or meals or from a regular activity, adding a weekly time of silence, or making financial gifts to charities, to name a few.

## **Prayer Breakfast**

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

## **Prayer Times at First Baptist**

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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!

## **Church Health Initiative: Townhall Meeting**

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### **Friday Feb 9<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 pm**

Each time I meet with others from First Baptist, I appreciate that it is more than just fellowship bringing us together. I am convinced that the Lord has brought this group of people together in this place as a specific part of his plan. He made humans weak, frail and infinitely varied, giving each specific gifts so that we might learn from each other and work together in communities. Just imagine a community as varied and blessed as ours working together with one focus!

The Church Health Initiative is intended to get us talking with each other so that we can plan ministry for FBC which engages our entire community—making us a spring of living water which flows outwards to do God’s will. The survey in January was the first step. The next step is to meet together with Sam Breakey and Mark Doerksen to hear the analysis of who we are and where our challenges, gifts and passions lie. We will discuss together and begin to make plans—perhaps hiring new pastoral staff, perhaps partnering with other ministry groups, perhaps entering into an area of ministry that we had never considered before!



Make sure to join us Feb 9<sup>th</sup>. If you need a ride, phone Rosemary at 306-586-5176, or Rob at 639-571-0515.

**...and the results are in!**

**113** of you completed the church health surveys. Thank you to everyone who participated!

## **Diaconate Report**

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The Board feels we are the edge of a very exciting and dynamic year, where what we decide will have long term implications for FBC. A huge thank you from the Diaconate to all our donors and volunteers. It is uplifting to realize that we raised more than \$125K towards the bond redemption on top of our regular giving! Our improved financial situation is freeing money to fund our ministry. As I'm writing this, the Sam Breakey church health surveys are pouring in (Sam is giving us daily counts)—which is another sign of the high engagement and passion that this congregation has to FBC and to the cause of Christ. Please remember to keep the evening of Friday February 9th 7:00 PM till 9:00 PM open for the Townhall feedback session from the survey.

If you have some extra investment money (perhaps redeemed bonds) and are unsure of how to invest it, can I suggest that you consider Baptist Union Development Foundation (BUDF), phone 1-800-820-2479. They take deposit amounts of more than \$1K and are currently paying an interest rate of 1.75% on deposits (with a 10 day redemption period). This money supports a wide variety of loans to churches, pastors, camps, and missions that banks typically won't lend to. BUDF is a small financial institution and it is recommended that you limit any investment with BUDF to less than 20% of your total assets as BUDF funds are not covered by the Canada Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Remember that every financial decision is a deep spiritual decision!

Collin Carbno  
Chair of the Diaconate

## Church Library Corner

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In December 2017 at a Learning for Life session we were treated to a Guest, Joy Desjarlais, who told the story of how her brother was taken out of Saskatoon and dumped without proper winter clothes. It could have been another unexplained frozen indigenous person's death. A set of miracles resulted in her brother making it back to the city alive. She told us about her quest to stop the practice of dumping, her quest for justice, and her need to try to seek healing of all involved and what inspired her to write a book about the event.

"The Right to remain Silent" (2002), is a powerful telling of the entire event. Joy tells how her deep Christian walk both sustained her and inspired her through this emotional process. We have two copies in the Church Library. Look for one of them on the book display by the elevator, and the other on the book display by the kitchen.

Collin Carbno (Church Librarian)



## Men's Breakfast

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Our breakfast this month will be on Saturday, February 17, 8:30-10 a.m. at Nicky's Café. Let Pastor Joel know if you plan on attending. Mark your calendars and invite someone to join you. All ages welcome

## Volunteer Opportunities

	Who do I talk to?	How many are involved?	How many new people do you need?	What is the commitment?
Sound board	Hilary Ryan	4	2 new	Once per month
Ushers	William Crook		4-6	About 12 Sundays a year
Spring Cleaning	Pastor Joel	0	2	1 day
Children's program	Pastor Joel	22	8	8 Sundays per year
Refilling Pew Pencils and envelopes	Judy Grimsrud	2	2 or 3 people	Once a month

### Sound

We need volunteers to help with the sound and video service. Our sound technicians serve on Sunday mornings to look after the sound and camera work for the service and make recordings for shut-ins. Volunteer training occurs largely “on the job” from a more experienced partner. One-on-one training can also be arranged. No volunteer is expected to work alone until he or she feels up to it. Please contact Hilary Ryan ([hmryan@sasktel.net](mailto:hmryan@sasktel.net)) if you would like to explore volunteering for this vital service.

## Ushering

Have you ever been greeted by a smiling face when you arrived to church on Sunday? Ever wondered how you could become a part of the team that makes sure everyone has a bulletin and a place to sit? Wonder no more! William is looking for ushers and people to help run the elevator. (Elevator people take one Sunday per month being there one hour before church starts and then after the last person leaves Time for Friends. It's easy and you get a key!)

## Did You Know?

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All paper, glass, tin, and numbered plastic go into our blue bins and are taken to recycling.

Refundable bottle return: we have two families who take the bottle returns brought to the church to Sarcan. The money from the cans is donated to the church.

## VOICE!

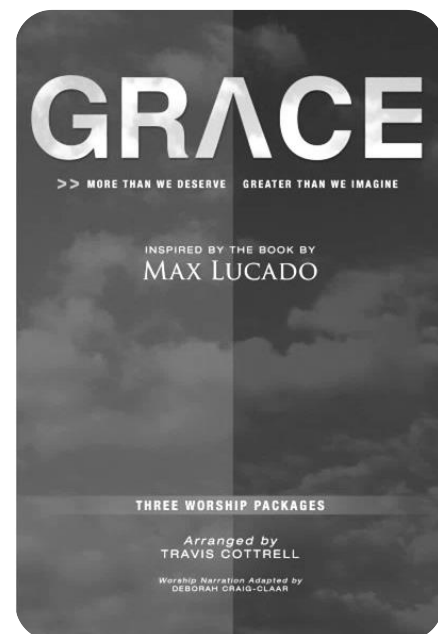
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VOICE is a women's literature group which meets every two weeks on Wednesday evenings. We discuss a book related to our spiritual journey. Max Lucado's *Grace* will be the subject for the next three sessions: Feb. 14, 28<sup>th</sup>, and March 14<sup>th</sup>. A novel Study will be announced at a later date. Find out more at [firstbaptistregina.ca](http://firstbaptistregina.ca)

## TNT

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Tuesday Nights Together starts at 5:00 pm. Bring your own meal!



## **Children and Youth**

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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](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. 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. This month the young people are reading the story of Peter walking on water.

### **Youth**

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



## February Schedule

- 2 Tobogganing Night!
- 9 No Youth event—Town Hall meeting at FBC with the church
- 16 YouthQuake weekend for those that are going or Movie Night at the Senger household for those that are not
- 24 Winter Fun at the Johnson Homestead

## Financial Report

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Now that 2017 is behind us, a look at our financial health proves to be very encouraging. Although our income during 2017 did not meet our budget, our expenses were significantly less than forecast. We see that our operating income was down 9% over last year, but our expenses were lower by 23%, with most of the decrease coming from Personnel (34% lower) and Property (13% lower). This puts us in a very good financial position for the coming year.

Our Restricted Reserves are also strong financially and include the Organ Fund, Building Fund, Benevolent Fund and DULF (Legacy Fund).

Approved Operating Budget for 2017:	\$447,300
Operating Revenue to end of 2017:	\$404,500
Operating Expenses to end of 2017:	\$336,300
Restricted Reserve Balance:	\$138,700

Approved Operating Budget for 2018: \$387,900

As a result, we are able to start the year focusing on service and ministries, and be confident that our financial resources are able to support them.

## ChMS?? ... Huh?



**Church management software or ChMS** is a type of computer software specially designed to help churches manage, automate and organize their daily operations. For many years, FBC has been using a number of different tools to administer our membership database

and directory, communicate with members, manage donations, schedule events, generate reports and tax receipts, and other functions. These tools were not integrated and have become difficult to support.

During February, we will be implementing a **ChMS** that will streamline common administrative tasks, track and manage resources, foster communication, and monitor growth of the congregation. The first efforts will be replacement of our teller database and membership directory.

As we put this new tool into use, we will need information from the congregation to ensure we can use the functions effectively and efficiently. Please note that it is very important that we are provided with email addresses in order to utilize some of the more useful benefits of the program.

## **Bond Redemption Update**

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Bonds were initially issued by the church in 1992 to internalize debt from our renovation project. In total over \$1,500,000 worth of bonds were issued. Over the years some bonds have been redeemed but the life of the issue was maintained at 25 years. 2017 was the final year of the Bond issue and by year-end we were required to pay out all

outstanding bonds. In September of 2016 we started a 1½-year-long fund raiser to reduce that debt as much as possible. At the end of 2016 we still carried almost \$445,000 in bond debt.

We have now completed the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fundraiser and paid outstanding bonds. In total we raised \$221,000. Thanks to all who participated in the fundraiser and helped get the residual debt down.

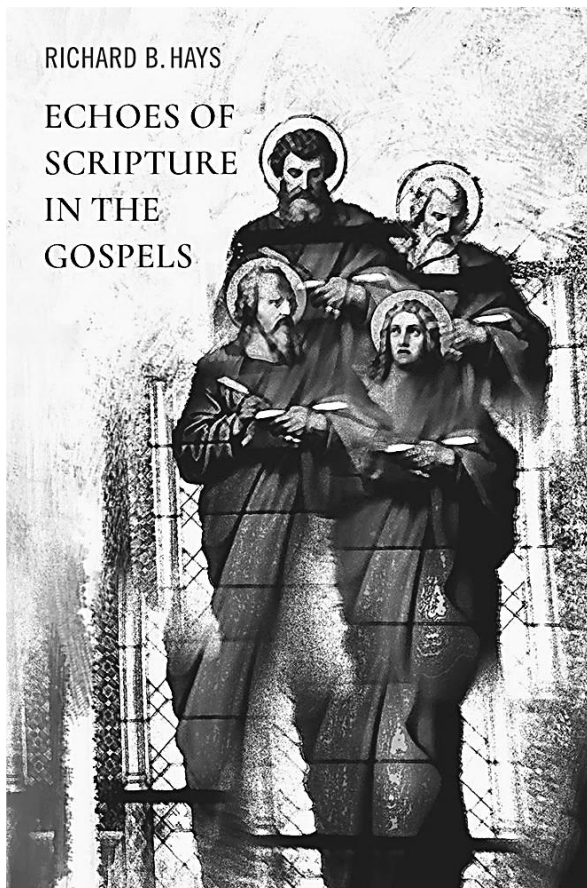
All bondholders who redeemed bonds were paid with appropriate interest and we are left with a manageable debt of \$285,000 which is owed as a loan to the Canadian Baptists of Western Canada.

## Learning for Life

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Lord, Save us from a Proof-text Faith

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.

## Church Website

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### What is the Difference Between a Newsletter and a Website?

Newsletters are wonderful! They bring news, they foretell events, the interviews draw us closer as a community.

A **website** is like a newsletter on **steroids**.

- A website is at your fingertips—any day, any time, any place, on any device. It never gets lost or stashed.
- A website is alive. Colour photos, video clips, audios of presentations, and vital links are throughout.
- A website is read by hundreds of visitors, newsletters only by a select few who walk in the door.
- A website expands our reach and community presence. Website articles can be shared and promoted, either personally, or on social media like Facebook, Twitter, Google+, and LinkedIn.
- A newsletter is one-way communication. A website invites feedback and engagement through our “contact us” page.
- We know what clicks with people—how many come to our website, and which pages they engage with.
- A website is a one-stop shop for our entire church. Our vision, history, doctrine, covenant, staff, ministries, events, educational resources, and much more—it is all there, at your fingertips.

**That’s why we provide both.** The **FBC website** is alive, engaging and up-to-date. The **newsletter** is available at all times as well. Just go to the homepage and click on the link to the current newsletter to read an exact replica of the printed version.

## **Interview: Mark Anderson**

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*Mark, all of us at First Baptist know you, but only your back, plus fingers and feet as they translate the organ into splendid sounds! This is a chance for us to get to know more about you.*



***To begin with, your childhood. Did you grow up in Regina?***

No. I was born in Edmonton, and we moved around all over the place while I was growing up, as my father was a minister in the United Church. Some of that time I was in the United States while he took higher education at Princeton. While in Richmond, Virginia, I can remember my father taking me to a "black" church on several occasions, where we were almost the only white people, because the pastor was an amazing preacher. He preached for about an hour and a half and even as a child I was never bored.

I attended Junior High in Lethbridge, and then went to High School in Regina, at Sheldon, because my parents hadn't found out about Luther yet.

***How did you come to play the organ?***

I started learning the piano as a child, but I can remember loving the organ from an early age. At 15 I began to take organ lessons. It has a different touch than the piano. You control the volume with the organ stops and with your feet. Pipe organs seemed like the only instrument majestic enough to capture the corresponding majesty of many hymns.

***You have been associated with a trinity of denominations. How did that happen?***

Well, I grew up in the United Church. But I was restless there, and wanted a church with a more neo-orthodox foundation. For a while Roxanne and I attended a Lutheran church. I've been the organist at various churches in Regina. Then in 1989 John invited me to become the organist at First Baptist. (I wouldn't be here without his support and friendship for almost three decades.) I've had two stints at First and have loved working with supportive colleagues as we lead worship.

***I remember that your father attended First Baptist for a while. And after that he became the Senior Pastor at First Baptist Saskatoon.***

Yes. He was baptized by George Baxter. He too wanted to be involved in a denomination where he felt the theology was more grounded in scriptures.

***After you left High School did you attend the University of Regina?***

Yes. My first degree was a BA in English, with a minor in Religious Studies. I still wasn't sure what I wanted to do as a career. For a while I considered Medicine. My grandfather was a surgeon.

But I soon felt that wasn't right for me. I took a year out while I thought about it, and worked at Woolco in shipping and receiving. After that year I couldn't wait to get back into academia.

I then realized that I would love to teach, and did a B.Ed., majoring in English and minoring in Religious Studies and History.

For my internship I was placed in Luther College where I could teach Christian Ethics. I immediately loved Luther—the academic rigour, the Christian context, the freedom to pursue truth, including spiritual truth, the students. I also admired so many of the faculty, and wanted to come back and work with them. Luther is a call to service and not simply a career choice or job.

***After you graduated with your B.Ed. did you immediately find a position at Luther?***

At first there was only a part time position. But a couple of years later I was able to work there full time.

***And then you did an M.Ed. and a Ph.D.?***

Yes. I got restless for a challenge. The Ph.D. was certainly a challenge. I did much of the work between midnight and 3 a.m., and during Christmas, Easter and summer breaks. I don't think I could do that now.

***But that was only a few years ago!***

(Ruefully) Yes.

***You have also taught Learning for Life classes in this church. First, one on Protestant Theologians since the Reformation, then Bach, then Bonhoeffer, and just recently Luther and the beginnings of the Protestant church. These were very well attended and hugely appreciated.***

I appreciate so much people attending and participating in our conversations. As you know, these sessions take an enormous amount of preparation, but, given the topics and the people who attend, it feels like purposeful work, motivating me to take it on with great enthusiasm. What an opportunity to think and grow together as Christians as we try to plumb the mysteries of God's love and grace.

***We remember your two children playing violin and cello in this church. Where are they now?***

Eric, who is now 26, graduated from the Paul Hill Business Faculty at the University of Regina. He immediately landed a job with the Yorkton Terriers hockey club in the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League. It was a fabulous opportunity for him and the perfect place to learn the ropes. Then, just last week, he got a job with the Saskatoon Blades of the WHL (Western Hockey League). This represents a quick and dramatic step up for him and he's excited for the challenge.

Paul, almost 21, is studying at the University of Regina, taking classes in Philosophy, Psychology, and Religious Studies. He still lives at home. While he plays cello more often than Eric plays his violin, he too doesn't play as often or with as much seriousness as his parents would like.

***Do you have any comments about our form of worship?***

One thing I particularly appreciate about our service is the time of confession and assurance of pardon every Sunday. I also think we have a good blend of traditional and contemporary worship. Our worship



services, in my opinion, stress what they should—hearing the Word, preaching of the Word/Gospel, worshipping and praising God. Joel, John and Christa are superb worship leaders. And I get to serve with them, and torment them with my lame humour.

***Can you share anything about God in your life?***

As I consider my life's path thus far I recollect moments of conviction and moments of doubt, moments of profound joy and moments of intense grief, moments of vanity and moments of humility, moments when God was blessing me and moments when He was challenging me, moments when He felt close and moments when He seemed distant. . . . But always, under girding it all, even through the worst days and experiences, was and continues to be the granite foundation of God's faithfulness and grace. The older I get, the more aware of it I become. What can give more hope and purpose to the living out of our daily lives than the knowledge that God unfailingly loves us, even to the point of conquering sin and death in our stead?

## **MUSIC at FIRST**

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Easter Alleluia Concert  
Sunday, March 25, 7:00 p.m.  
Reflections of the Easter Story

**bells ♦ choirs ♦ instrumental/vocal numbers ♦ special readings**

Seasonal Singers are welcome to attend rehearsals starting March 1. Short-term commitment, long-term reward! Invite your friends!

## **Achievers**

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An enthusiastic group for all those 55+ years old.

### **Favorite Foods • Fantastic Fellowship • Fabulous Fun**

February 22<sup>nd</sup> Luncheon (Cost: \$10)

Guest Speaker: Rev. Joel Russell-MacLean

Menu: Pork Chops, carrots, scalloped potatoes, salad, dessert, and beverage

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

### **Achievers Bible Study**

The Bible study meets Wednesdays in the church boardroom from 10:00 to 11:00 am. The February Bible study dates will be February 7th and 21st and we'll be continuing with the book of Acts.

### **First Baptist Church Staff**

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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

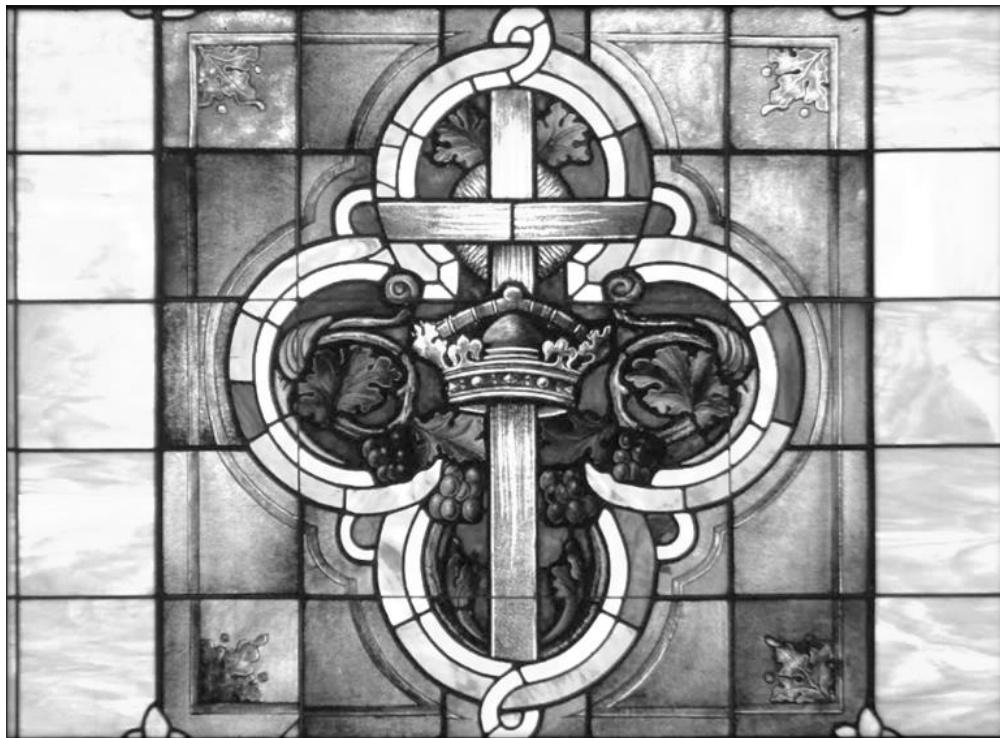
## Life Together

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

## February at a Glance

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- Feb 9 Church Health Initiative: Townhall Meeting (p. 3)
- Feb 14 Ash Wednesday Service (p. 2)  
VOICE! (p. 7)
- Feb 17 Men's Breakfast (p. 5)
- Feb 22 Achievers' Luncheon (p. 18)
- Feb 28 VOICE! (p. 7)
- Mar 1 Easter Alleluia rehearsals begin (p. 17)
- Mar 14 VOICE! (p. 7)
- Mar 22 Achievers' Luncheon (p. 18)
- Mar 25 Easter Alleluia Concert (p. 17)



*Photo courtesy of Merv Hepting*