

First Baptist Church

www.firstbaptistregina.ca



Photo courtesy of Merv Hepting

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Sitting by a fire in a winter cabin is cozy. Even splitting the wood is not so bad. But then our survival no longer depends on gathering enough wood. We know there is an unending supply of heat we can turn to. Do you remember life before gas and electricity were delivered into homes? Or can you imagine it? I know I tend to take things for granted.

What was life like for you before you began to recognize God's grace? Or can you imagine what that would be like? Can you put into words the difference that God has made in your life? It's hard to tell others about it, if you can't. Reflecting on God's grace also helps us appreciate it today.

With love,
Pastor Joel

Heritage Lecture

Heritage Regina 2018 Winter Lecture Series: The Spanish Flu Epidemic
Wednesday, March 14 - 7:00 pm at First Baptist Church

Presented by Kenton de Jong, John Robinson and Melissa Munro.

Refreshments provided. A \$10 suggested donation to Heritage Regina goes towards the promotion and preservation of heritage in your community.

For more information, go to:

heritageregina.ca/event/the-spanish-flu-epidemic-2018-lecture-series/

Prayer Breakfast

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

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!

TNT

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

First Baptist Church Regina presents

Easter Alleluia

XXXIII

Sunday, March 25 at 7:00pm

The Easter Story

The Palms ~ The Last Supper ~ The Garden
Pilate's Court ~ The Cross ~ The Empty Tomb!

Special reading free will offering, plus more

Guest Musicians:

Paul Anderson (cello)
Gillian Engen (trumpet)
Eleanor Hector (violin)

FBC Musicians:

Exaltation Singers
JuBELLation Ringers
Sanctuary Choir/Seasonal Singers
Mark Anderson (organ)
Christa Walsh & Lorna Gorman
(piano)
Rob Nelson (voice)

Please invite your family and friends to this presentation that is both reflective and inspiring. For more information contact Pastor John!

Joint Good Friday Service

Friday, March 30, 10:30 a.m., Westhill Park Baptist Church
Argyle Road Baptist Church, First Baptist Church, & Westhill Park Baptist Church

A meaningful service of contemplation and anticipation! Rev. Ryan Emmons preaching. There will be congregational singing led by the WPBC worship team, as well as special readings.

Ms. Christa Walsh (piano) & Dr. Mark Anderson (organist)

Free Will offering to be taken up to support two ministry projects still to be decided upon at this time.

Invite your friends and family to attend!

All interested singers are invited to join the **Good Friday Choir** at 9:30 a.m. to rehearse two music selections to be sung during the service.



Sunrise Service

Sunday, April 1, 6:30 a.m.

Wascana Marina

An intimate service of celebration, followed by breakfast at First Baptist Church.

Missions

Our FBC Missions Commission met Feb. 15 with Dennis Shierman, the Western Canada Representative for Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM), to brainstorm about our church's international missions focus for 2018 (and near future). It was an exciting conversation! At present we are exploring a potential partnership with CBM's Lebanese partner - Arab Baptist Seminary - from which many and varied ministries flow. We are considering three specific support foci:

- a) assistance with leadership development (a pressing need in the Middle East)
- b) physical/social needs of Syrian and/or Iraqi refugees
- c) personal relationship with a seminary staff member or couple, including visits both ways!

As well, in light of our possible partnership with Lebanon, we have been invited to send a representative this June to the Middle East Consultation (MEC) at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary (ABTS) in Beirut! The Director of the Institute for Middle East Studies at ABTS, Martin Accad, says that the MEC "seeks to breathe new life into our Evangelical churches' witness to Muslim communities globally." This is an incredible opportunity to see firsthand the ministry that Canadian Baptists are part of in this region, and will include attendance at the conference, ministry visits with our partner including the Syrian refugee relief efforts, and visits to sites of cultural and historical significance.

Dates: June 16-27, 2018. Estimated total cost: \$3500 (includes flights, insurance, conference registration, and all ground costs).

Application deadline: March 31, 2018. Please speak to Pastor Joel or Marilyn Phillips if you are interested!

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 reading the story of Jesus in Jerusalem.

Youth

- Mar 2nd **Bible Study** at the church: Meet at FBC at 7:00. Pick up at 9:00
- Mar 9th **Bigger and Better Night** - Meet at the Senger House (3539 Pederson Crescent) at 7:00. Pick up at 9:00
- Mar 16th **Church SERVE night** - Meet at FBC at 7:00. Pick up at 9:00 at FBC
- Mar 23rd **Get Air** - \$10 for the evening.
- Mar 29th **Maundy Thursday**: Passover meal followed with a movie/drama about the Passion, then a time of personal reflection and response.
- Mar 30th **Easter Weekend** - Support church event

VOICE

The study for March is *Grace* by Max Lucado. The next four sessions are March 7 and 21st and April 4th and 18th. The study material for the remaining sessions requires discussion and confirmation. All women who like to read and/or are looking for a support group of women are welcome. Visit firstbaptistregina.ca for more details.

Keys

To our friends who hold keys to the church:

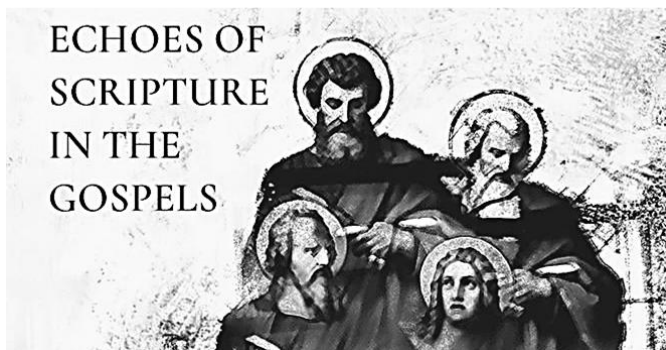
In checking our keys and key loan registry, a few keys have been identified as not in use or possibly missing. If you have keys to the church, which you no longer need, would you please return to the church office? If you have keys we would like to confirm their number. Please inform Joel or John so that your loan can be recorded. Your cooperation in this matter is most appreciated.

Men's Breakfast

Our breakfast this month will be on Sat, March 17, 8:30 - 10:00 a.m. at Chachalacas, 3283 Quance St. A couple from Mexico operate this restaurant with ingredients and recipes from there. We might have a chance to hear from the owners about life in Mexico and about their parent's ministry. 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
Facilitated by Annabel Robinson



Richard Hays is a Professor of Theology at Duke University. He has recently written two books, *Echoes of Scripture in the Gospels* and *Reading Backwards*, challenging the way we traditionally read the New Testament.

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.

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

Facilitated by Annabel Robinson.

Katepwa Lake Camp

Summer camp dates are open for all ages.

Visit www.katepwalakecamp.com for dates and to register.

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: Hilary Ryan

When I met Hilary to talk about this interview, she had three small books of photographs on the table. They were collections of photographs she had taken and had bound into books. I picked up one with photos of the Qu'Appelle Valley. The photographs were stunning.

Hilary, tell me about these photographs.

It's my form of relaxation. I took some of them very early in the morning. That one of crocuses that you're looking at was shot directly into the sun, (something one isn't supposed to do). That's why you can see the furry-ness of the stalks.

I made a collection of pictures to illustrate Psalm 150, one of my favourite psalms, and gave copies to the pastors. Joel asked me if he could have extra copies to give to the children as they graduated from Sunday School. I was happy to do that. I used photos of the church to illustrate it.

As Bill and I do our daily scripture reading (we have read through the whole bible once a year for the past four years) I note verses that bring an image to my mind and collect the photos and put them together with the verses into photo books. Sometimes I put pictures and scripture on my Face Book page.

Have you spent most of your life in Regina?

I was born in England but grew up here. I spent several years in Saskatoon at medical school. In third year medicine I had the wonderful opportunity to study anaesthesia for two months in Vienna, a city renowned for its medical advancements. My supervisor insisted that I receive a cultural as well as a medical education. He encouraged me to visit museums and churches. I told him I wasn't a Christian, to which he replied, "So what, I'm Jewish and I go into churches!" Following his advice, I visited some of the grandest churches I've ever seen, saw wonderful palaces and visited outstanding museums. I had to report to him what I had seen! In particular there is a museum of pathology. [*Ask Hilary if you want to know more.*]

I believe it was Carmel Van der Westhuizen who first invited you to this church.

Yes. She, too, was an anaesthetist and I knew her through work. I had become a Christian a few years previously and was looking around for a church where we felt at home. She suggested I visit FBC. I came to FBC because I was invited but stayed because of the music. The people at First Baptist were so loving. George Baxter baptized me and saw me through some difficult periods of my life.

And then you became involved in the choir, and then the AV ministry.

Bill joined the choir a year before I did. He said that if he served in the choir, no-one would ask him to do anything else. Not true! I sat in the balcony one week to listen to the choir practising and John said, "Come and join us." I protested that I couldn't sing. He invited me anyway, and I discovered that the reason I couldn't sing soprano was because I was an alto! I ended up spending a decade as choir librarian, nearly as long as choir chaplain and was president of the choir executive for several years. In 1996 a camera was installed in the balcony so that the choir could see what was going on in the service. Some of them had never seen a baptism. Then I started to make video-tapes, developing the A-V Ministry for some of the shut-ins. Eva McMillan used to invite people to her apartment in First Baptist Place and gathered half a dozen people together to watch them. Then I started to record weddings and funerals. I get most comments about funerals. I remember Fred Anderson not wanting a video of Betty's funeral but a year later he watched it. He was too numb at the time, but on the anniversary of her death he was very moved when he heard everything people had said about Betty.

I joined the Worship Arrangements Commission in 1997 and served on and chaired it until 2017. I still look after the sound room and it's my job to fill the baptistry for baptisms.

When the Karen refugees arrived in 2006 we became hosts to a family of four. I spent many hours reading with "my" boys. It has been gratifying to see them grow up and do well in school. I also devoted Saturday afternoons to "Homework Help" for the teenagers for several

years. Some of them have invited me to their weddings. It feels good to have helped them adjust to Canada.

When I took on responsibility here and had *my* ministry, this became *my* church, a real Place to Belong.

Tell me more about how you became a Christian.

I was invited to a Full Gospel Business Men's dinner where the speaker was the Apollo 16 astronaut, Charlie Duke. (I love anything to do with astronauts and space.) Could anything be better -- more exciting -- than walking on the moon? he wondered aloud. Yes, he said. Walking with the Son of God is better than walking on the moon. In his closing prayer he said that he knew that there were two people in the room who were ready to commit their lives to Christ. He said, "There's one" and I knew I was the other one. After that, everything changed. It wasn't a punishment to go to church any more.

Then you became involved in the prayer breakfast . . .

Yes. Bill and I used to attend prayer breakfast at 0700 when George Baxter led it. When he retired he asked us if we would take it over. There's something very special about praying for people. As well as praying for the church we pray for one another and share our problems. It's become a "small group."

Bill and I also lead the Gideon prayer meeting at 0645 on Wednesday mornings. We go to that first at Luther College and then rush over to FBC for the 0800 Prayer Breakfast, our second prayer meeting on Wednesdays.

You're at the church a lot. Do you think we have a ministry to people downtown?

Indeed we do. It's not an organized programme, but people come to the church for all sorts of reasons. After we renovated the building in 1990 we learned from a busker who came to Prayer Breakfast that he was very upset with us. He had discovered a window he could open and get in, and he slept in the furnace room at night for years, leaving before anyone arrived in the morning. After the renovations he couldn't open the window any more. He attended Prayer Breakfast for years. One summer we had three people from the Mental Health Clinic eat and eventually pray with us. They were a different group, to say the least! For a few weeks we had a lady come and just stand at the door to the lower hall. We invited her to eat with us. She said, "The breakfast is better at St. Paul's, but the prayers are much better here!" We minister to transients regularly. It's always an individual thing, and always short-lived. They move on.

I believe you and Bill have a bison farm.

When I retired and Bill closed his office we were looking for what we would do for our retirement. We bought the farm that my parents had bought in 1968 and started fixing things up. The house had fallen into disrepair after my Dad died, so there was a lot of work to do. Dean Gilchrist helped us a lot. One of the great things he said was, "It doesn't matter what we do here, it's an improvement." Wayne Wilson helped paint and planted our garden for us one year, and several of our choir mates and other church friends helped out and visited us. We got bison because Bill figured they didn't need much care. Little did he know we'd spend two years just building a fence to keep them in! I have come to admire these magnificent animals and love photographing them. The meat is excellent and we have

loyal customers who love the meat we produce. People come out to see the animals and even attend slaughters, and we enjoy educating them about bison and how they are restoring the land.

Thank you, Hilary. May I buy one of those books from you?

My pleasure, I love sharing my photos with others.



Photo courtesy of Hilary Ryan

Achievers

An enthusiastic group for all those 55+ years of age

Achievers Luncheon

Thursday, March 22, 11:55 a.m.

Guest speaker: Rev. Ryan Emmons, (Lead Pastor of Argyle Road Baptist Church)

"The Twists & Turns of One's Life Journey"

Menu- Roast pork, salad, potatoes, vegetable, buns, and dessert

Cost- \$10.00

RSVP by phoning the church office no later than Tuesday, March 20.

Achievers Bible Study

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

Financial Report

We are currently completing our first year-end with our new bookkeeping service. This is a busy time as we have new processes in place while we engage our auditor in preparation for the AGM. The January financials are basically on track with our budget.

Our operating income was 17% below budget in January. However, our expenses were under by 8%, due mostly to reduction in payroll and bond interest. Each month will have unique expenses that will cause deviations from the projected budgeted expenses, but this will average out over time.

Approved Operating Budget to end of January 2018: (prorated monthly)	\$32,325
Operating Revenue to end of January 2018:	\$26,714
Operating Expenses to end of January 2018:	\$29,629
Restricted Reserve Balance:	\$138,907

On PAR

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 “First Baptist Church Regina Pre-Authorized Debit” to make your financial management easy

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 very simple to set up: just contact us by dropping the church an email at (main_fbcregina@sasktel.net) stating that you are interested in being “On PAR”. Someone from our Finance Committee will get in touch with you to **confidentially** work out the details.

Diaconate Report

Sam Breakey’s survey gave us a glimpse in the hopes and dreams of the congregation and their view of what the future of this church will look like ideally. We are a church that loves our music, worship, pastors, and our fellowship and care for each other.

The Diaconate was inspired by the congregation's deep intention and determination to see that FBC, Regina, prosper into the next century and beyond. Out of the survey Sam Breakey had identified three prayers that summarized folk's desire for FBC:

- (1) Unity -- that we would be a church of prayer, care, and fellowship of diversity.

- (2) Discipleship -- that we would mature believers theologically, develop leaders for leadership and evangelism witness
- (3) Reach out -- that we would have a positive impact on our community, grow our church, and share the gospel.

Sam Breakey worked with the leadership team to take us through exercises to flesh out possible visions for FBC. Some of you may have been wondering: what next? We (diaconate & congregation) will need share and contemplate more completely the survey results, solidify and develop vision elements and translate these into milestones. As we transition to the first baby steps, and then larger change rather than develop a detailed plan for the next 3 years, our plan is to grow the vision organically, with "what is the next best step?" At the moment the next best step involves fully understanding and mining the survey results and solidifying a vision for FBC.

In the midst of these initiatives we also need to remember and hold our pastors in love, especially Joel as his family deals with Heather's cancer and surgery.

Collin Carbno

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.

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

March at a Glance

- Mar 1 Easter Alleluia rehearsals begin
- Mar 14 VOICE (p.5)
Heritage Lecture (p. 2)
- Mar 17 Men's Breakfast (p.8)
- Mar 18 AGM (following the service)
- Mar 21 VOICE (p.5)
- Mar 22 Achievers' Luncheon (p.14)
- Mar 25 Easter Alleluia Concert (p.3)
- Mar 30 Joint Good Friday Service (p.4)
- Mar 31 The MEC application deadline (p.5)
- Apr 1 Sunrise Service (p.4)

Life Together

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



Two Disciples at the Tomb by Henry Ossawa Tanner, c.1906