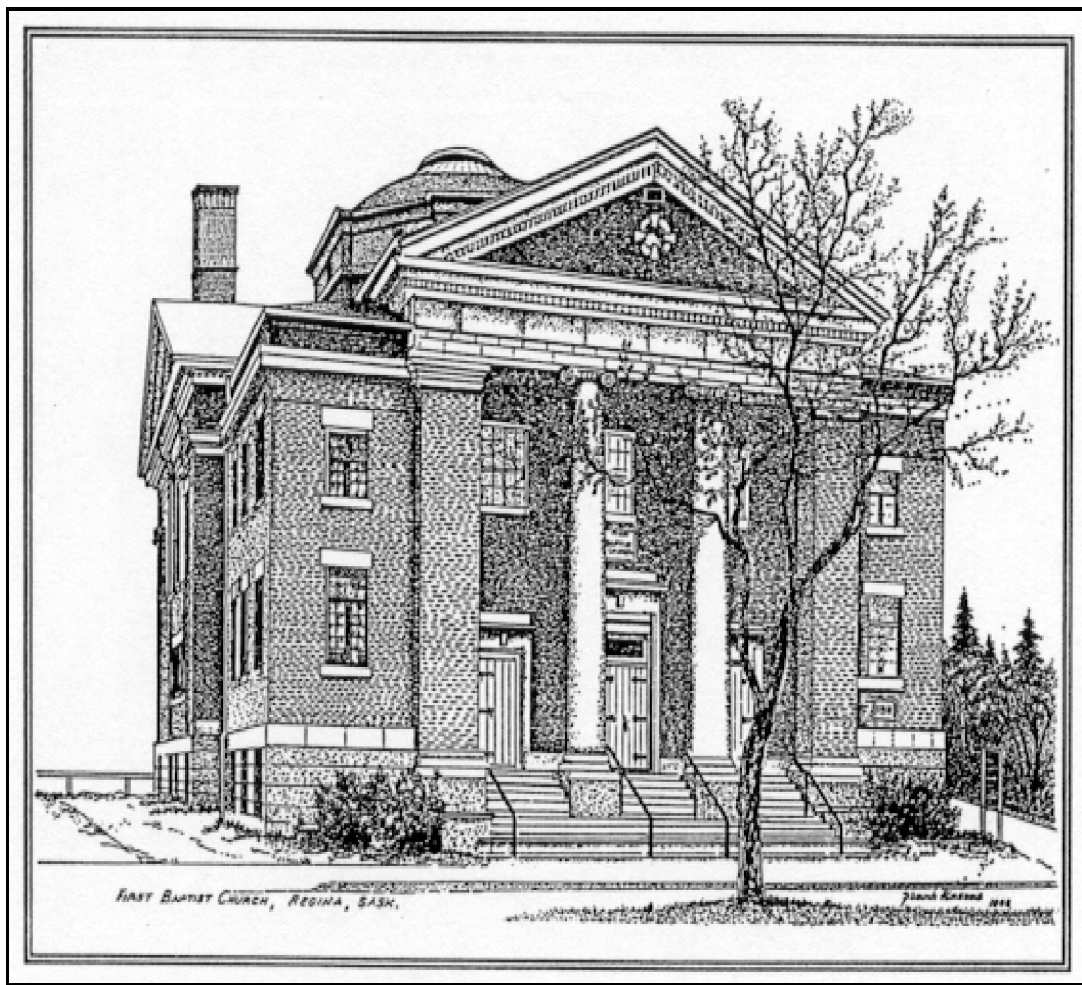


# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

*A Place to Belong*

2241 Victoria Avenue  
Regina, Saskatchewan  
S4P 0S4  
(306) 359-1450



## Annual Report 2013

# Covenant

A COVENANT OF FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
Regina, Saskatchewan

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*We, members of First Baptist Church, Regina, covenant together to walk with Christ and each other in fellowship of holy love, to gather together regularly for united worship, to look to God daily for grace and guidance, to search the scriptures for understanding of the Christian way of life, to serve God and each other in love and humility.*

*We will recognize the worth of each individual within our community, regardless of age or circumstances, recognizing that we are all precious in God's sight.*

*We will uphold each other in prayer and will offer kindness, forgiveness and mercy to each other as Christ has offered to us.*

*We will give cheerfully of our time, talents and finances so that God's work would prosper in this place.*

*We will recognize Christ's presence in every aspect of our lives and will seek to honour Him in all that we say and do — at church, in our homes, and at our places of employment. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we will seek to follow Christ throughout our lives.*

*"What does the Lord require of you, but to seek justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." ~ Micah 6:8*

**ANNUAL REPORT 2013**

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING  
MARCH 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014 – 1:00 P.M.**

**Annabel Robinson – Chair of Diaconate**

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# MINUTES, NOVEMBER MEETING

1. **Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order by the chair, Annabel Robinson
2. **Devotional/ Prayer Time – Dr. Mark McKim**
3. **Appointment of Parliamentarian – Annabel Robinson**  
Moved that we appoint Jim Olesen as Parliamentarian for this meeting. Moved by Dave Hedlund, seconded by Kevin Rich, Carried.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of Spring Meeting – Annabel Robinson**  
Moved that we approve the minutes of the Spring 2013 congregational meeting. Moved by Murray Wolfe, seconded by Bonnie Austring-Winter, carried.
5. **Approval of Proposed Agenda - Annabel Robinson**  
One correction to the circulated agenda: in the list of reports from the Commission, there should be the Congregational Care Commission by Kathy Brown. Moved that we approve the circulated agenda with one correction. Moved by Barry Holtslander, seconded by Esther Wiens, carried
6. **Business Arising from Minutes from the Spring Congregational Meeting – Annabel Robinson**  
None
7. **Reports –**  
We will move the acceptance of these reports as a block.
  - **Senior Minister, Dr. Mark McKim -**  
In January there will be one Learning for Life class because the class will be important and we want everyone to attend: “Building on Our Strengths.” This is a detailed list of what we do well, and what we value. We look forward to your input.
  - **Deacons – Annabel Robinson**  
I would like to stress the importance of the Learning for Life class in January and to say that we as deacons are always happy to hear anything you are thinking about as a member of the congregation
  - **Christian Education**  
Every Sunday morning, we have an expanding row of children, so there has been an increase in demand for volunteers, but we have a lot of people who have

stepped forward. Adult Sunday School has been going along well. TNT has been fairly well-attended. The Narnia movies have been well-attended.

- **Worship Arrangements Commission - Hilary Ryan**

We are bidding farewell to Brenda Zioklowski who has coordinated communion in the balcony. William continues to coordinate ushers and elevator operators, and I thank him for his work. If you are looking for something to do on a Sunday morning, see me!

- **Mission commission- Rev. Joel Russell-MacLean - is current interim chair.**

Mostly I want to thank you. Mission Commission exists for two reasons: to raise awareness of Canadian Baptist Ministries (evangelism church planting, relief and development around the world), and to support worthy organizations.

- **Property commission - Rev. John Nelson - is interim chair.**

We have been without a furnace for two years. The furnace should be in place by year-end. Many have helped George in cleaning various parts of the church and we thank them.

- **Personnel Commission - Rev. Kayely Rich**

George took on the added hours of janitorial work when Siyoum resigned. I invite your input in ideas for long-term planning. I want to thank all of our staff: pastoral, office and cleaning staff. I have taken on a role with the CBWC this fall, so if you would like more information on what our denomination is doing, please talk to me.

- **Congregational Care Commission - Kathy Brown -**

I want to thank all the team leaders. Thanks for carrying things on without too much trouble. Pretty much all the team leaders need some help in their areas and we will be working with them.

- **Annabel**

Before we move the adoption of these reports, I would like to note that all the commissions need help, so if you would like to help, please talk to Norma Holtslander or the chair of the commission you're interested in.

Moved that we approve all of the reports given, with thanks for all the work involved. Moved by Annabel Robinson seconded by Rosemary Ward, Carried.

## **8. Presentation of Proposed Budget for 2014 – Derrick Bellows**

I'd like to thank Marv Fuller, Merv Hepting, Adam Lowther and Krista Johnstone.

### **Financial highlights**

- In 2013 our operating income is exceeding our expenditures by about \$24,000
- DULF has started
- The building fund is healthy
- The bond redemption fund is secure

### **Debt history**

- The lines of credit were secured by the CBWC
- We got good percentage rates, but we were taking up a lot of the CBWC's debt limit
- We have been intentionally working on those debts so we can release the CBWC from holding our debt

### **2014budget**

- 2014 budget is laid out slightly differently than it has been in the past
- The non-operational pieces are not part of the budget that we're approving today
- I want to thank the commissions for working hard on their budgets to keep expenditures to a minimum
- Some expenditures have changed where they are in the budget, like support for CBWC, which used to be in the missions commission, but the bottom line hasn't changed much
- There are four special funds, which are the accounts that are listed separately:
  - Accrual Funds: like the benevolent fund, the FKBC and organ fund they carry over from year to year
  - Bond Redemption Fund
  - Building Fund
  - DULF

Moved by Derrick Bellows that the budget be adopted as presented, seconded by Eric Zeitler, carried.

**8. Appointment of Auditor for 2013** – Our past auditor has changed their business to not include non-profits. They have recommended another organization to us. We have a proposal, we are satisfied that it is a good proposal and they can do a good job for us.

Moved that we appoint Robert Szautner, Chartered Accountant as our 2013 auditor.

Moved by Derrick Bellows, seconded by Mavis Olesen, carried.

**9. Other Business – Annabel Robinson.**

Does anyone have anything else they would like to bring forward?

**Q. Hilary Ryan: How are we going to deal with the Bond debt? They mature in 2017.**

A. Derrick Bellows: Some will be gifted back to the church. We will be looking for special projects through DULF. If there is a residual amount that needs to be paid out and we don't have the cash available, we could re-issue bonds. The Baptist Union could provide some bridge financing if needed.

**Q. Hilary Ryan: We are living at First Baptist Place. When will ownership revert back to the church? Will I still have some place to live?**

A. Derrick Bellows: First Baptist Place is not owned by First Baptist Church. It is its own entity.

**Barry Holtslander:** The welcome I receive when I am here is something that reminds me that this is my real church home, no matter how long I am preaching elsewhere. The people of these other congregations want me to extend their thanks to you for lending me to them. Thank you for allowing me to minister in the larger church and for supporting Heather and the girls when I am not here.

**10. Adjournment. –**

A motion to adjourn was made by Barry Holtslander.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Holtslander,

Secretary of Deacons



# Senior Pastor's Report

It is important from time to time to reflect on the principles by which one acts. That's especially important when it comes to giving leadership, among God's people. My report this year attempts to lay out some of these core principles in a careful way. These are foundational theological convictions in which I am rooted. These are principles which I attempt to follow personally and by which I attempt to give pastoral leadership.

➤ *Always ask the first question first: "What is God calling us to do?"*

The church has a clear mission statement, and it has been in place for two thousand years. Simply put, it is working to see the Kingdom of God, that is God's will, realized. God's will is a very big thing. It includes inviting, encouraging and urging others to follow Jesus. It also includes caring for the sick, the poor, the vulnerable, and the outcast, challenging injustice and oppression and caring for the earth.

The first question we must always ask is "What is God calling us to do in this situation?"

➤ *Worship: The Ultimate Goal*

Ultimately, worship what God is calling us to do. Worship is the primary work and goal of the entire creation. Period. Full Stop. This is a difficult idea for many of us who grew up in the evangelical world. Robert Webber, who devoted much of his career to thinking and writing about worship is not unusual in his experience. He wrote:

For as long as I can remember, it was impressed upon me that the most important part of being a Christian was being a witness....I was told...that my single calling in life was to a soul winner. It was all right if we Christians were called to be doctors, lawyers, and teachers, as long as we were soul winners first. Evangelism is an exceedingly important work of the church....But it is worship...that really stands behind all these activities. The church is first a

worshipping community. Evangelism and other functions of ministry flow from the worship of the church.<sup>1</sup>

From the biblical perspective, which always sees God as the centre, the eternal worship of God is the ultimate goal for *all* creation. Don't misunderstand me! I don't mean the goal is an everlasting morning worship service with sermons which go on for centuries! (Though I have listened to a few sermons which *seemed* to go on for centuries!) What I mean is that the goal is all creation, at every moment, recognizing and acknowledging God's supreme worth. When that finally happens, when *all* creation fully and completely worships, then the Kingdom will have come.

For the church, corporate worship should be at our centre as we press toward the goal of being fully in right relationship with God. What happens on Sunday morning when we gather is absolutely essential. We are practicing for that day when all creation joins in worship. Simon Chan puts the biblical understanding of corporate worship succinctly: "*worship is never meant to serve any other purpose except the glory of God. The end of worship is worship.*"<sup>2</sup> J. Daniel Day concurs. Day, formerly Professor of Christian Preaching and Worship at Campbell University Divinity School, pastored Baptist churches in several southern American states. He writes: "Worship is about God. It isn't about selling God. It isn't about being inspired by God-referencing programs. It's not even about 'experiencing' God. Worship is about God. Period."<sup>3</sup>

What happens on Sunday morning is intended to lead us toward the totality of our day to day lives being worship and ultimately joining ourselves with the worship of all creation.

➤ *Theology of the cross, **not** a Theology of Glory*

I am convinced that the Bible teaches what Martin Luther called a "theology of the cross," **not** a "theology of glory."

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<sup>1</sup>Robert E. Webber, *Worship is a Verb: Celebrating God's Mighty Deeds of Salvation* (Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson, 2004), 7-8.

<sup>2</sup>Simon Chan, *Liturgical Theology: The Church as Worshipping Community* (Downers Grove, Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 2006), 53.

<sup>3</sup>J. Daniel Day, *Seeking the Face of God: Evangelical Worship Reconceived* (Macon, Georgia: Nurturing Faith, 2013), vii.

What does this mean? A theology of the cross insists that while it may seem foolish to the world at large, our salvation, wholeness, purpose and joy depend entirely upon the work of Christ on the cross. A theology of glory sees the ways of God as generally understandable by human reason; a theology of the cross is more much more humble. It knows that God's ways are often mysterious. A theology of glory emphasizes human effort, a theology of the cross insists that even if we were to do all that we should, we would still be "unprofitable servants; we have done [only] that which was our duty to do."<sup>4</sup> A theology of glory tends to minimize or ignore difficult things, to and focus on "success," while a theology of the cross acknowledges sin, suffering and failure. A theology of glory finds it difficult to see much of God's hand in the life of a person who is "unsuccessful." Preachers operating out of a theology of glory may well tell the person experiencing divorce, bankruptcy, unemployment or poor health that the problem is a lack of faith on their part. A theology of the cross on the other hand, believes that God is often to be found in the wreckage of our lives, our doubts, failed relationships and sin, because in those circumstances, instead of imagining we are able to cope, we realize we are not, and we cry out for God's mercy and grace. The Christian faith is not primarily about helping us cope with the problems and challenges of daily life nor is it about prosperity, happiness or good health. It is about recognizing our complete bankruptcy before God, abandoning ourselves to God completely, and having our entire lives changed.

➤ *Christendom*

Every picture of the relationship of the church to society which Jesus gave was that of something small within something much larger. The followers of Jesus were to be as salt<sup>5</sup> (small in quantity compared to the amount of food), light<sup>6</sup> (which in the ancient Middle East meant the

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<sup>4</sup> Luke 17.7-10

<sup>5</sup> Matthew 5.13

<sup>6</sup> Matthew 5.14-16

modest oil lamp of a village home), yeast<sup>7</sup> (a tiny portion of a loaf of bread), or a mustard seed<sup>8</sup> (a very small seed).

For the first three hundred years of its existence, the church understood itself in just this way - as a minority within the wider culture. It was only with the “Constantinian settlement,” which first made Christianity legal within the Roman Empire, then favoured it, and finally made it the *only* legal faith that notions of the church being largely identical in membership with the wider society appeared. Church and state were closely intertwined, with the church often acting virtually as another department of the government. This is the “Christendom model” - where Christianity and the church have a privileged role in society.

It is **not** the model I see in the New Testament. Nowhere did Jesus talk about his followers establishing so called Christian nations, nowhere did he suggest we should have or seek a privileged position. Yet that is precisely what Christians did for centuries - and it distorted and blunted the message of the gospel.

The biblical picture of the church in the New Testament is that of a profoundly counter-cultural minority. We are not called on to be chaplains to our culture, to give a Christian veneer to it. Instead we are to challenge or confront views, attitudes and practices which clearly are opposite to the Kingdom priorities and values taught by Jesus.

➤ *Success*

Followers of Jesus Christ do not measure success by numbers, *whatever* those things are which are being counted - attendance numbers, number of dollars in the offering plate or whatever. **God measures success in one way and one way only - have we been faithful?** At his ascension, Jesus apparently had only 120 followers. That was after three years of public ministry, many miracles and resurrection. Doesn't seem very

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<sup>7</sup> Matthew 13.33

<sup>8</sup> Matthew 13.31-32, Mark 4.30-32, Luke 13.18-19.

impressive does it? But *God*, the Father, clearly considered the work of Jesus to have been a success.

I see no biblical support for making numbers the measurement of success, so it is with great concern that I hear evangelicals adopting this kind of language and approach. Often, so called “mega churches” are held up as successful examples. But we need to be careful about this. In many cases the huge attendance numbers are a result of moving far from the gospel. It is easy to draw crowds if you tell people that their self-centered, environmentally unsustainable, socially unaware lives are not only just fine but approved and blessed by a God who has guaranteed health and wealth to those who are his followers. But if you talk about the sovereign call of God on people’s lives, remind them that Jesus told us to take up a cross and made no guarantees of better family life, improved finances or health, that message will not be as welcome.

As I understand Scripture, we are *not* responsible or *held* responsible for the numbers. We are and will be held to account for whether we have been faithful. Period. This is *by no means* to be taken as an excuse for laziness, sloth or lack of careful planning. It does *not* excuse us from robust evangelism, sacrificial giving, or social action. But in the end the Kingdom will come, regardless of our efforts, and in that conviction there is both great relief and freedom. I am to devote myself to seeing the Kingdom realized, but I remember its coming does not, in the end, depend upon me.

### ➤ *Evangelism*

Evangelism is a very important part of our mission, that mission being, working to see the Kingdom realized. Evangelism in the New Testament, had certain specific characteristics.

Evangelism was *incarnational*. (*Incarnation* refers to the fact that God became a human being, Jesus Christ.) Across the centuries, God sent his messengers, the prophets, but in the end, God came in person: Jesus! God became one of us and lived with us, fully human. God started *where we were*. God did not remain on high, apart from our situation. God

started where we were. Isn't that the model the disciples followed in the book of Acts? Paul wrote that to the Jews he became like a Jew, to the Gentiles, like a Gentile.<sup>9</sup> When he came to Athens, Paul observed carefully the people of Athens, and cited the Greek poets.<sup>10</sup> He began where they were. What does it mean to be incarnational in Canada? In our culture there are few people who go about their daily lives anxious that they are apart from God and in danger of eternal damnation. They are – but that isn't what keeps them awake at night. Indeed, if anything, many feel that it is *God* who has some answering to do, not them. Evangelistic approaches which focus on telling people they are in danger of damnation are not, in our society, incarnational. That is not starting where people are. People in our society however *are* burdened – with a fear that maybe there isn't any point to it all, by loneliness, by the pain of broken relationships. So being incarnational for us means starting there, where people actually are. And I believe, passionately, that it is Jesus Christ, and he alone who can lift these burdens.

Evangelism was in the New Testament *the work of all of God's people*. That is why Sunday after Sunday I conclude worship services with a charge or commission, which says "Go and bear witness by word and deed." The New Testament had only one major "evangelism plan" - individual Christians talking to other people about their faith.

Evangelism in the New Testament was about a *lifestyle*. When Jesus gave the Great Commission<sup>11</sup> "Go therefore and make disciples..." keep in mind that he said "make **disciples**." How did the twelve become disciples? By going about with Jesus, journeying with him, becoming his friend, seeing how he lived, being slowly mentored. We are to invite people to that kind of relationship. Maybe we think that process is too slow. We'd prefer quick, instant results by means of some new "method" or plan. We'd prefer something less personal – something that doesn't

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<sup>9</sup> I Corinthians 9.20.

<sup>10</sup> Acts 17.22-34.

<sup>11</sup> Matthew 28.19.

mean the hard work of being a friend and becoming vulnerable. Frankly, that's just too bad for us! This is what evangelism looks like in the New Testament, regardless of whether we find it uncomfortable, time consuming or slow.

Evangelism in the New Testament was more *about inviting people to joy than about trying to frighten them into the Kingdom*. Over and over again, Jesus told stories which essentially said "Why would anyone want to miss out on this? Why would anyone want to miss out on joy and wholeness and meaning?"

➤ *The Body of Christ: Love and Unity*

I believe that the church is to be both united and loving. In and of itself, that is a powerful act of witness to the world. My understanding of Scripture is that anything which causes us to love each other less or which causes divisions in the church is very unlikely to have come from the Holy Spirit. *How* we live in community – in love - and *that* our community exists in *unity* - is *far* more important than governance structures, budgets, agendas, committee meetings and just about anything else one can list!

As you finish reading this report, I have one request of you. Pray for me. I am an imperfect, flawed, sinful follower of Christ. I get it wrong sometimes. I am far from infallible. I am sometimes oblivious when I should be aware. Sometimes I do not confront when I should; at other times the reverse is true. I become discouraged when I should be hopeful. At the end I can only hope and pray that I will be found to have been, however imperfectly, Christ's man, and

Your servant in him,

Rev. Dr. Mark G. McKim  
Senior Minister

## CHAIR OF DIACONATE

The Diaconate was formed to replace the Board of Directors of First Baptist Church in 2007. The Board which had existed prior to that time had found its time almost entirely taken up with financial concerns and the maintenance of the building, leaving no time for the spiritual issues that are supposedly our top priority. When the diaconate was created the intention was to create a body that would, in co-operation with the pastors, be responsible for the spiritual well-being of the church. The responsibility for the all-important financial and practical issues was entrusted to the Treasurer and the Property Commission. Nevertheless, to meet the requirements of the Government of Saskatchewan, the Diaconate, along with the Treasurer, form the Trustees, who hold the final legal authority in the operation of the church. The governance structure of the church still needs some fine-tuning, and the Diaconate has been working on this for presentation and approval at a future date.

The core mandate of the Diaconate is to be “regularly engaged in personal and corporate prayer, listening carefully to the congregation and looking to see where God is at work in our lives,” (I quote from Dr. Mark McKim’s *Building on our Strengths: Planning and Dreaming for First Baptist Church*), seeking practical ways to give this expression. We have also been involved in visitation, study, healing services and support of the commissions. Much of our work is “under the radar.”

The Diaconate has met monthly, except for July and August. Two major issues have dominated our meetings: the establishment of the Double-Up Legacy Fund and discussion of the document *Building on our Strengths*, which we plan to use as the basis for long-term planning, once it has been widely circulated and discussed by the congregation. The Double-Up Legacy Fund was launched on June 9, 2013, to build up a fund that will, as its name implies, double up gifts to eliminate the church debt, and, like the MIG project some years ago, raise funds for specific mission projects outside the church, as proposed by church members. Disbursal from this fund will be made available once the fund has reached \$100,000.



Some people have been concerned about the numbers in attendance on Sunday mornings, but we have been encouraged by two things. The first, and it's important to realize this, is that people have far more calls on their time on Sundays than used to be the case. Many of our members have to work on Sunday mornings. Sunday worship attendance is no longer a measure of the health of a church. Secondly, our giving has been healthy, and we reached the end of 2013 in the black, for the first time in many years. Personally, I'm very encouraged to see the direction our church is taking today. The large number of immigrants and ethnic diversity among us must delight our Lord.

We are greatly blessed to have a pastoral staff with such a wide array of gifts, who work so hard and make our church the joyful place it is. Thank you Mark, John and Joel!

Respectfully submitted by  
Annabel Robinson – Chair of the Diaconate

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

In 2013 the following changes were recorded in our membership:

### **Decreases**

By Death	4
By Transfer	1

### **Increases**

By Transfer of Letter	6
By Experience	0
By Baptism	0
Inactive to Active	0
Net gain	1

### **Membership at January 31, 2013**

Members	184
Adherents	356
Inactive Members	26
Non Resident Members	23

## **Treasurer's Report - 2013**

First Baptist Church is active in a great many ministries and has finances that are more complicated than most churches. In addition to the normal day-to-day expenses (operating expenses) necessary for our church life, we still have significant long-term debt (capital expenses) from the major church building refurbishment in 1991. We had a good financial year in 2013 meeting our operating objectives, reducing the Operating Line of Credit and reducing Bond debt slightly. There were no major capital expenditures in 2013. Detailed financial information is presented in the audit but financial highlights are presented below.

### **Operating Expenses**

The six commissions of the church and the Treasurer manage operating expenses. Each has a budget for which they are responsible. The Personnel Commission accounted for about 60% of the operating budget in 2013. It is important to remember that salaries paid out of Personnel support ministries identified in the other commissions. Property, Administration and Missions also have significant budgets. Through 2013 the commissions were excellent stewards of their budgets.

Donations were higher in 2013 due to a successful spring appeal to reduce the Operating Line of Credit and strong donations late in the year. Our operating budget was \$538,222. We raised about \$550,000 and spent about \$530,000. The operating line of credit was reduced by \$15,000 to \$50,000, and at year-end we achieved a zero balance for the first time in many years.

### **Capital Expenses**

In 1990, members made a significant decision to totally refurbish the church building that was 80 years old. About \$1,700,000 was spent to create the building that we worship in today. The money for this work was raised through borrowing; most of it through bonds sold to church members who were committed to this congregation and the building. Since 2007, our debt is has been internal to bond holders. With the establishment of the Bond Redemption Fund, we have a solid foundation for planning retirement of the bond issue in 2017. At year end outstanding bonds amounted to \$607,400 and

we had \$16,800 in the Fund to address future redemptions, leaving us with unfunded bonds of about \$590,000. To reflect market conditions the interest rate on the bonds was maintained at 3.65% and paid at year-end.

### **Other Capital Projects**

No significant capital work was done in 2013 but \$56,000 is set aside for upcoming expenses on the furnace.

### **General**

We maintain separate accounting for various dedicated activities in the church including: the First Karen Baptist Church, the benevolent fund, A/V ministry, and Meet Your Musician.

The new facility agreement with Regina Youth for Christ in 2012 resulted in market value being paid for rent of the Youth Center and a large contribution back to their ministry.

Through 2013, Krista Johnstone managed detailed finances for the church as Financial Administrator and I thank her for her hard work and diligence in keeping the books. I was supported by the Finance and Audit Committee, Merv Hepting, and Marv Fuller. Adam Lowther also participated on the Finance and Audit Committee until moving to Calgary in mid-year. I also thank the Diaconate, Commissions and staff for their diligence in managing the financial resources entrusted to them. And especially, I thank you as the family of First Baptist who continue to provide the finances for the work of our church.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Derrick Bellows - Treasurer

# Music Ministry/Achievers' Ministries

Rev. John Nelson, Associate Minister

"Music has a way of finding the big, invisible moving pieces inside our hearts and souls and helping us figure out the position of things inside us. Music is a part of survival; music is part of the human spirit, and unquenchable expression of who we are."

Music and the Arts is one of FBC's cherished **values** through which we give expression to our faith, feel God's Presence, and can also say that, "we are alive, and our lives have meaning." I would like to think that FBC exemplifies a paraphrased quote from an article by Karl Paulnack, "Music ministry can be so much more meaningful than the arts and entertainment in our newspapers. It's not a luxury, a lavish thing that we plant for from leftovers of our budgets, not a plaything or an amusement or a pass time. Music is one of the ways we make sense of our lives, one of the ways in which we express feelings when we have no words, a way for us to understand things with our hearts when we can't with our minds."

**FBC - A Place to Belong** - is a community blessed with gifted musicians who are committed to excellence which is intrinsic to ministry. This is shown through: understanding God is worthy of our best effort in preparation; faithfulness to rehearsals; prayerful attentiveness to text; loving concern for each other. "The crowning touch of this commitment to excellence is through releasing our best to His Holy Spirit as He permeates our worship, inspires us, transforms our minds and hearts, singer and listener, and draws believers and unbelievers alike to Himself." Our church music family offers their "gifts" generously, thus enhancing our worship experience together.

## **THE SANCTUARY CHOIR/JuBELLation Ringers**

The ministry of our volunteer church choirs is the sum total of the skills and efforts that each member brings. The quality of voices vary, the music skills are not the same, the energy level is dynamic, and the expectation of each singer/ringer is personal; thankfully, the combination of all these provides an engaging opportunity to make music in a community of faith (the choirs, bells, etc.) that translates into effective ministry and brings honor and glory to

God. It is a high calling that beckons a choir member to do his or her best and this is a personal responsibility.

**The Sanctuary Choir's ministry** in 2013 has been rewarding, even though facing challenges such as the deaths of two long-time members (Lena Phillips & Wayne Wilson), medical leaves of 2 other key members, and the retirement of Ruth Nelson after 76 faithful years of service. Thank-you choir for your dedication and leadership week in and week out. This longest serving FBC "small group" (109+ years) makes immense sacrifices 40+ weeks of the year to assist in enhancing our worship experience. We offer our thanks to their family and friends for the support and encouragement offered to members of this music family!

Thank you to all those who share their special music/art gifts:

#### **MINISTRIES**

Exaltation Singers

Sanctuary Choir

JuBELLation Ringers

His Kids

(seasonal children's choir)

Special Music/Art- vocalists, narrators, instrumentalists,& artists

Creative co-ordinators

#### **LEADERSHIP**

John Nelson & Christa Walsh

Christa Walsh/Mark Anderson/John Nelson

John Nelson

Debby & Becky Nelson

Doug & Edie Hiltz, Debby Nelson

Irene & Victor Sotropa, Hilary Ryan,

William Crook

#### **A SPECIAL NOTE OF APPRECIATION**

First Baptist Church is very fortunate to have two outstanding people on our keyboards. Thank you Christa Walsh (piano-6 years)) and Mark Anderson (organist- 23 years) for your exceptional ministry that contributes life and vitality to our worship experiences! Our appreciation extends beyond their music ministry, to their Christian characters, level of commitment, dedication, and encouragement. Many memorable moments of "creative transformation" are enhanced by their inspired worship leadership. Thank you!

We also express our appreciation to Becky Nelson for her valued assistance and ministry as she filled in for Christa throughout the year.

## **HIGHLIGHTS in 2012-2013:**

- 1. Good Friday Joint Service**
- 2. "Easter Alleluia" presentation-**
- 3. "Music, Muffins 'n' More-** outreach ministry/MYM fundraiser over 250 in attendance. Roberta Nichol, guest entertainer.
- 4. "Meet Your Musician 2013"-** Joel Raney, clinician 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary. 120 musicians In Concert -a congregation of over 300.
- 5. "Christmas Glory"-** a memorable and enthusiastic congregation of over 300. Many comments expressed saying this music ministry was "the most memorable one ever".

**Along with our other ministries, music** is unique in character because our purpose is sacred. For the FBC music family, our common purpose is to make beautiful music that is sung or rung to the glory of God, generating the formation of a community that is unique within the church.

**Our hopes and prayers** always are that members of the FBC music community will become "engaged in one another's lives through prayer, encouragement, attentiveness to needs, celebration of joy and compassion in sorrow. It is within this environment of Christian love that the commitment to excellence in musical expression week after week takes deep root. This gracious and redemptive character of the Christian musician pours out to the congregation drawing those who hear to Jesus Christ."

## **AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

Co-ordinating/nurturing the music ministry.....acting as pastoral liaison & co-ordinator of the Achievers' Luncheon ministry, acting chair of the Property Commission, pastoral liaison to the Nominating Committee/Congregational Care Commission/the Planned Giving Committee....preaching, performing weddings/funerals, visitation, administrative duties, scheduling/organizing concerts/gifts of music/fundraising events MMM, MYM, The Organ Project and the Good Friday Service.

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Throughout the year I am privileged to be invited to work with various High School music programmes, to act as an adjudicator, and/or guest

seminar/workshop/festival conductor. As well, I am in my 23rd year as choral director of a community based 55+ mixed voice choir \_ VIVACE.

Our **church choral library** continues to be shared with other churches and community music organizations in Regina and in other areas of Canada. This ministry service is much appreciated by the users.

### **ACHIEVERS' LUNCHEON (50 years+)**

This enthusiastic and thriving 25+ year old small group has averaged over 45+ people in attendance for their 7 Luncheons in 2013. Achievers meet every fourth week during the months of September.- November, January. – April for fellowship, fun, lunch, devotion, a joke or two, and hearing a variety of outstanding guest speakers.

I am most appreciative of those who support the Achievers' Luncheons, especially those who volunteered to phone contact lists and provide table decorations. Thank you one and all for your service and leadership to this most treasured group.

**A NOTE OF APPRECIATION** is also extended to Kevin Rich for keeping the Achievers' website updated.

### **IN CONCLUSION**

It has been my privilege to serve with you in ministry for the past 28 years and I continue to be "awestruck" by God's goodness and faithfulness to this church. It is my hope that our ministry journey together has created many moments of "transformation and wonder". May our ministries continue to reveal new and exciting truths to enrich both our Christian lives and the life of First Baptist Church. May we "passionately strive for every generation that follows ours to believe that church will be more than worth their time, and that it truly will be compelling, relevant, authentic, creative, and reflect excellence."

Excellence in all things and in all things to the glory of God!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rev. John Nelson  
Associate Minister



# **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT**

A big thank you to our CE team that makes possible our variety of child and adult ministries. At last count we had 35+ volunteers in various aspects of Oasis, Godly play, Nursery and Adult Ministries. The broad support from the diaconate and other volunteers in the church that allows us carry on these ministries is much appreciated and vital to success of our church.

Our children's ministries (Oasis, Godly Play, Nursery ) have grown slightly in 2013. Nursery enrolment remains strong! It is great to see so many new little ones. We have been thinking about some possibilities of perhaps starting some sort of teenage years Christian Educational program but a lack of both teens and folks interested in kick starting a teen ministry is holding us back. There is also the realization that the three separate age groups (grade 6 to 9, grade 9 to 12, and college) have different needs. If you have an interest in assisting or kick-starting such ministries please contact Joel or me. If an opportunity arises we also hope at some time to restart a quizzing program. Volunteers definitely needed, if God is leading you in this area, please step up. The TNT Bible study program has been strengthened with the purchase of a number of new DVD additions, and the use of guest speakers. We also had another amazing Adult Sunday School year with many popular and exciting classes. If you haven't been coming you have been missing out!

Church library renewal was fueled by an amazing 114 new books added to the collection up from 95 new books added in 2013. A total of 11 heavy boxes of books were delivered to Christian Salvage ministry fueled by old, damaged books being removed from our library and duplicates that came in of existing books. One focus in library ministry for 2014 will be on renewing the Children's areas of the library starting with removing all old VHS tapes (many worn out too) that are no longer be used.

Our standard special events, Sunday school picnic and Kick-off Sunday again went well. Amazingly, the weather co-operated. I think this is now 2 years without being rained out, perhaps we are on a roll. The men's group provided a huge assistance at the Kick-off Sunday, and CE commission welcomed their handling of the Kick-off Sunday events.

With the growth in the children ministries a number of folks have stepped up to become ministry co-ordinators. Joel and I are extremely appreciative of the efforts of these folks and all the folks that provide the services. One thing that impressed me since becoming CE chair is the vast amount of work that goes into providing children's ministries.

**Collin Carbno**

**Chair of CE Commission**

## **WORSHIP ARRANGEMENTS COMMISSION**

The members of the Worship Arrangements Commission coordinate many volunteers who serve the congregation during our worship services on Sunday mornings and for special events.

I am very grateful to Carol and Len Serdachny (coordinators of the Balcony Ushers and Greeters), William Crook (Main Floor Ushers, Elevator Operators), Jean Hillmer (Main Floor Communion Servers and Prayers, Communion Preparation (ably assisted by the Rev. John Hillmer)) and Tracy Sailor (Main Floor Greeters, Baptism helper and gown launderer). I coordinate Sound Room, AudioVideo Ministry, and Taxi Service. Rev. Mark McKim is Pastoral Liaison. Although not Commission members, Shirley Wolfe acts as Flower Coordinator and Vivian Johnson has helped in organizing the Greeters. We have no coordinator for the Balcony Communion servers; the ushers presently asked people in the balcony to help as they arrive in the morning.

Our Taxi Ministry is used more and more to get parishioners to church. I remind those who use it that the goal is to make it possible for you to get to church, especially if there is no Sunday public transportation where you live. We hope that those making use of this ministry will donate some funds back to the Taxi Ministry to help us stay within budget. This ministry is not intended to provide transportation to other places in the city, just to First Baptist Church.

I am pleased to report that in the last year, we've had more volunteers joining us to help in the sound room (we have 4 "leader" techs now, and 3 "learners"), one more helping with the elevator and one preparing communion (she also helps with the elevator, both at regular services and funerals, weddings and concerts – one of our most helpful church members!)

Thanks go out to all the volunteers who cheerfully serve each Sunday.

I ask all who attend First Baptist Church who aren't already volunteering in some way, to consider giving just a few hours a month in serving the rest of your church community. You will find that the blessings far outweigh the time commitment! Please contact any member of the Commission to find your "Place to Belong".

Respectfully submitted,  
Hilary Ryan, chair

# CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMISSION

## Commission Committee

Kathy Brown (Chair), Irene Sotropa, Judy Grimsrud

I am grateful for all those who have served on the teams of the Congregational Care Commission and especially to all the team leaders who keep everything running smoothly. Many thanks to Pat Rivera – Hospitality, Pearl Bretz- Prayer Chain, and Irene Sotropa -Time for Friends and Care and Share for their continued commitment and dedication.

We could use more help on our teams, so if you feel led, please contact me or the church office if you would like to become involved. We would love to have you!

Respectfully submitted by,  
Kathy Brown - chair

## **PERSONNEL COMMISSION REPORT**

The following report is submitted on behalf of the Personnel Commission: Dr. Reid Robinson, Norma Bailey-Holtlander, Dr. Mark McKim (Pastoral Liaison), Heather Holtlander (Diaconate Liason) and Rev. Kayely Rich (Chair). As a commission, we seek to support the staff of First Baptist Church Regina; address any concerns brought to our attention; draft the personnel budget annually; approve expenses in line with the approved budget; periodically review staff job descriptions and workloads; and, when necessary, seek to make new hires. We aim to do all these tasks in a manner that is consistent with the spiritual leading of our diaconate.

We are pleased to report that there were no staffing changes in 2013. Our thanks go to our staff for their ongoing work in our midst:

Rev. Dr. Mark G. McKim, Senior Minister  
Rev. John Nelson Jr., Associate Minister  
Rev. Joel Russell-MacLean, Associate Minister  
Krista Johnstone, Financial Administrator  
Erin Angus, Administrative Assistant  
George McKenzie, Custodian  
Dr. Mark Anderson, Organist  
Christa Walsh, Pianist

We wish to especially acknowledge the many times our staff go above and beyond in sharing God's love and caring for people both in our congregation and our community. The unique gifts of our staff members enrich our community greatly.

Imagine for a moment that you came to church one Sunday, but that it was nothing like a typical Sunday. The lights are all off and none of the switches work. It seems the power has gone off. No one has paid the bills. There's an awful smell wafting from the basement. No one took out the garbage following a church meal the week prior. Yet, still curious, you walk towards the sanctuary where you hear others chatting. This doesn't seem like the normal pre-service sounds. There are no bulletins and no music. What about

a sermon? And as you see the kids running around, you realize there are no children's programs either. Will there even be a service at all??

While this may seem like a rather unlikely scenario, hopefully it serves to remind us of just a few of the many things that our staff do every week. And what about the many things our staff do to stand alongside us in the midst of major life events like birth, baptism, marriage, job loss, illness and death? We have much to be grateful for. As such, we would like to challenge the members of our congregation to find at least one way to appreciate/encourage one of our staff members over the coming weeks (and hopefully even beyond that too)!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rev. Kayely (Schoeber) Rich, Chair

# PROPERTY COMMISSION REPORT- 2013

Commission members: Marvin Fuller, Al Johnston, Glenn Larson,  
Oscar Rivera, John Nelson (Acting Chair)

“This has to be the most beautiful sanctuary that I have ever been in.” This comment was expressed recently by a tradesman who came to FBC to do some repairs. Such comments about our beautiful facility are not uncommon. Maintaining such a historic facility is both challenging and rewarding, yet also calls for a heightened level of attention and due diligence.

We express our appreciation to custodian George McKenzie, lay people, and property commission members who have devoted time and energy for the overall upkeep of our facility. Without this dedication and commitment our ministries and services would be impacted most noticeably!

We have been without one of our two **furnaces** now for almost three years, yet December 2013 greeted us with work being undertaken to rectify this problem. Appreciation is expressed to Laureen Snook and Len Pauls for their many hours of investigative work to solve this problem. Additional parts were ordered in December to complete the repair of the furnace, with the assurance that by the end of February BOTH furnaces will be in fine working order. Funds were raised earlier to cover the costs of this repair.

## **Roof leakage & Cornice**

**Roof leakage** continues to be a concern, but this is not related to the contractor who made the repairs to our roof. “Further investigation of the roof has revealed that additional flashing and caulking challenges must be tackled in the spring to alleviate the problem.

As well, the **NorthWest cornice** of the building will require an expensive repair in the spring. A large junk of white cornice has broken away, allowing pigeons access to the church’s attic.



We are grateful for Len Pauls, Glenn Larson, and Owen Winter for their time and energy invested in finding a solution for this repair.

**Other Repairs Completed/Repairs to be Undertaken:**

- \*1. Youth Centre will require new shingles in 2014.
- 2. the weatherstripping of some doors completed. Thank you Glenn Larson.
- 3. Upgrading of lighting in various areas of the facility. Thank you George and Erin.
- 4. Replacement of 4 window mechanisms in our sanctuary.
- 5. Replacement of two organ humidifiers.
- 6. Elevator repair
- 7. Sound room repaired after water leakage. Thank you Oscar Rivera.
- 8. General cleaning of various areas in the church by volunteers.
- \*9. Cleaning of VENTS continues to be a must for the near future.
- 10. Carpets cleaned, Peter Sewage cleaned out kitchen drains, new hot water tank installed
- \*11. Front steps and certain sections of our building require repairs.

The Property Commission expresses its appreciation for your support and prayers.

Let us continue to be good stewards of all the resources and facilities with which God has entrusted us. Our building is one of our VALUES, so let us strive to make FBC truly, "A Place to Belong".

Submitted by Rev. John Nelson, Jr.  
Acting Chair of the Property Commission

## **MISSIONS COMMISSION REPORT**

The Mission Commission serves to facilitate and encourage ministry outside of our church and to make the congregation more aware of missions.

Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM) is the primary means by which we participate in ministry in other countries. In early June, we received a visit from Rev. Dr Kakule Molo, President of CBM's Congolese partners, the Baptist Community in the Centre of Africa (CBCA), based in Goma in eastern Congo. Rev Dr Molo spent an evening reporting on ministry in eastern Congo and thanked us for FBC Regina's financial support during the increase of violence.

In the fall, we raised awareness of CBM's role in the ongoing Syrian refugee crisis and were able to send nearly \$10,000 in aid to CBM. CBM has reported to us that \$4000 was used to support Reupen Das and Elie Haddad, CBM staff involved in coordinating relief and development. \$6000 was used for winterization items, food, and educational needs among the refugees in Lebanon and displaced people inside Syria. CBM's partner in Lebanon is the Lebanese Society for Education and Social Development.

2013 was our first year without a 'Mission Encounter' weekend as all the churches involved felt like it was time for a break after an excellent run of 13 years. We are continuing to explore ways we can work together with the local churches in our denomination.

Locally, our church also offers prayer and financial support to a number of organizations. Kyle MacLean, Fran Purvis and Stan Klassen at Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF) all received financial support. After several years without leadership, it has been so encouraging to see IVCF Regina growing again. Katepwa Lake Camp received direct support, had campers sponsored by our church, and has an office at our church subsidized by FBC. Youth for Christ receives a monthly donation through this commission. Under James Clifford's leadership, they have been deepening the many areas of ministries begun over the last few years.

The Mission Commission is looking forward to serving you in the current year by continuing to connect our local church to God's work in our city, and around the world through CBM.

Thank you to commission members Wayne Wyatt, Len Pauls, and Jim Olesen.

Acting chair and pastoral staff liaison,  
Pastor Joel Russell-MacLean

# NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, I am providing you with a list of our members who have so graciously agreed to serve for us this year. *The new members on each commission are shown in italics.* If you have any questions or would like to join any of the teams, please contact Norma Holtslander, John Nelson or Kathy Brown. Thank you.

## TREASURER

Derrick Bellows

## GOVERNANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Kevin Rich  
Reid Robinson  
Eric Zeitler

## ENVELOPE STEWARD

Tracy Sailor

## DEACONS

Annabel Robinson (chair)	(2017)
Murray Wolfe (vice-chair)	(2015)
Heather Holtslander (secretary)	(2016)
Martha Pauls(second term)	(2015)
Esther Wiens	(2017)
John Hillmer	(2015)
<i>Devin Seghers</i>	<i>(2017)</i>
Erwin Ziolkowski	(honorary)

## CE AND YOUTH

Collin Carbno (chair)  
Rosemary Ward  
Bonnie Austring-Winter

## PROPERTY *John Nelson will chair until a permanent chair is found*

Glenn Larson  
Marvin Fuller  
Oscar Rivera

MISSIONS *Joel Russell-MacLean will chair until a permanent chair is found*

Wayne Wyatt

Jim Olesen

Len Pauls

*Jennifer Bisson*

*Adijah Pusi*

*Emmanuel Kazungu*

*Ripa Mahmud*

*Rob Sentis*

## WORSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

Hilary Ryan (chair, sound room coordinator, taxi ministry)

William Crook(vice-chair, main floor ushers, elevator operators)

Jean Hillmer (communion preparation, prayers and servers)

Carol Serdachny (balcony ushers and greeters)

Tracy Sailor (baptismal candidate support and gown care)

*Two positions need to be filled*

*Organize balcony communion*

*Organize main floor greeters*

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Kathy Brown (chair)

Judy Grimsrud

Irene Sotropa (time for friends)

Pat Rivera (hospitality)

Pearl Bretz (prayers chain)

## PERSONNEL

Kayely Schoeber (chair)

Reid Robinson

Norma Holtslander

## **AUDIO-VIDEO MINISTRY**

As part of the Worship Arrangements Commission, the AV Ministry provides audio and video tapes of the morning service to shut-ins, as well as making special tapes of concerts, weddings, funerals and other events taking place in the Sanctuary and elsewhere in the church. The Ministry is self-supporting, relying on funds generated from the sale of tapes, DVDs and CDs, plus occasional donations, to buy recording media, equipment and repair the devices we use.

We continue to duplicate video tapes, DVDs and audio tapes, not counting the weekly tapes that go out to the shut-ins. Some of these are given out as gifts to friends and family members of our pastoral staff and members of the congregation. We give gifts of complimentary video tapes to Baptismal candidates, families of those who have funerals in the church, MYM clinicians, inducted and ordained pastors, and occasionally to other churches or pastoral candidates to demonstrate our Worship Service.

We use our DVD recorder to record and archive our services on DVDs. Three concerts were made available for purchase this year. 1 person regularly receives service DVDs.

We record our weekly services onto a computer so that the sermon can be put on the First Baptist Church website. Thanks to Merv Hepting and Kevin Rich for this service.

The weekly audio-video ministry allows many people to remain part of our church family through the weekly tapes. Marjorie Keehr and Susan Quinn, continue to worship via audio tape. The other people who regularly worship with us via video tape includes Javonne Miller and Donalyn Price, and Katie Medgett, who worships with us via monthly DVD deliveries.

The AV Ministry is very grateful to the faithful Sound Room volunteers who run the video camera and recording devices during the morning services and concerts. Thank-you to Kevin Rich, Murray Wolfe, Marvin Fuller, Steven Carbno, Matt Field, Patrick Palmer and Gibril Butoy; Hilary Ryan works

many Sundays in the summer. If anyone is interested in trying out working in the sound room on a Sunday morning, please let Hilary Ryan or John Nelson know, or just come up to the balcony and ask the tech to let you sit in.

We provide on the job training! No tech is asked to run the system "solo" until he/she feels totally comfortable doing the job. Even if you find the sound system daunting, perhaps you could help with the camera work, thereby letting an experienced tech concentrate on the sound. Anyone interested in participating in this ministry, working in the Sound Room or receiving recordings on a regular basis can call the church office and leave a message for Hilary Ryan.

We continually praise God for the volunteers who visit the shut-ins and deliver their tapes to them every week. This service couldn't run without the caring people who help out. Thank-you all!

Respectfully submitted,  
Hilary Ryan

## **GOVERNANCE ADVISORY COMMISSION**

The Governance Advisory Committee advises the Board and the Church on matters relating to good governance, liability and risk, legal matters, insurance, compliance, and other matters that may be assigned through direction of the Church. This has also included clarifying Terms of Reference for commissions and committees, and developing policies and procedures in various areas. This past year we have dealt with questions regarding insurance, policies on document retention, ministry partnerships, and governance changes.

The Terms of Reference, Roles of Church Officers, and Policies and Procedures are maintained in the Church Office. These are available for reference by members of the Church.

Members of the committee for 2013 included Eric Zeitler, Reid Robinson and Kevin Rich. We would like to express our appreciation to the Diaconate, church staff, and pastors for their continued support and assistance.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Kevin Rich, chair



# **DULF COMMITTEE**

## **Background**

DoubleUp is built on two pillars - MIGS and G100. The main goal of **MIGs** was to develop within FBC a heart for outreach, missions and healing; and to facilitate related projects. The goal of **G100** was to work towards eliminating the bond debt. These initiatives were not meant to be ends in themselves, but rather to “prime-the-pump” for further continuing action.

**DoubleUp’s goal** is to accomplish these two goals into the future, and only these two goals. For instance, DoubleUp is not a fund-raising vehicle for FBC. The DoubleUp development team replicated the initial goals, and improved on their processes. In addition, where the two previous ground-breaking programs came to an end, DoubleUp was put on a long-term, sustainable footing.

The finished package was enthusiastically and unanimously endorsed - as it was presented - by the FBC pastors, the FBC diaconate/trustees, the FBC church body, the CBWC (Canadian Baptists of Western Canada), and other Christian and financial planning leaders. Our senior pastor exclaimed that this was the most exciting initiative he had ever seen.

## **Launch**

The official FBC launch was held on June 9, 2013. The launch included a bring-your-own brown bag lunch, presentation of the program, stories illustrating the accomplishments of MIGS projects, and a visit from the fire department to help us extinguish the candles from our celebration cake. 100+ people were in attendance.

Donations at the launch were \$1,169.50. Subsequent donations brought our total to date to \$7,134.00

## **Going Forward**

There are ongoing discussions on how the programme will be delivered in the future. The management and mechanisms of DULF are being reviewed.

We thank this church and its leadership for the opportunity to be of service.

Respectfully submitted,

Merv Hepting, Director

Jim Olesen, Manager

Laureen Snook, Member at Large

Annabel Robinson, Member at Large (Diaconate)

TBD, Secretary Treasurer