

First Baptist Church

www.firstbaptistregina.ca

June, July & August 2019



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This June, eight people will represent First Baptist in Lebanon and return with experience. Some highlights of their visit (all connected to our partnership and fundraising):

- 2019 Arab Baptist Seminary graduation, as graduates head to churches across the Middle East and North Africa.
- A leadership conference, including Muslim-Christian dialogue.
- Refugee support at a church in Zahle (their Pastor visited FBC in 2014). This has been our focus several times since 2012.
- Meeting our partners Emad and Almess Botros and other leaders in person.

Our connection to these churches through the Holy Spirit is a life-giving gift to us. Let us continue in prayer and generous support.
Love, pastor Joel

Achievers

Achievers' Luncheon

An enthusiastic group for those "young at heart," 55+ years and older who enjoy hearing the life stories of interesting guest speakers: the twists & turns of their life journeys. We share fabulous fellowship, fantastic food, a devotional thought, and laughter for everyone to experience.

The luncheons for 2018-2019 have come to a conclusion with fabulous meals that were served by Dean Gilchrist. In total, 260-280 Achievers have enjoyed wonderful meals and stimulating guest speakers during the 8 luncheons. Plans for the 2019-2020 Achievers' Luncheons have begun, with one or two changes necessitated by recent discussions regarding kitchen use. Tentatively, luncheons will be held during the months of Sept-Nov and Feb-April. (There is a discussion concerning two other luncheon options). Stay tuned for more exciting news the weeks and months ahead.

Thank you to our cook, Dean Gilchrist, executive, guest speakers, and the ACHIEVERS for your support and encouragement.

For more information check out www.achieversregina.ca



Achievers' Bible Study

There will be no Achiever Bible Studies between May 29 and September.

Music@First

Thank you to our many gifted musicians, instrumentalists/vocal soloists who have shared their time and talent this year. The Sanctuary Choir, with its 120+ year music legacy, continues to nurture the congregation of FBC Sunday after Sunday. It is the longest serving small group ministry of FBC. The last Thursday rehearsal for 2018-2019 was May 23, to be followed by a wind-up potluck supper on May 30 at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Ken and Joan Thompson. However, the choir will continue to provide Gifts of Music on Sunday mornings up to and including June 16, after which they will enjoy a much-deserved summer break.

JuBELLation Ringers and Exaltation Singers enhance our worship experience throughout the year with both unique and exceptional gifts of music. Rehearsals for both of these small group ministries stopped following the Easter Alleluia Concert, but will come alive once again in the fall.

A Notable Song: "Easter Song"

In Van Nuys, California, a part of the Greater Los Angeles area, the Foursquare Church on the Way was yet another centre of worship and spawning ground for young Christian talent. Pat Boone and his family, Jimmy Owens and his family, and the Wards - Matthew and Nellie with their sister Annie and her husband Buck Herring - all worshipped at the Church on the Way at various times throughout the years of the Jesus Movement.

Out of these families alone came several albums of contemporary Christian music, including several musicals.

The 2nd Chapter of Acts (Annie, Nellie and Matthew) did back up vocals for many of these recordings before doing their first album with Footnotes in 1974. Included on the 2nd Chapter of Acts' album was a short two-minute twenty-second song entitled "Easter

Song." Written by Annie Herring, the song almost immediately caught on as the "Hallelujah Chorus" of the Jesus movement generation. Within two weeks the song was learned by thousands of people, and by the time the 2nd Chapter of Acts passed through a town on tour, nearly half the audience sang along. The jubilation of "Easter Song" pierced through the hardest hearts, and people rose to their feet whenever it was performed on stage. (*Contemporary Christian Music*, by Paul Baker)

In conclusion, I want to express heartfelt appreciation to our outstanding keyboardists, Christa Walsh (11 years) and Mark Anderson (28 years), for both their music ministry and music leadership. Above all, I thank you for the support, encouragement and commitment that you both share so generously, with such grace, and oh yes, with such a refreshing sense of humor.

"Music softens the heart, makes you feel something if it is good,
brings in emotion that you might not have felt before."
Burt Bacharach

Prayer Breakfast

Prayer Breakfast takes place Wednesday mornings from 8 a.m. to about 9:15 a.m. We meet in the library for a simple breakfast, a short devotion, and discussion; then we collect items for prayer. People are welcome to come by entering the Lorne St. door and coming down to the library. You may pray silently or out loud, as you are comfortable. There's space for you!

TNT

Tuesday night together supper time is on summer vacation. TNT studies will continue and will begin at 6:15.

Prayer Times

Morning Prayer 7:15 am, Monday to Thursday
Wednesday, 12:15 noon

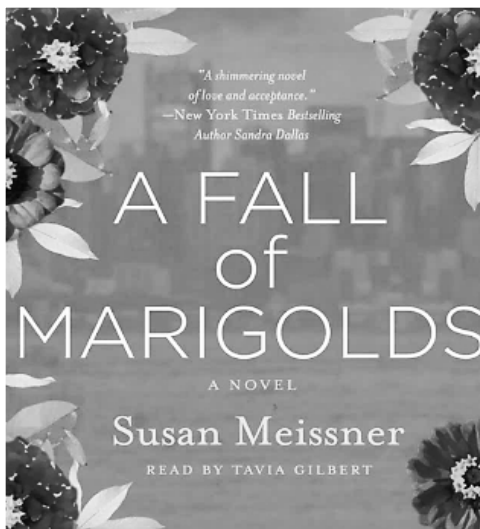
Everyone is welcome. Each prayer time will include Psalms, scripture reading, prayer for our world, our church, and the people in our lives. “Where two or three are gathered,” Jesus said - so we would love company!

VOICE!

Voice! is a group for women who love to read. We meet every other Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at Martha Pauls' house.

We will finish off the sessions on the “Lord’s Prayer” on May 29th and June 12th. The session on May 29th will deal with the topic of God as Deliverer: “Deliver us from Evil,” and we’ll finish up with God as Creator: “And the Power and the Glory.”

Keep tuned for the studies in the fall. A committee has organized a number of books for us to choose from, and we hope to announce the titles in time for all to buy a copy of a book and be ready for the fall sessions.



We will also meet together to discuss *A Fall of Marigolds* by Susan Meissner on Sunday, July 28th after church over brunch at the Double Tree Hotel (1975 Broad Street).

If you have questions, please call Eleanor at 306-533-5811.

Tai Chi for Baptists

Tai Chi for Baptists is held on Saturdays in the lower hall (enter by the elevator door). We will meet June 1, 8, and 15 at 9:00 a.m. for an hour of exercise and half an hour of devotions and prayers. All are welcome to join us for this gentle martial art and fellowship. We will take the summer off and meet again in September.

Financial Report

The 2019 year-to-date financials indicate that offerings to the end of April were 5% **above** giving for the same period in 2018. However, total operating expenses to the end of April were 7% below our balanced budget of \$136.2K, so we are still in a deficit position for the first four months of the year.

Our budget for 2019 was increased with the congregation's approval to hire new staff. Now that our new pastors have joined the staff, please consider this when you budget your monthly giving and tithes.

Approved Operating Budget for 2019:	\$ 408,700
Approved Operating Budget to end of April 2019: (prorated monthly)	\$136,233
Operating Revenue to end of April 2019:	\$ 118,448
Operating Expenses to end of April 2019:	\$ 126,345
Restricted Reserve Balance:	\$ 170,929
CBWC Loan Balance:	\$ 262,282

Reminders...

There are several ways to provide your regular tithes and donations to the church:

1. Place your gifts in an offering basket during any worship service or mail them to the Church Office.
2. Establish a **Pre-authorized Remittance (PAR) Plan**. This will automatically transfer funds from your account into the FBC Regina account on a regular basis. Please email the church or contact the Treasurer if you would like to set up PAR, or change your commitment.
3. Make an online donation:
 - Use **Interac e-Transfer** to donate from your phone or computer to FBCRegina@gmail.com (*no fee or cost to the church*).
 - Use a credit card or PayPal via the **PayPal Giving Fund** (*no fee or cost to the church*).
 - Use a credit card or PayPal via **CanadaHelps** (*a fee of 3.5% is deducted from the donation*).

PLEASE refer to more specific information on these contribution methods available on the church website. You may email the church or contact the treasurer for further details.

ChurchTrac

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

<http://firstbaptistregina.ca/get-connected/churchtrac/>

If you have not provided an email or are having problems accessing the system, please send a note to the Church Office (main_fbcregina@sasktel.net).

ChurchTrac also houses the church directory. If you didn't have a photo taken earlier this year, you may submit a family photo to the Church Office for inclusion in the directory.

PLEASE refer to more specific information on these contribution methods that is available on the church website. Email the church at main_fbcregina@sasktel.net or talk to Kevin Rich for further details.

Katepwa Lake Camp -- June Update

Camp ministry reminds me of a theatre production with a complex interplay of factors as the production date nears, with folks frantically trying to pull the pieces together to bring about the performance. Despite our best attempts to attract student leaders in their early twenties by increasing the salary offered, our summer staff remains without the age depth we desire. Furthermore, time is flying by, and many repairs need to be made for summer camp to run successfully. Our workday volunteer turnout in May was much smaller than usual, which means that the amount of work needing to be done between now and camp opening is large. Pray for skilled volunteers and for a property manager.

We continue to look for volunteer cooks or for an individual cook for hire. A combination of the two would also work. More board members are badly needed, and an appeal to our churches has not brought needed result. Our present number of board members is at the absolute minimum required. If a member is missing, we cannot make the quorum. If you know of someone (Maybe even, you!) that could become a strong KLC board member, please let us know their

name! We are looking for people with strengths in finance (treasurer), or property management, or construction, or project management, or human resources, or advertising, or marketing, or fund raising.

The cool and late spring has resulted in slow registration numbers for summer camp; we are hoping that registration will pick up in June. Please remind your friends and relatives of KLC summer camp opportunities and have them register.

We also have a growing list of campers applying for financial assistance, so donations to “Camp Matters” are strongly welcomed.

Please pray for strength for Tim Keizer as he carries a heavy load trying to prepare the camp for upcoming summer ministry.

On a different front: conditions at the camp remain very dry, and the fire risk is substantial. Please pray for some drenching rain to pass through in our peak rain month of June to lower the fire risk at camp.

For more information go to katepwalakecamp.com

Fall Retreat: October 18th- 20th

Mark your calendars for our 2019 FBC Fall Retreat at Katepwa Lake Camp. This is a church-wide retreat for all ages. The weekend will include sessions for teaching, reflection, and worship; also there will be free time and opportunity for deepening our friendships, finding some rest and renewal. The focus of the weekend will be *On Meeting Jesus* with three areas of emphasis: “Meeting Jesus in His Word: Spiritual Reading,” “Meeting Jesus in His Body: Spiritual Friendships,” and “Meeting Jesus in His World: Spiritual Living.” Pastor Richard will be facilitating the sessions and will be providing oversight to the Fall Retreat. Anyone interested in either attending or helping to plan this weekend, please speak with Pastor Joel or Pastor Richard.

Diaconate Report

The Diaconate May 11th meeting was a full Saturday morning affair at the church. With no particularly pressing issues, it was a chance for the Diaconate to sit back and think big picture. We spent some time listening to each other, learning about our current personal struggles, and listening to where each of us thought our Church should be putting our focus. We had laid out several goals for the year at previous board meetings, but now wondered if there were particular areas we should focus on to move the church forward. We asked ourselves what guidance we could give to the leadership session coming up June 8th, and how could we encourage and inspire our new staff. Our discussions covered items such as relationship building, marketing, discipleship, leveraging new staff, and striking the right balance among our various initiatives.

Recently, I was looking at our attendance records, and it appears our church is still on a downward trend on a year-to-year comparison. However, there is some good news: the winter term despite the cold weather was stronger than last year, and we appear to be attracting more visitors. Moreover, some of the visitors are staying with us, so there are some signs that the gap between our rate of new growth and our attrition rate is narrowing. If we can sustain this momentum through the summer and into the fall, we could even return to growth. In the past, we have had blips of growth lasting up to two years before shrinking, so until we sustain growth for more than two years, we cannot really say we have turned the corner as a church.

I am asking members to invite neighbours and friends to our church, and to continue to pray for FBC.

Learning for Life:

April 28th - June 21st

“God, It’s Me Again”: A Workshop Series on Prayer and the Psalms led by Reade Holtslander, Dell Bornowsky, and others.

Workshop sessions will include learning about the practice of family Psalm reading and discovering patterns of prayer in the Psalms and other scripture. There will be opportunities for participants to share personal prayer experiences, (both good and the problematic), to ask questions about prayer, and to talk about encountering the Lord in the Psalms. Discussion will also include new attitudes and aspects of prayer, and ways of using the scriptures to inform and enrich prayer practices.

Learning for Life: Fall 2019

We are excited about Learning for Life this Fall. Dr. Kevin Friebe (former professor at CBC/Ambrose) will be leading one of our classes, and we are looking to add additional classes as well. Watch for more details to come!

Church Library Corner - Say "Yes" to God.

Many folks have read the works of Rick Warren, such as *The Purpose Driven Life*. His wife, Kay Warren, is also a powerful writer, and FBC library has picked up a copy of *Say Yes to God*. Amongst the book's stories is Kay's story of her involvement with the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa and the resulting large number of orphans. She tells how God called her to that ministry through her reading:

*[T]welve million children orphaned due to AIDS in Africa”
jumped off the page into my mind. 'No,' I said out loud, 'there

is no way there could be twelve million children orphaned in one place due to one illness at one time.'

It is Kay's conviction that God has a list of things he wants each of us to be involved in and he is prodding us to say "YES" to him.

Her thesis is that this is a suffering world, and God is calling us to *help others bear their suffering. She says it will surely ruin us, change us, mold us, as we follow God's call into new territories that are challenging.

What is God prodding you to do? Will you say "YES" to Him today?

Bible Cartoon by Collin Carbno

Hi Folks, I'm a little laid up here. I highly recommend from experience that when you are up working on the roof that you take safety precautions: secure the ladder, and tether yourself. While we are taking precautions with physical dangers, are we taking precautions on the spiritual front? Stay tethered to God. "The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe."

Pr 29:25



What's Up With Missions?

Thank you to all who attended our Lebanon Lunch on Sunday, May 26, and to those who prepared and served the delicious food! We had an informative video chat with Emad Botros, our partner-in-mission in Lebanon (Almess, and sons Timothy and Nathaniel were

not with him at the time). Emad requested prayer for his family, his health and heavy workload in June, his PhD dissertation, the Middle East Consultation, refugees going home to Syria, and for the ABTS grads going home to unstable countries like Sudan.

\$3,902.21 was received at the lunch for our Lebanon Partnership to support the Botros family, help Syrian refugee children go to camp, and sponsor needy pastors to attend the Middle East Consultation at Arab Baptist Seminary in Beirut. If you wish to help us reach our goal of \$7500 to match our CBM Missions Budget, you can still do so anytime in June. Please make cheques out to "CBM," with a note on the memo line to "FBC Regina - Lebanon Partnership," and place in the offering. Thank you in Jesus name!

FBC Website

Please take a few minutes to check out our website at firstbaptistregina.ca.

Some interesting and updated pages:

Staff and leadership

<https://firstbaptistregina.ca/get-connected/leadership/>

Key documents

<https://firstbaptistregina.ca/think-first/fbc-doctrine/key-documents/>

Calendar of events

<https://firstbaptistregina.ca/get-connected/calendar-of-events/>

Contact page

<https://firstbaptistregina.ca/get-connected/lets-communicate/>

Victoria Avenue Improvements

Where did our sidewalks go? Don't worry, they will be back soon once the underground work is complete. During this time, we will continue to have access to all our entryways.

The City is improving Victoria Avenue, replacing sidewalks, curbs, and the road, and completing tree planting and replacements in the center median between Broad and Albert Streets. The construction has begun in front of First Baptist and will continue, block-by-block, over the summer months. If you have questions, please talk to Joel.

Children and Youth

Children from 3 to 11 are invited to go downstairs most Sundays.

Nursery (ages newborn - 3)

Volunteers are in the nursery each Sunday to welcome your children 0-3 and to help them know that this is a place where they are cared for by many in our church family. Our morning aims to include time for a song, a story, and play with others.

Godly Play (ages 3-6)

Godly Play is a method of Christian education and spiritual direction that aims 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. A volunteer leader and a shepherd guide the children through the lesson each week. This month's lessons focus on Pentecost and the disciples teaching others about Jesus.

Oasis (ages 7-11)

This month students will study the story of Jesus' ascension. Each week will involve a different activity. 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.

What can we expect for children in the summer?

Once the school year ends, we take a break from our usual children's programs so as to give our hard-working volunteers a break. On long weekends over the summer, children are invited to remain in the service with the adults. *If you would like some ideas on how to help your child(ren) learn in the service, please feel free to contact Pastor Kayely at kayely.fbcregina@sasktel.net.* On the regular summer weekends, all the children will gather together as one group for a lesson and activity.

Youth

June	
7 th	<p>Sleepover at the church night: come on out to a night of controlled chaos, games, probably very little sleep, and most definitely a walk to the Milky Way. This would be a great event to bring a friend to.</p> <p>Cost: \$2 plus for ice cream, if you want any.</p> <p>Time: Friday 6:30 - Saturday 8:30 am pickup (We will have a breakfast provided for the early risers to partake in if they want it).</p> <p>To bring: sleeping bag, pillow, change of clothes, deodorant, tooth brush, games, anything else you think you will need.</p>
14 th	<p>Hang out at Sengers for food (BBQ) and games 6:30-9:00. This will be our last formal youth event for the until fall.</p>

Grad Sunday—June 9

It's time for our annual Grad Sunday. This is an opportunity to celebrate students graduating from the nursery, godly play, oasis, high school, and post-secondary school. Students will be honoured during our Sunday morning worship service on June 9.

Annual Church Picnic at Willow Island

Sunday, June 9th

3:30 pm. to 6:30 p.m.

Join us for a great afternoon of games, music, fun, food, and prizes!



- Salad and dessert potluck
- Hamburgers, hotdogs, and beverages provided
- Bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets, plates and flatware
- Freewill offering to defray costs
- All ages welcome
- Wheelchair access available: Please contact Pastor Joel for arrangements
- Signup sheets will be in the foyer

Backyard Barbeques and Patio Parties

Backyard Barbeques



Barbecues start at 5 p.m.
Hamburgers, hot dogs, beverages and desserts are provided.
Please remember to bring a lawn chair, and a friend.

Donations to cover the costs will be gratefully received.
Please notify the office if you will be attending.
(306-359-1450, main_fbcregina@sasktel.net)

- **June 30:** John & Debby Nelson, 3454 Parkland Drive East
- **August 4:** Joel and Heather at 2835 Thornton
- **September 1:** The Deacons at the Bellows/Ward, at 3138 Hill Ave.



Patio Parties

- Patio parties are usually 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Dessert and beverages are provided.
- Please remember to bring a lawn chair and a friend.
- **July 7:** Len & Martha Pauls at 77 Motherwell Cr.
- **July 14:** Ron and Marilyn Philips—an international party at 41 Darke Cr.
- **July 21:** Kevin & Julie Rich at 5955 Hague Cr.
- **July 28:** Reid & Annabel Robinson at 91 Windfield Rd.
- **August 11:** Rob and Deirdre Sentis at 3704 Dewdney Ave.
- **August 18:** Lynette & Evan Wollbaum at 3 Burton Place
- **August 25:** First Baptist Place

Prayer Chain

My name is Bryden Yeo and I prepare the prayer email for our church. It's something that has really blessed my family and my prayer life. A lot of the time I feel a bit disconnected by life and things going on. I'm not sure how I can pray for my church family. Well, this is something that can help with that, and it could help you connect with your church family as well.

Here's how it works: If you have a prayer request for yourself or someone else, simply send the request (either specific or general, telling us you'd like us to pray for you or your loved ones) to [<mailto:main_fbcregina@sasktel.net>](mailto:main_fbcregina@sasktel.net). I'll send requests out to people from our church who would like to pray. I'll only send the requests to people who have asked to be on the prayer line. From there your prayer requests will be prayed for throughout the day as people read them and make time to pray on their own. All prayer requests will be held in confidence.

If you are interested in being on our prayer list, please speak with me or with a pastor, and I can add your name. I won't share your email addresses with anyone else, and should you choose to leave the prayer group, just send me an email.

"The Gathering", High River, AB May 23-25

Canadian Baptists of Western Canada, Annual Meeting Report

Joel Russell-MacLean and Annabel Robinson joined other CBWC members from all over western Canada for several days of speakers, workshops, discussions, worship, and business meetings.

- welcomed 4 new churches, and heard about 2 church plants
- introduced a new one-year Christian education program for students who have recently completed high school

- reports from Carey Theological College (our Seminary); CBM (our international mission agency), and CBWC-F (our western Canada foundation)

Outgoing president Kayely Rich presided over the business aspects as well as working behind the scenes. She and Annabel took part in the examination of 8 ordination candidates.

Interview of Pastor Richard Hovey by Esther Wiens

As a way of welcoming you to our church, we would like to ask you some questions that would help us know you and your family.

Let's start with you: tell us something about your background and early years.

My father was in the RCAF (Royal Canadian Air Force), so in my early years we moved quite a bit. I was actually born in Leidschendam, Holland but only lived there for the first couple of years before my family moved back to Canada. While I was growing up, we did not attend church regularly, but at the age of 10 (in Grade 5) I received a Gideon New Testament in school; this was the beginning of my faith journey. I began to read it and learned about Jesus who walked on water, fed 5000, cared for people in need, and spent time with God in prayer.

I was in need myself: the previous summer, my father passed away suddenly with a heart attack. As I continued to read the Testament, I began to pray—as Jesus would often pray. I talked to Jesus about my pain and what I was going through. In my scripture reading and prayers I felt the caring invitation of Jesus to come to him, and so I did. I gave my heart to our Lord in 1987, two years after receiving the Gideon New Testament.

One of the first things I did was tell my mom that I wanted to start going to church. I am not fully sure where this came from, as I really

had no means of understanding what it meant to go to church. My mom and I started going to Lewisville Baptist Church in Moncton, NB. It was here that I was first mentored and discipled, initially by the youth pastor, John Dunnett. He met with me one-on-one on different occasions to go over some basics of the Christian faith and eventually led me to baptism in my teen years. I continued to be nurtured and to grow in Lewisville until my early twenties.

What a beautiful story! There is much for us to learn from it.

Richard, we want you to know that we warmly welcome not only you but also your family. I know you and your wife have three daughters. Tell us about your wife and the girls.

Julie and I got married in 1996 and have three beautiful daughters. Our eldest, Maria, has just finished her second year at Crandall University in Moncton, NB. She loves literature and appreciates history, so is majoring in History and English. Our second daughter, Jennifer, is finishing grade 11 at Briercrest Christian Academy. She has a very creative spirit and a reflective presence. Andrea (taking after her mom) is the most social.

My wife has worked with children during the whole time we have been together: both in church and at work. For a number of years she ran a daycare and has been involved in leading the children's ministry in the churches we have pastored. She is currently attending Briercrest Seminary.

I think your wife and daughters may find it a challenge to leave their friends in your former church and come to worship in a place with people who are strangers to them. What could we do to help them feel comfortable and at home here?

I think the best thing would simply be to take an intentional moment to speak with them. It is an amazing thing what a simple,

even brief, conversation can accomplish - and what it can lead to.

Tell us something about your call to ministry.

I believe I sensed a call to ministry in my high school years but was hesitant to embrace it. Following high school, I went to Loyalist College to pursue studies in police science with a desire to enter some form of police work or the field of criminology. It was at Loyalist that the call to ministry was confirmed in my life - the Lord challenged my heart so that I felt the best way for me to serve the broken ones all around me was in vocational ministry. While I was disciplined at Lewisville through my teen years and into my early twenties, I think a door to a church vocation was being opened. I found I had a deep care for people and a desire to see them connect with God and grow in their faith. Then, at Loyalist, the call was confirmed through a movement of God in my heart. When I saw so many young people living without any significant greater purpose, many broken or sad, my heart was broken by their plight. Just as Jesus was moved by compassion for individuals or for crowds of people, I was moved by compassion and felt led by God's Spirit to give my life as a shepherd to those in such need.

When I read about your education for ministry, it seems a journey in itself. Please tell us about it. Why did you make the choices you did?

Yes, education has been a large part of my journey over the years. As I have mentioned, I began my post-secondary education at Loyalist College but shortly after arriving there felt the call to vocational ministry. So I withdrew from Loyalist and began studies at Atlantic Baptist College (now Crandall University). I have always had an interest in the social sciences, so I majored in Sociology at Atlantic Baptist University and earned a BA. Following this I pursued further education for ministry at Briercrest Seminary, while

pastoring: I wanted to increase my skills and abilities in pastoral ministry. At Briercrest I completed an MA in Pastoral Counseling and an MA in Theology. I was also introduced to the writing of Richard Foster (author of the Celebration of Discipline and one of the founders of Renovare). He opened me up to the field of Christian spiritual formation, which became a passion of mine and led to further studies in that field. In 2018 I graduated from George Fox University with a D. Min in Leadership and Spiritual Formation.

What brought you from Atlantic Canada to Saskatchewan?

I admit I never planned to live in Saskatchewan. Our move west began with a desire for involvement in outreach: a place where I could connect with people outside the walls of a church. Accordingly, I became director of a Youth for Christ drop-in centre. From here we were led to church ministry in a Church of God in Hudson Bay, SK. and then to an Associated Gospel Church in Moose Jaw. In a sense we feel we have now come full circle denominationally by returning to a Baptist Church.

What about our call to you to come to First Baptist was central/important to your decision to come here?

I sensed my leadership role at my previous church was in a time of transition and knew something new was on the horizon. My plan was to continue ministry in the Moose Jaw area, but not as lead pastor as I had been. During this time, I began conversation with Pastor Joel about the ministry at First Baptist - a conversation which went back and forth for some time. Through these conversations, I came to realize that ministry at First Baptist might be a good fit for me, specifically in the areas of spiritual formation and outreach/church growth. I had come to a place in my ministry where I was no longer feeling the need or desire to provide overall oversight to a church, but was rather wanting to focus on some key roles. First Baptist fit

what I was looking for.

When you think ahead to the coming year and the years to follow, what do you most wish for? How do you see your ministry unfolding here?

Let me answer this generally first, then I will seek to apply it more specifically to First Baptist. The things I desire and long for are the following: to discover and learn the riches that are mine in Christ Jesus alone, to more fully comprehend and apply His love to my heart and henceforth to my life. In this space of learning, my hope and desire at First Baptist is to initially engage with the people here both with where I am and where they are with the Lord. Then to mutually discern how it is that we can lead one another to greater depths of God's love in community. An unfolding piece of this, for me, is to discover how we can carry this out into the community - both the community surrounding the church building and the many communities represented by the parts of the city where the people of First Baptist live.

How can we as a congregation be most helpful to you?

I think a couple of simple thoughts here can go a long way in being helpful. First, see me as a part of the community as opposed to strictly pastoral staff and care for me as I endeavor to care for you. Secondly, communicate with me those things which would be helpful for me to know and understand as we journey together.

Is there anything that you would like to say that I haven't asked?

I don't believe so. I am excited about this new journey the Lord has opened up to us and look forward to seeing where and how He leads.

First Baptist Church Staff

Joel Russell-MacLean, Lead Pastor
John Nelson, Associate Pastor
Kayely Rich, Associate Pastor
Richard Hovey, Associate Pastor
Norma Holtslander, First Baptist Place Chaplain
Chris Senger, Youth

First Baptist Church Office hours: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Website: firstbaptistregina.ca

Email: main_fbcregina@sasktel.net

Phone: 306-359-1450

Summer Worship Hours begin on June 30th at 10:00

Regular worship hours resume on September 8th at 11:00.

Month at a Glance

June 5 Voice!
June 9 Grad Sunday at FBC
June 9 Annual Picnic (3:30-6:30)

Life Together

	June		July-August	
Sunday	9:30am	Learning for Life		
	11:00am	Service	10:00am	Service
Mon - Thurs	7:15am	Morning Prayers		
Tuesdays	6:15pm	TNT Bible Study		
Wednesday	8:00am	Prayer Breakfast		
	12:15pm	Noon Prayers		
Friday	7:00 pm	Youth Event		
Saturday	9:00 am	Tai Chi		