

## **Annual Report 2019**

### **First Baptist Church Regina, SK**

### **Annual General Meeting**

**March 22, 2020, 12:30**

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**First Baptist Church  
Annual General Meeting  
March 22, 2020**

**Lunch & Table Questions:**

1. What in the life of the church has helped you to grow deeper relationships?
2. What in the life of the church has helped you to grow as a disciple of Jesus?
3. Where have you found ways to serve Jesus outside the church?

1. Call to Order - Ron Phillips
2. The Church Covenant & Prayer - Pastor Joel
3. Consent Agenda: MOTION:
  1. That we approve today's meeting agenda
  2. That we approve the minutes of the November 17, 2019 congregational meeting
4. Reports from our table discussions
5. Treasurer's Report - Kevin Rich
  1. Motion: That we receive the 2019 audited church financial statements
6. Lead Pastor's Report - Pastor Joel
7. Associate Pastor's Report - Pastor Richard
8. Missions Report
9. Adjournment

## 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

**First Baptist Church**

Fall Congregational Meeting

Lower Hall, November 18 2018, 12:45 pm

## MEETING MINUTES

Lunch served

Table Questions .....25 minutes

Together, we will approve a budget for 2020. Each of us has a role and a say in the growth and direction of this church, along with a responsibility to the church. Each table had a facilitator to discuss the questions which are appended to these minutes.

1. Meeting Called to Order 12:45pm.....Collin Carbno
2. Scripture and Prayer..... Joel Russell-McLean
3. **MOTION** Consent Agenda: .....Collin Carbno
  - a) To appoint Reid Robinson as parliamentarian for this meeting.
  - b) To approve today's meeting agenda
  - c) To approve to approve the minutes of the 2019 AGM

Kevin Rich noted the incorrect year for the AGM minutes noted in the consent agenda item.  
Corrected.  
Moved as amended: Tiffany Lai; Seconded: Ray Schultz. Carried.
4. **MOTION** to approve WSO Accounting as our auditor .....Kevin Rich  
Moved: Kevin Rich; Seconded: Owen Winters. Carried
5. Budget
  - a) Lead Pastor Report Joel Russell-MacLean
  - b) Financial Report Kevin Rich

**MOTION:** to approve the 2019 budget  
Moved: Kevin Rich; Seconded: Klaus Link. Carried
6. Nominations to the Board .....Collin Carbno
  - a) **MOTION** to approve Board nominees: NONE this year.
  - b) Continuing Board members: Chair: Ron Phillips, Treasurer: Kevin Rich, Secretary: Laureen Snook, Adijah Pusi, Barry Lyons, Collin Carbno, Esther Gurnsey, Brenda Ziolkowski, Tiffany Lai, Eleanor Russell, Rosemary Ward.
7. CBWC Sunday .....Collin Carbno
  - a) CBWC video highlighting recent and upcoming work was viewed by the attendees.
8. **MOTION** to adjourn the Fall Congregational Meeting at 1:40pm .....Collin Carbno  
Moved: Ray Schultz; Carried.

## Report of the Chair of the Diaconate

The diaconate, a group of deacons chosen and elected by the congregation, is given authority over all aspects of the business of the Church and works in cooperation with pastors over all aspects of the ministry of the Church. The diaconate meets monthly with one or more of the pastors and at least twice yearly with the greater leadership of the congregation.

### 2019 highlights

- The year saw the addition of Richard Hovey and Kayely Rich to our pastoral staff. In my opinion both have been a terrific blessing to our church and they are everything we hoped for and more!
- The trip to Lebanon proved to be a powerful faith builder to many in our church as participants shared the insights they gained from the trip. God is truly at work in the world.
- Our goal of stabilizing church attendance was accomplished, and maybe, just maybe we are seeing very slight growth.
- The Organ scholarships have been launched, and we hope to attract more interest.
- The congregation dug deep into their pockets and strongly supported the church. We had started the year on a larger than normal budget fearing we would be running a \$20K deficit or more and ended up with a \$20K surplus. The diaconate has taken this a sign of confidence from the congregation that we are on the right track. We feel truly blessed to be entering 2020 in again improved financial position.
- The church strongly supported Katepwa Lake Camp (KLC) both financially and with people during a crisis year for them.
- Slowly a vision of where FBC could go in terms of a specific vision and mission for us is emerging. There is still much work to be done here, but bit by bit consensus is forming both within the diaconate and the congregation.

This second year of my diaconate chair has been a busy one for me. Besides 15 trips to Brandon to clear out my mother's house, in June the KLC director and KLC parted ways, turning the KLC board into a working board. The board of KLC, with 6 days to camp, found themselves with camp facilities in disarray, and no hired staff for summer camp. In what I can only describe as a miracle, things came together and we managed to run summer camp. I had taken on the role of treasurer in May, and it was a steep learning curve for me trying to come up to speed on our various financial components of running KLC. The impact of this turmoil on FBC was that a number of initiatives at FBC were not pursued by me, and these initiatives unfortunately sat on the shelf. I welcome Ron Phillips to the position of chair of the diaconate, and see that he is already making substantial progress on a number of fronts.

Respectfully submitted, Collin Carbno ( Past Chair)

## **Treasurer's Report - 2019**

First Baptist Church is active in a great many ministries and has finances that are more complicated than many other churches. In addition to financing the normal day-to-day activities necessary for our church life (operating expenses), we have a number of restricted reserves that are dedicated to specific purposes.

We had a very good year financially in 2019, mostly due again to some large donations at the end of the year. As our financial statements show, our overall revenue exceeded our expenses in 2019, which provides us with an excellent beginning to 2020. We have a loan with the CBWC of just over \$250,000 to which we make monthly payments against both principle and interest to that loan. With the current amortization, we would expect this loan to be paid off in 2031.

Detailed financial information follows in the audited statements, but highlights are presented below.

### **Operations**

Church leadership manages the operating expenses of the various commissions and ministries. Personnel accounted for about 60% of the operating budget in 2019. Property, Administration and Missions also have significant budgets. The church staff and leadership have been carefully monitoring expenses, which resulted in less spending than was budgeted.

### **Restricted Reserves**

Separate Restricted Reserve fund accounts were established in 2017 for special long-term financial items. Expenses and revenue related to these funds were managed separately from the operating budget.

The Benevolent Fund is for special financial aid to individuals and families. It is administered by the pastoral staff with accountability to the Diaconate. This is part of our approved budget and donations are requested when the fund is low. During 2019, this fund provided about \$2,400 in support. The fund had about \$2,200 at year-end.

The Building Fund is for larger capital expenses related to building repair. During 2019 we had several projects that the fund supported, including the furnace replacement at the Youth Centre, and repairing and painting the lower hall. The fund had just over \$19,000 at year-end.

The Organ Fund is for expenses related to the maintenance and use of the pipe organ. This fund has had significant donations through estate bequests over the years, including another significant amount in 2019. The fund had a total of about \$257,000 at year-end. This includes an investment of \$90,000 in GICs and \$30,000 in CBWC's Mission Impact Fund (MIF). The CBWC has discontinued the MIF and returned our funds at the end of the year.

The Legacy Fund was created a number of years ago to hold funds to support special outreach projects from our church that were not part of the annual budget. The main source of money to this fund is intended to be from estates and special gifts. The fund had about \$17,000 at year-end.

**General**

About 12% of our revenue is from property use, not donations. The largest is the facility agreement with Regina Youth for Christ who pay market value rent of the Youth Center. We do return about 38% of that rent as part of our missions support to their ministry. We also received payments from the Christ's Commission Fellowship for the use of the sanctuary for their services.

Through 2019, Shelly Pippin CPA Prof. Corp. continued to provide bookkeeping services. We are very appreciative of the work and assistance that Shelly and her staff are providing. The Finance Committee continued with the same membership of Derrick Bellows, Marv Fuller, Gloria Toews and Murray Wolfe who worked hard to ensure that our financials were properly managed through the year. I thank them for their commitment and hard work. I also thank the Diaconate, Commissions and staff for their diligence in managing the financial resources entrusted to them. This was my second year as Treasurer, and I thank you, the family of First Baptist, who continue to provide the finances for the work of our church.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Rich

## Church Clerk Report

First Baptist Church is the people who call it home. Knowing each other, building each other up, weeping for each other, working together to further the kingdom – these are the actions that make a church a living thing. Statistics and data are useful to support and record this activity. So the record of membership gives us an annual snapshot of who we are!

Total membership- 199

Members: # active = 131, #inactive= 68,

Number of active members and adherents (including children) = 299

New members admitted by baptism: Adoniram Holtslander, Ray Shultz, Dustin Johnston.

New members admitted by transfer of membership or other: Anne Martin.

Members lost through death: George Baxter, Floyd Berkan, Erwin Ziolkowski.

Members lost through transfer of membership or other: Bill Silver.

You will note that around 1/3 of our congregation has not taken membership in First Baptist Regina. If anyone would like to make this commitment, please contact one of our pastors at any time.

Thanks to Lynette Wollbaum for her diligent work in photographing people for our directory! Printed directories are available by request but we encourage people to go online to get the most up to date contact information! With the use of the Churchtrac online membership database, we can all now update our own contact information (including uploading a new photo!) and check to make sure that we have the proper phone number for our friends!

Respectfully submitted

Rosemary Ward, church clerk



## Report of the Lead Pastor

Throughout 2019, life at First Baptist Regina continued to be full of meaning and joy. It is a scriptural truth that each person in this congregation plays a role in our life and growth. Here are some of the signs I see that we are moving in a good direction:

- Our youth and children engaging in the life of our church: helping to lead services, and taking part in their own programs
- Easter Baptisms
- The prayer, bible study, and care for others taking place, and all the volunteers we have
- The joy in our worship services
- The generosity: giving is a major part of our budget and extra budgetary giving: Katepwa Lake Camp, YFC, IVCF, CBM, CBWC,
- The hands on involvement and ministry to others: Katepwa camp, Lebanon SENT, Open Door, Christmas Glory and Easter Alleluia, Indigenous ministry conference
- The beautiful indigenous Art series, “The Creator’s Sacrifice”, which enhanced Lent and Easter worship
- Norma’s ordination in May
- Welcoming new people into the life of the congregation, new friendships, and time spent together during the week as well as Sunday morning
- Finances and attendance are positive

Among the funerals we held last year, one was for Rev George Baxter, our Pastor Emeritus. George played a major role in the life of this congregation and in lives of many people.

One of the main goals last year was to call new staff. The goal was then, for their first year, to work from their strengths in a few areas but to focus on building relationships and to get to know the church as staff. I am grateful to Richard and Kayely for their work and friendship. They both bring good gifts to this church family.

Thanks to Collin, our outgoing Board Chair, to Rob Stafford our Property Manager, to Kevin Rich our Treasurer, and to all our many other volunteers in all areas. Working and praying together has been good and often fun.

Thanks to all the staff: to John who continues to encourage, advise, and work hard. Our prayers remain with his grandson Daniel and parents Rob and Nicole, and with his daughter Becky Findlay who lost much of her sight during surgery last spring. Thanks to Pastors Kayely Rich, Richard Hovey, Norma Holtlander, and Chris Senger for sharing in the work and prayer, to Mark Anderson and Christa Walsh for the great music, and to Gibril Butoy for a building that is ready and welcoming for ministry. Congratulations to Pastor Kayely and Gerald on the birth of their son Isaac and to Pastor Chris and Christie on the birth of their son Noah.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Joel Russell-MacLean, Lead Pastor

## Music Ministry

One of my favourite quotes pertaining to music comes from the pen of the world renowned American choral conductor, Robert Shaw. Dr. Shaw's quote seems to be even more significant in light of today's many challenges. "In a world of political, economic, and personal disintegration, music is not a luxury but a necessity, not simply because it is therapeutic, nor because it is the 'universal language', but because it is the persistent focus of humankind's intelligence, aspiration, and good will."

First Baptist Church's music ministry has been a valued ministry for over 120 years, "creating moments of transformation, wonder, and maybe even awe." One recent FBC music ministry highlight for 2019, Christmas Glory, reflected such awe-inspiring moments.

Here is a paraphrase of one man's response to CG: "Tonight's presentation has changed me and now I must reflect on both my negative outlook on the Christmas Story and my belief system as well."

Others in attendance commented that they were moved to tears by the overall presentation of music and the message. Transformation, Wonder and Awe were in action in the hands of our Master Creator and Designer.

Entrusted with the responsibility to nurture a valued music ministry programme over the past 34 years continues to be both a growing challenge, but also an unspeakable joy. Our church family is indeed blessed with an array of "gifted" individuals who share their talents generously. These gifts of music have touched many of us on a deeper level on many occasions, leaving many with a feeling that they have had a divine encounter.

The "gifts of music" in 2019 have enhanced our worship experiences and the building up of the body of Christ. The FBC music family is most deserving of our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for their commitment, dedication and faithfulness. Thank you Exaltation, JuBELLation, and so many others who share their music gifts!

THE SANCTUARY CHOIR's ministry deserves special mention for their inspiring ministry even in the midst of continuing cultural change and challenge. This longest serving FBC "small group" (115+ years) is an integral element of our worship experience. As such, each choir member understands that they are not entertainers but worshippers. Each singer understands that their music is an offering....a powerful ministry- of praise to God and of outreach to the world. Thank you for your immense sacrifice of 40+ weeks of the year to assist in enhancing our worship times together.

#### A SPECIAL NOTE OF APPRECIATION

The music ministry programme and our worship experience are enhanced by the contribution and leadership of two very gifted individuals, Christa Walsh and Mark Anderson. Both Christa and Mark have very demanding lives outside of FBC, yet each of them continue to create memorable moments of creative transformation, wonder, and awe through their inspired worship leadership. Thank you Christa (piano- 12 years) and Mark (organ- 29 years) for your commitment, dedication, and exceptional ministry. On a personal note, it is truly a treasured privilege to work in team ministry with such gracious and generous colleagues and friends!

#### MEMORABLE MOMENTS FOR 2019

Easter Alleluia/Christmas Glory/Organ Scholarship Programme

Youth Music Awards & Lifetime Honorary Choir Members

Organ project....Welcoming Kayely Rich and Richard Hovey to our pastoral ministry team....Joel's leadership and support

My additional pastoral responsibilities included Achievers' Luncheon Ministry, worship planning, preaching, administrative duties, visitation, planning for the Joint Good Friday Service, along with various community responsibilities (University of Regina guest church music lecturer, Vivace Choral Ensemble, Sask. Choral Federation, attending the North Dakota Pepper Music Conference).

Music ministry is more than an art. It is a matter of the heart. Being involved in music ministry for 55+ years has been notable, for music MINISTRY in its true essence, creates relationships on our faith journeys. "We cannot always choose the music life's journey plays for us, but we can choose how we dance to it." Unknown author

May God bless us richly as we eagerly anticipate what he has in store for FBC in 2020!

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. John Nelson, Jr., Associate Pastor

## Learning for Life

In Learning for Life we have had a variety of sessions with different people taking part over this past year. In September we started with a session on Prayer and the Psalms entitled “God, it’s me again.” This series included learning about the practice of family Psalm reading, with aspects of Lectio Divina. Patterns of prayer were also looked at within the Psalms. This series was led primarily by Reade and Jennifer Holtlander and Dell Bornowsky.

Next we had a study of the book of Ezekiel led by Dr. Kelvin Friebe. This class began with information on how to read Old Testament prophecy followed by an introduction to the book of Ezekiel. The remainder of the classes were broke down by different key chapters in Ezekiel, including: Ezekiel’s call to be a prophet, Ezekiel’s weird behaviour, Israel the unfaithful wife, God and the foreign nations, and God restoring his presence. A second class, taught by Ron Phillips, was running at the same time as the class on Ezekiel. Ron’s class was broken into two segments: “Stories about Jesus” and “Stories Jesus Told.” The first segment looked at stories from Jesus’ life, taken primarily from the Gospels, with the hope of getting to know Jesus better. The second segment looked at stories Jesus told (parables) which taught about the Kingdom of God.

In January we began to work through the book of Job, led by Richard Hovey, asking questions such as: What do we do with pain, grief, and anger caused by life circumstances? How do we maintain a living faith in midst of our suffering and the silence of God? The story of Job, and the character Job specifically, had been our example in answering these questions. This study will be finishing at the end of March and will be followed by a study on the book of Romans, taught by Annabel Robinson. Interestingly, Romans is going to be studied backwards, starting with the long list of names in chapter 16 and the social and spiritual problems of chapters 14 and 15. The rest of the book will be read in light of what is discovered in these closing chapters.

As we finish up our study on Job and enter into Romans, we will be planning for Fall sessions for Learning for Life. If you have any particular topic or book of the Bible you feel would be good for us to work through together in community, please let us know. The Learning for Life Committee consists of Ron Phillips, Annabel Robinson, and Esther Wiens.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Dr Richard Hovey  
Associate Pastor

## **Achievers' Luncheon**

Achievers' Luncheon ministry is one of the most exciting and enthusiastic small group ministries in our church! This group of J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth) amazes me with their commitment and their understanding of what a wonderful opportunity the ACHIEVERS' LUNCHEON is for connecting and relationship building.

The luncheons are held the fourth Thursday of Sept-Nov/Feb-Apr, with an attendance in 2019 ranging from 30-50. Challenges of aging, health, illness, death, and weather influence the attendance. The luncheons have been fortunate in having a wide variety of guest speakers come to share their "Journey of Life- Twists & Turns".

We are most grateful for the valued contribution of Dean Gilchrist, our chef extraordinaire, for his gift of service and the tantalizing meals that he creates for us month after month with a smile.

Thank you as well for those who volunteer to serve in various capacities: Susan Cowen, Judy Grimsrud, phoners, and John Hillmer.

Thank you ACHIEVERS for the privilege of serving with you.  
You continue to change my life and influence my ministry!

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. John Nelson, Jr.  
Associate Pastor

## **The Achievers' Bible Study**

We meet on alternate Wednesdays in the Board Room at 10:00 AM. We start with a short time of prayer followed by the study.

We start with reading the passage, followed by questions I prepare, and questions from the various participants. Everyone is free to participate...and they do. We have some interesting discussions. We represent two generations of seniors.

It is open to age 50+ seniors. However, I am sure if you are younger and free at that time you would be welcome.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev Norma Holtslander

## First Baptist Place Chaplaincy

The chaplain from FBP is currently a member of FBC, affirmed by the FBP executive and the FBC Diaconate. I am responsible for the Wednesday evening chapel services and for finding accompanists for the hymn sing before the message.

Because I live in the building, I am called on to visit some tenants at their requests, to pray at meals, and have a couple of requests for funeral services.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev Norma Holtslander

## Hospitality

I have had the privilege of co-ordinating those who serve communion on the main floor and the balcony each month. Those who serve are able to enter into communion in a very meaningful way.

I have also involved in scheduling those who serve us every Sunday at A Time For Friends. ATFF is an important part of our church family as it allows us to get to know one another in a very informal way while enjoying coffee & goodies. Those who are scheduled have the opportunity to work with each other in the kitchen. After a summer break it is always good to hear that "ATFF was missed so much!".

I have been able to set up six teams of 6-8 people who plan meals for larger events that require food services such as funerals, AGM mtgs, Christmas gatherings, etc. We were able to enjoy a wedding celebration in 2019 as well. These events give those involved a great sense of service to others. Our Christmas brunches have been very joyous occasions.

I have been greatly blessed to see that our "family" has been so willing to work with each other to bring us closer together. Please let me know if you would like to help out in any of these areas as there is always room for more participation and ideas.

Thank you so much...May God bless you richly,

Eleanor Russell

## Visitation

An area of ministry we wish to ensure we are doing well in is visitation. There are some who are recognized as warranting regular visits for care and encouragement, whether due to health issues, bereavement, or other life issues. While the pastoral staff recognize their role in this work, we are also blessed to have a visitation committee currently consisting of Barbara Ellemers, Eleanor Russell, Carol Hepting, and Ron Phillips. This committee has been engaged in regular visitation this past Fall and into the Winter. One ministry of visitation we undertook was the distribution of the poinsettias which decorated the church during Advent to a number of those connected with FBC who are no longer able to attend due to health. Ron Phillips also lead a wonderful seminar on visitation at the end of November 2019 which was very informative and helpful as we process what makes for a good visit.

We recognize as well that there may be those who are not sick, grieving, or facing other known significant life issues who may still benefit from a visit. Part of what I would like to see us implement in the coming months is more intentional means of connecting with one another – either through existing ministries or new initiatives. As we build deeper relationships with one another through time spent with each other we become a stronger, healthier community.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Dr Richard Hovey  
Associate Pastor

## Missions Commission Report

Commission Members: Anne Bellows, Len Pauls (resigned April 2019), Wayne Wyatt (resigned Fall 2019), Barb Ziolkowski (joined August 2019), Bryan Orthner (joined Sept. 2019), Marilyn Phillips (Chair).  
Pastoral liaison: Joel Russell-MacLean

Our mandate: To provide vision and direction for our involvement in “missions”...

- financial, relational AND practical involvement
- local AND global involvement

Highlights of 2019:

- The 2019 budget:

	2019	2018	2017
Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM)	7,500	7,500	3,000
Local Missions	5,000	5,000	5,941
Katepwa Lake Camp (KLC)	6,000	6,000	4,100
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship(IVCF)	6,000	6,000	4,150
Youth for Christ (YFC)	15,684	15,684	17,374
Total	40,684	40,184	34,575

- 2nd year of our 3-year CBM Partnership with Lebanese Society for Education & Social Development (LSESD) – specifically for:

- Botros Team Support
- Middle East Consultation Bursaries
- Syrian Refugee Support – primarily camp ministry

○ Fundraiser Luncheon, May 26- raised \$5,542 (to add to our \$7,500 CBM project budget)

○ “SENT” trip to Lebanon took place in June - 8 participants: Anne & Roger Bellows, Barb Ziolkowski, Laureen Snook, Heather Russell-MacLean, Deirdre Sentis and 2 youth: Xavier Russell-MacLean and Ben Sentis. Many positive reports shared on their return.

○ “SENT Trip Luncheon, Sept. 29 - Syrian refugee family, the Alhusains, were introduced, with members of a community group seeking administrative help to sponsor their son’s family, now in a refugee camp in Lebanon. They have committed the funds but needed a Sponsorship Agreement Holder through which to apply. Pastor Joel assisted them with their application through Canadian Baptists of Western Canada, which is a Sponsorship Agreement Holder.

At the luncheon we raised an additional \$2,219 for our CBM Lebanese Partnership. With the \$5,542 raised at the May Luncheon, we raised a total of \$7,661, again surpassing our goal of matching our \$7500 CBM budget. Total for CBM Lebanese Partnership in 2020: \$15,161.

- Helped sponsor a third Indigenous Gathering – Nov. 2-3, 2019 - at Living Hope Alliance Church

○ Pastor Joel acted on planning committee

○ 7 members/adherents from FBC participated in the conferenceCoffee meeting on Sept. 3, hosted by Anne & Roger Bellows, with Rachelle Lowe, a regional staff



member in Saskatoon who is overseeing local IVCF in the absence of a Regina staff person.

- Hosted Pot Luck Supper on Nov. 13 with speaker Nigel Pollock, National IVCF Director.

Challenges/Looking Forward in 2020:

- Further develop our CBM Lebanese partnership; discern whether to renew it next year
- Develop a Refugee Committee and Refugee Fund
- Discern future involvement in indigenous reconciliation
- Develop overall vision for local missions
- Increase awareness/ involvement in all our regular mission partnerships:  
CBM, IVCF, Katepwa Lake Camp, Youth for Christ
- Add new members to the Missions Commission

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Phillips

## **Children's ministries report**

### **Oasis/Godly Play**

These programs exist to invite our children to enter worship prayerfully, to encourage them to ask questions and to think for themselves, and to give opportunity for friendships across generations. We love hearing children say "this is my church". Thank you to all our volunteers who make it possible to minister to our young people.

This year, Kayely and Chris worked together to encourage our teens to play a larger role in lead and helping with our children. This added to our good mix of ages and of men and women in our volunteers.

### **Nursery Renovation**

Thank you to Natasha Bellows for the eye catching and helpful renovations in the nursery.

Thank you to Len Pauls for all the beautiful woodworking, to Rob Sentis, Marv Fuller, Rosemary Ward, Rob and Tiffany Lai and others who helped out. Especially to Natasha for the overall plan and her hours of work. Take a look if you have not seen it!

Respectfully submitted, Rev Joel Russell-MacLean in Rev Kayely Rich's absence.

## Youth Group

It is a real privilege to be a part of the youth program at First Baptist Church. I often have said that selfishly, I feel that I am the one who benefits the most from being with the youth, parents, leadership team, and congregation of this church. The warmth shown to our children, the regular participation in our services, and the relationships that Christie and I have built, are meaningful and tangible things that we can point to and appreciate about our involvement in this ministry.

This past year has seen us continue to grow in an understanding of what we want to create here with the youth program; a safe space where people are encouraged to grow in their faith in Christ and relationships with one another. Overall, we have continued to take positive steps forward in planning and finding ways for the youth to serve our community. Kayely has encouraged our youth to volunteer and serve in our children's ministries, such as nursery, Godly Play, and Oasis. Joel has continued to organize and facilitate services where they can take on meaningful roles. These services continue to stand out to me as moments that highlight the importance of seeing our younger people lead and minister to us, while also being pushed to take on responsibilities that are challenging to them but also allow them to use their gifting's and skills.

People have embraced what we are doing with the youth, and I believe that God is continuing to answer prayers that we have for this program. Many of the youth have invited friends to our events and bible studies, and some have begun to become regular participants. I have noticed a significant increase in the ways that both parents and members of FBC continue to support us; providing rides, suggesting events, asking how they can pray and support us, volunteering their time, writing encouragement notes, or donating money for something special - these are just a few examples that we show what we do is appreciated and supported.

Yours In Christ,

Chris Senger