

First Baptist Regina Weekly News

For the Week of September 5th, 2021

The Source of Secrecy

What motivates us to seek recognition? It seems as though there is something inside of us that longs to be noticed, to be congratulated, to be seen and heard, recognized and applauded. It is a shifting of self *under* God to self *as a* god, where our identity is secured on the accolades of others. I think of the religious leaders in the time of Christ who performed their religious duties to be seen by the people. Jesus gives this instruction: “Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven” (Matthew 6:1).



Secrecy is explained by Julia Roller and Richard Foster as: “Consciously refraining from having our good deeds and qualities generally known, which in turn, rightly disciplines our longing for recognition.” Adele Calhoun notes the desire of secrecy as being, “to follow the simple, and often hidden, way of Christ,” defining secrecy as “practicing the spirit of Christ reflected in hiddenness, anonymity, lack of display, and the holding of confidences.” She goes on to explain what the discipline of secrecy can create within our lives, including: a secret place of intimacy with Jesus, a freedom from the hunger for notoriety, the ability to bear being misunderstood without needing to rationalize, and the ability to receive recognition well (properly).

In “The Good and Beautiful Life,” James Bryan Smith has a chapter on “Learning to Live without Vainglory,” in which he unpacks a false narrative that leads us away from secrecy and into pride or vainglory. He then presents a truer narrative that will help us live “secret lives” to the glory of God.

The false narrative: “My value is determined by your assessment.” We all want (need) to be loved. When we live according to this false narrative, our need to be loved is temporarily assuaged by admiration (approval, acceptance, acknowledgement, etc.)

When living this way, Smith notes, “we are only as good as our next performance,” and we are driven to perform (to practice our piety before others), because we long for their (hopefully great) assessment. The issue with this is that it is fleeting and leads us to always be focusing on our performance.

What is the better narrative? “You are valuable to God,” writes Smith. “God loves you no matter what. Your worth is not dependent on your performance or on what others think of you. Your worth is found in the loving eyes of God.” When we adopt this narrative, we can freely transition from public performance to secret service, knowing that our loving God sees what is done in secret.

—Pastor Richard

Fall Kick-Off Celebration at Mosaic Stadium

Date: September 12th

Time: 4:00 – 6:00 pm



Mark your calendars and invite your friends to this exciting event! There will be games for all ages on the field. Please bring your water bottles. We will also have the use of the Harvard Lounge (on the ground level) for any who prefer to visit. An outdoor patio (aka, the concourse) off the lounge, provides a great spot

from which to watch the activities on the field. Beverages will be served in the lounge. Parking is available beside Confederation Park on the west side of Mosaic Stadium. Please see [our website](#) for more important details.

In order to keep costs down, we ask that you pre-register for this event. You may send an e-mail to [the church](#) or call (306) 359-1450. (If no answer, please leave a message.)

Music@First

Sanctuary Choir

Thank you to everyone who came to the Music Ministry Meeting on Sunday, August 29th. We had a great turn out. We also had a lot of positive responses to the online information form. If you missed the meeting and would still be interested in singing in the choir or participating in leading worship, please contact Melissa ASAP. You may email her at classicmel@gmail.com or call the church at (306) 359-1450.



The first choir rehearsal will be Thursday, September 16 from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm in the sanctuary. Melissa will email details directly to everyone who submitted information on the information form or who emailed her directly.

RING With JuBELLation

A refreshing and revitalizing music ministry opportunity not to be missed. Rehearsals will be held Tuesday evenings from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. The first rehearsal will be held on September 21st.

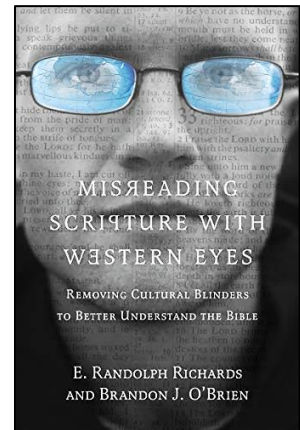
We are presently three ringers short of what we had before the summer break. Would you like to ring? Ringers must be able to read music fairly well. Anyone interested, please contact John N, send an email to [the church](#), or call (306) 359-1450.

Voice – A Women’s Book club

Fall Launch: Wednesday, September 15th

Time: 7:00 pm, via Zoom

The book chosen for study this fall is “Misreading Scriptures with Western Eyes: Removing Cultural Blinders to Better Understand the Bible,” by Brandon O’Brien and Randy Richards.



In this book, the authors challenge the way the Western church reads the Bible. What was clear to the original readers of Scripture is not always clear to us. Because of the cultural distance between the biblical world and our contemporary setting, we often bring modern Western biases to the text. For example, western individualism leads us to assume that Mary and Joseph traveled alone to Bethlehem. What went without saying was that they were likely accompanied by a large entourage of extended family.

Voice is a small group for women who like to read and enjoy lively conversation. Women interested in joining the discussion please contact Bonnie, send an email to [the church](#), or call (306) 359-1450. More information may also be found on [our website](#).

Give & Take

Items needed: Winter clothing needed for our newcomers to Canada – women's and men's (medium - large), and an 11-yr-old boy. Please contact Marilyn P, send an email to [the church](#), or call (306) 359-1450.



A man, known for his tight-fistedness, was convinced by a friend to buy two tickets in the lottery. But after he won the big prize, he didn't seem happy. "What's wrong?" the friend asked. "You just became a millionaire!"

"I know," he groaned. "But I can't imagine why I bought that second ticket!"

Sitting in a rowboat, the novice fisherman asked his companion, "Got any more of those little plastic floats?"

"Why?"

"This one keeps sinking."

Fall Programs

Morning Prayer

Join us each morning, Monday to Thursday at 7:15 am to begin your day with scripture and prayer, via Zoom. Visit our [website](#) for the link.

Children's Ministry

Beginning September 12th, there will be in-person classes for children up to Grade 6. For more information, please contact [Pastor Kayely](#).

Youth Ministry

For their activity this week, the youth will join the Fall Kick-Off Event at Mosaic Stadium on Sunday, September 12th. For more information, contact [Pastor Chris](#).

Adult Ministries

Learning for Life (L4L)

Beginning on September 12 at 9:30 am, Dr. Kelvin Friebel will begin leading a new series: "Lament Psalms: Asking God the Hard Questions." This series is about learning to approach God in prayer during difficulty. The class will look at questions such as:

- "Why should I pray in the midst of trauma?"
- "Is my suffering due to my sin?"
- "Why do the wicked prosper?"

This class will be in person, but also available through Zoom. For more information, please go to [our website](#).

Small Groups

The small groups which were running before summer ("Reading through the Old Testament" and "Gospel of John small group study") will resume by mid-September. Watch here or on our website for more details.

If you are interested in joining a small group, please contact [Pastor Richard](#).

You're never too old...

...for your first ever ride in a convertible! Eva M, who will be 99(!) in November, gets a ride to church with Derrick B and Rosemary W in July of this year. Should we be so fortunate as to make it to Eva's noteworthy age, may we be as open to new experiences as she is!

Eva recently had a minor fall, but, after getting checked out at the hospital, is home and doing well. She thanks everyone for their concern.



Volunteers Needed!

With many exciting activities starting up again, we are going to need a lot of people to help run those activities! (Funny thing about programs—they just don't seem to run themselves! 😊) What area(s) are you able to get involved in? The following are some of the areas in which volunteers are needed:

- Ushers
- Children's ministry workers
- Youth ministry workers
- Nursery workers
- Communion set-up



Please send an email to [the church](#) or call the church office at (306) 359-1450 to let us know what area(s)—either in this list or not—you are able to get involved in. When everyone does their part, then no one is overworked!

Thank you for your feedback

In the last couple of letters, we asked for your feedback on what this weekly newsletter has meant to you and how you would feel about going back to a monthly letter. We've heard from a number of you—thank you!

If you haven't weighed in on this yet, there's still time. To respond, send an email to [the church](#), or call (306) 359-1450.

Website

The [church website](#) is a valuable source of information that can help keep you connected and up to date with the various programs that are available.

One easy way to keep on top of various activities and upcoming events is to click on the calendar icon in the top right hand corner of each page on the website. Each entry on the calendar provides a link to information about that particular event, such as Learning for Life, small group studies, and prayer times.

Dial-the-Sermon – (306) 992-1912

Just a reminder to those of you who do not have access to a computer and/or the internet and are unable to attend the worship service in person, there is an easy way to listen to the previous Sunday's sermon. Simply dial (306) 992-1912 (toll-free within the Regina area) on your landline phone or cell phone. This number takes you straight to the sermon recording. If you know someone who might like to use this service, please pass this information on to them.

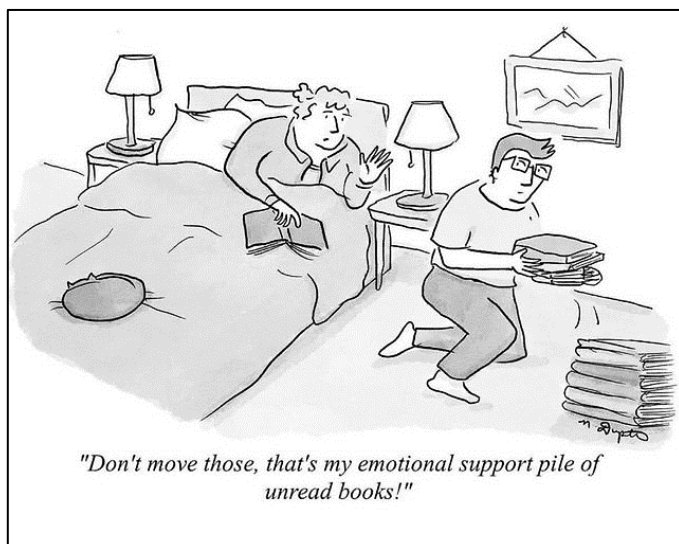


Tithes and Offerings

While many of you are coming to worship services in person now, there are also quite a number joining the service on Zoom or Facebook. Whether you are attending in person or online, there are several methods that you can use to give your tithes and donations to the church:

1. Mail your gifts to the church or call and leave a message at (306) 359-1450 to arrange for an in-person pick-up. Please place your cheque in your regular offering envelope (or any envelope marked "Offering"), and seal that inside another envelope addressed to: First Baptist Church, 2241 Victoria Ave, Regina, SK S4P 0S4.
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 with a PayPal account via the **PayPal Giving Fund** (*no fee or cost to the church... 100% of your donation reaches us and contributes to our mission*)
 - Use a credit card or PayPal via **CanadaHelps** (*a fee of 4% is deducted from the donation*)
 - Use a credit or debit card via **FBC ChurchTrac** (*the church is charged a fee of approximately 3% for each donation*)

PLEASE refer to our website at firstbaptistregina.ca for more specific information on these contribution methods. You may also contact the treasurer at (306) 775-1497 or email the church at main_fbcregina@sasktel.net for further details.



How do you make an apple turnover?
Push it downhill.

What lights up a soccer stadium?
A soccer match.

How do you tell if a vampire is sick?
By how much he is coffin.

Why did the nurse need a red pen at work?

In case she needed to draw blood.