

Annual Report 2024

First Baptist Church Regina, SK Annual General Meeting March 30, 2025, 12:00

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First Baptist Church
Annual General Meeting Agenda
March 30, 2025

1. Call to order and opening comments
 1. Reminder that only FBC members vote on Motions presented. All may participate in discussion
 2. Quorum is determined by a visual count of those participating (including video).
2. The Church Covenant and Prayer
3. Consent Agenda:
 1. Motions to approve today's agenda, the Minutes of the Fall Congregational Meeting of December 1, 2024, and a parliamentarian.
 2. MOTION: That we approve the Consent Agenda
4. Reports
 1. Report of Board Chair.
 1. MOTION: That we approve the Officers of the Board: Derrick Bellows Chair; Laureen Snook Secretary; Kevin Rich Treasurer.
 2. Clerk's report:
 1. MOTON: That we approve the active membership role and new members, as presented by the Church Clerk in the Annual Report.
 3. Treasurer's report:
 1. MOTION: That we receive the audited financial statements as presented by the Treasurer in the Annual Report.
 4. Other Reports.
 1. Organ Update
 2. MOTION: That we receive the other reports printed in the docket.
5. Staff Reports
 1. Lead Pastor Joel RM
 2. Other
6. Other Business
7. MOTION to adjourn

A covenant of Fellowship of First Baptist Church
Regina, Saskatchewan

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 Meeting Minutes
December 1st, 2024 12:44 - 1:56

1. Call to Order – 12:44pm Derrick Bellows
Opening comments on quorum and membership
2. Church Covenant and Prayer Joel Russell-MacLean
3. MOTION Consent Agenda: Derrick Bellows
to approve today's meeting agenda
to approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of April
14, 2024
to approve Carol Radford-Grant as parliamentarian.

Moved: Hilary Ryan; Seconded: Adoniram Holtslander. Carried.

4. Reports

4.1 Board Chair

- Derrick presented a verbal report with the following highlights; recognized and thanked the church staff for their dedication and commitment
- thanked the Board and volunteers for all their hard work. Recognized and thanked Adija Pusi on her retirement from the Board after six years
- noted the success of a multitude of programs and activities in the church, and the generous financial support of the congregation

MOTION: to approve the Board of Directors for 2025: Derrick Bellows (Chair); Roger Bellows (vice-Chair); Laureen Snook (Secretary), Heather Russell-McLean, Bryan Orthner, Carol Hepting, and Kevin Rich (Treasurer).

Moved: Carmen Orthner; Seconded: Annabel Robinson; Carried.

4.2 Lead Pastor

4.3 Commissions

Joel noted that one of the reasons that we are not seeking any more Board members is that we are wanting to renew the previously-called Commissions, perhaps now called Working Groups. WGs would take care of different areas (e.g. Property, Spiritual Life, Christian Education), including reporting back to the Board.

Descriptions (Terms of Reference) of the Working Groups would be helpful to engage people in contributing to the WGs. Carmen O. has offered to write those descriptions, with the help of Joel and others who have knowledge of each of these. Hilary R. has volunteered to find the Worship description.

4.3 Outreach / Difference

Joel spoke about our church's activities to provide opportunities to engage in authentic relationships and contribute to the community around us.

4.3 Staffing

It is still unknown whether Kayely Rich will come back to the staff after her maternity leave. Joel asks for prayer as she and her family decide what God has for them.

Joel thanked staff for their contributions and care of the church and for the endless hours of volunteers who help everything run well.

5. Treasurer

Kevin Rich reviewed our operating and investment account, and our debts, including how we are paying back to our Organ Fund. Kevin reviewed our giving to date relative to expenses.

Kevin reviewed our giving to date, comparing it to 2023.

Kevin reviewed the different ways that people can donate to the church, including the new tap platform: Square. This will primarily be used to make donations to cover costs of meals that we periodically have.

Question: Marilyn P. asked about the plans for the money that we do have in our accounts, since we don't often have that much. Joel: there is an understatement in the financial reporting because we budgeted for a staff member that we didn't have for the whole reporting period. Additionally, there are some larger property items that we will need to consider.

Question: Len P. asked about whether a person could donate stocks or company shares to the church. Derrick: yes. That is done through the CBWC and is a fairly easy process.

There was other discussion and questions around Legacy giving. Kevin suggested that perhaps more information could be gathered to be discussed at a specific meeting for interested people.

MOTION: to approve the 2025 budget as presented by the Treasurer.
Moved: Kevin Rich; Seconded: Bryan Orthner; Carried.

MOTION: to we approve WSO Accounting as financial auditor for 2024.
Moved: Barb Ellemers; Seconded: Marvin Fuller; Carried.

Other Reports

6. Organ update: the pipes from our and St. Matthews organ (Regina) are in Calgary with Barnsley Organ. Jason has provided the committee

with a design, which doesn't require restructuring that we thought may be required.

7. Property update: Derrick noted that there were a number of bigger projects requiring attention, indicating that the issue is not the funds but the time and personnel to manage procuring the services contractors.

8. Other Business - NONE

9. Adjournment

MOTION: to adjourn the meeting at 1:56

Moved: Carmen Orthner; Carried

Board Chair Report

2024 was a year of challenges and rewards at First Baptist.

Church leadership has been strong. Our pastoral staff has done a wonderful job of leading us and I thank Joel, Cheryl and Chris for the hard work and love they have shown us. They worked especially hard this year as Kayely Rich was on maternity leave. At the end of the year Kayley decided not to return after her leave. We understand her decision and thank her for her many years of service to the church. I also thank the Board for their diligent oversight, and tireless volunteering in many areas of our church life. I am so pleased that we can maintain continuity and commitment with these fine people; Roger Bellows, Kevin Rich, Laureen Snook, Heather Russell-MacLean, Carol Hepting and Bryan Orthner. Special thanks to Adija Pusi who has left the Board after serving for six years.

A few features of this year that have stood out for me:

- We experienced growth this year with new folks choosing to join us in worship and participate in the life of our church family.
- Financial support for the church has remained strong to keep our multitude of programs, activities and outreach going.
- Our Sunday worship has challenged us spiritually and provided support
- Our outreach has helped those in need both physically and spiritually, near and far. While we are involved in many outreach activities I especially think of the support for our Saturday lunch program, Katepwa Lake Camp and the ABTS in Lebanon. We are making a difference in our community and the world.
- We made an ambitious decision to renew our pipe organ. It was on its last legs and needed to be retired. Through the foresight of our organ committee and hard work of many volunteers we deconstructed two organs and got them to Calgary where our contractor will create one new organ for us over the next year or so.

With the organ gone we still have a strong music presence. Thanks to Louise, and our musicians and choir for stirring our souls with excellent music.

And I am so pleased with all the other folks in our church who contribute to worship, children and youth ministries, Christian education, hospitality, property maintenance and other activities that keep us vibrant.

On a sad note, we lost a number of our long time senior members this year. But that reminds us of the faithfulness of many who came before us to make First Baptist a shining beacon in Regina.

When many churches are facing challenges with attendance, finance and internal strife I am proud that we continue to model Christ in our love, patience, forgiveness, and commitment to each other. A strong family bond is critical to the ongoing success of any church.

I am blessed to be part of this family of God and to enjoy the love and fellowship of you all.

Respectfully submitted,

Derrick Bellows, Board Chair

Church Clerk Report

The simple printed list of members and adherents is useful, even though it tells only part of the story of First Baptist!

We welcome anyone who wants to be a part of our fellowship. Some have joined First Baptist by being baptised here, some were baptized in other churches and transferred their membership. Some have been deeply committed to this community for years but have not yet explored the possibility of full membership, and are listed as adherents.

We strive to keep our records up to date, but sometimes we miss someone! This year we will be again going through the official church role and contacting people to confirm that we have the correct information. Thank you for your help in this!

2024 Total Membership: 121

Members lost through death: Virginia Kennedy, Eva McMillan, Joyce Brown

Associates lost through death: Ken Thompson, Marj Larson, Frank Kelly

Members added by transfer: Carol and Dave Radford-Grant, Adzo Baku

Members added by baptism: Christine Cantor, Rowan Russell-MacLean, Sara Orthner.

Respectfully submitted, Rosemary Ward, church clerk

Treasurer's Report

First Baptist Church is active in a great many ministries, and follows the CRA standards for charities in reporting and tracking our finances. 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.

The FBC community was very conscientious in maintaining a healthy giving effort in 2024. Thanks again to extraordinary December giving, our overall revenue exceeded our yearly expenses, which provided us with a significant surplus to begin 2025.

We continue to make monthly payments against both principle and interest for the internal loan from our own Organ Fund. Due to a generous estate bequest, we reduced the loan principal considerably. The Organ Fund loan is now expected to be paid off in 2029 at our current rate.

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

Operations

Church staff and leadership manage the operating expenses of the various operations and ministries. Personnel accounted for 51% of the operating expense in 2024. Property, Administration and Missions also had significant budgets, combining to make up another 45% of the expense budget. The church staff and leadership continue to carefully monitor all expenses.

Restricted Reserves

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

The Building Fund is for larger capital expenses related to building repair. During 2024 we did not have any larger projects that were funded. This fund had \$53,177 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. In 2020, the Organ Fund provided the church with a loan of \$215,000, which we used to pay off a loan from CBWC. This allowed the church to reduce

the interest paid on debt from 5.65% to 2%. As a result, the church has no external debt. In 2024, we made an initial payment of \$20K toward the organ refurbishment project. The funds currently available for the organ project now total \$224,144 at year-end, including the loan and investments in GICs. The loan balance owed to the fund was \$54,155 at year-end.

The Benevolent Fund is for special financial aid to individuals and families. It is administered by the pastoral staff with accountability to the Board. This is part of our approved budget and donations are requested when the fund is low. During 2024, this fund provided over \$3,842 in support. This fund had \$4,578 year-end.

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 \$17,169 at year-end.

We had initiated a Refugee Fund to assist in the financial support of refugees in their first full year in Canada. We have a current balance of \$1,252 in the fund, however no assistance to refugee families has yet been provided.

General

About 12% of our revenue came 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 services, and rent for the use of the lower hall and meeting rooms from various organizations.

Through 2024, Shelly Pippin CPA Prof. Corp. continued to provide bookkeeping services. We are very appreciative of the work and assistance that Shelly and Ina are providing. The Finance Committee continued with the same membership of Tom Chen, Marv Fuller, and Gloria Toews, who assisted me in ensuring that our financials were properly managed through the year. I thank them for their commitment over the past year, and welcome Tracy Sailor as our new member in 2025. I also thank the Board and staff for their diligence in managing the financial resources entrusted to them.

This was my seventh 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

Lead Pastor's Report

2024 was a full and challenging year. Together, we have all endeavoured to sustain the discipleship, fellowship, and service opportunities we provide for all ages: intergenerational events, youth group, North of 60, Saturday lunches, and concerts to name a few. I also appreciated the All Saints' Day Work and Prayer Retreat, the public reading of the entire Gospel According to Mark, and the summer BBQ street party.

Together, we had the joy of celebrating three baptisms this Easter. We were involved pastorally in a relatively high number of complex and difficult situations and cared for one another through 10 funerals.

Staff

I have been so blessed by colleagues and our volunteers. I'm grateful for each one.

One of the highlights of the year was the ordination of Christopher Senger in his role as Chaplain at Luther and Youth Pastor to our congregation. Congratulations to Chris after the course work, papers, and examination, and "thank you" to his family for their support. With the organ removed this fall, Chris has also helped to lead singing on Sundays.

Kayely Rich was away on maternity leave for the duration of the year. In the end, she chose to remain home with her children. Our thanks to her for her years of service and we pray God blesses her and her family.

Cheryl Johnston and Louise Krueger have continued to work hard and with creativity. Cheryl continues to build up our children's programs and a ministry team. Louise put together a memorable Christmas concert without our organ, including a song featuring her and her daughters on crumhorns. In 2024, Ron Phillips took on First Baptist Place chaplaincy and has ministered faithfully.

Conclusion

As we move forward, the goal remains to respond to God's leading together. This is your congregation and your ministry. You are the "priesthood." You each bring what you have: your character and way of life, your wisdom, a prayer, a listening ear, friendship, or an act of service. But it is also entirely God's congregation and God's work. We have been blessed with many moments when it is clear that God is present in our midst. Paying attention for God's work. To God alone be the glory.

Respectfully, Pastor Joel Russell-MacLean

Music Report

Our music ministry has had a successful year. The choir presented an anthem in Sunday morning services twice a month from September through June. The choir members are wonderfully faithful, participating in these musical offerings. Thank you, choir members. Our anthems have covered a range of musical genres: classical, gospel, jazz, contemporary, and spirituals — all praising our Lord. We have done musical worship in conjunction with Cheryl and the children telling the Biblical story of Moses leading the Israelites through the Red Sea. I can speak on behalf of the entire choir that these collaborations bring so much joy to the musicians. An integral part of every choir is the accompanist. Calla-Dawn Brooks has filled this roll admirably once again. Xavier Russell-MacLean steps in notably (all puns intended) when she is not available. Thank you to both.

Our long tradition of presenting annual Easter and Christmas concerts continued this year. This outreach ministry succeeds with the help of volunteer seasonal singers, professional soloists, and instrumentalists. A group of 'semi-retired' FBC handbell ringers stepped forward which enabled both concerts to have this very special addition. Our Christmas concert involved both Xavier Russell-MacLean and Oluseye Popoola sharing accompanying as Calla-Dawn was away. Thank you so much for stepping up to this huge task.

So many others contribute to these major events in various areas: sound, zoom, camera, ushering, stage preparation, decorations and lighting, post-concert receptions, program preparation and printing, and creation and distribution of posters. This is truly a First Baptist community effort. Thank you one and all.

In September 2024, our organ went on a vacation to Calgary to an 'organ spa' to be rejuvenated. Our entire organ plus components from St Matthew's Anglican Church are being recast by Jason Barnsley to create a new instrument for our church. Many thanks to Xavier Russell-MacLean and Oluseye Popoola for playing the organ on Sundays and their shift to piano while our organ is away. Don't forget the many folks who came to help out at both St Matthew's and First Baptist to do the monumental task of disassembling the organs, building moving crates and packing them up for the trip to Calgary. Helpers ranged in age from 13 to 85, a truly intergenerational event.

Our church music has been rounded out with contemporary songs and choruses accompanied by guitar, and piano. Many thanks to Chris Senger, Joel Russell-

MacLean and a group of young people for leading us in this aspect of worship. I feel we are so fortunate to be able to worship God with a mixture of traditional and contemporary music. Oluseye Popoola and Xavier Russell-MacLean on piano and organ, and Calla-Dawn Brooks on piano have provided traditional and contemporary contributions. We are blessed to have such talented musicians.

I have found this past year to be filled with challenges, rewards, and so much joy. Music lifts our souls to the Lord and he hears our offerings.

Respectfully submitted, Louise Krueger

Learning for Life Report

Dell Bornowsky, Ron Phillips, Annabel Robinson, Esther Wiens and your pastors met to choose topics and leaders. We prioritize the study of scripture. We encourage everyone to have a group where they can study, listen to scripture, and grow in faith. Sunday morning at 9:30 , 20 to 40 people were in attendance in person and online.

We enjoyed a good variety of topics this year:

The Gospel According to Mark - Annabel Robinson

Paul's Letter to the Galatians - Led by Ron Phillips

Faith and Fiction for All Ages - Various Leaders, including some of our young people.

The Life of Peter - Henry Friesen. It was a treat to have Henry teaching again!

Born of Mary: Jesus' Humanity in the Eyes of the Early Church

Thank you to all who taught and all who took part.

Missions Commission Report

Commission Members: Heather Russell-MacLean (chair), Bryan Orthner, Barb Ziolkowski, Carmen Pauls Orthner. Pastoral liaison: Joel Russell-MacLean.

Our mandate:

Provide vision, direction and management for our “missions” ministry, including: financial, relational and practical involvement in local AND global missions.

In 2024, the Missions Commission budget financially supported YFC (\$15,684), Katepwa Lake Camp (\$6,500), IVCF (\$116), and the local inter-church Saturday lunch program. This is in addition to the wider Canadian Baptists Ministries giving budgeted giving of \$10,500.00.

You may notice that these line items don't change year over year. As a Missions Commission, responding to the direction of the larger congregation, organizations like KLC, YCF and ICVF have remained the main recipients of our Missions Commission budget.

As part of our commitment to CBM and the great work that is done globally, we hosted a fundraising luncheon in October, highlighting CBMs presence in Lebanon. Evangline Hammond (CBM field staff in Lebanon) joined us, remotely, and shared her recent experiences as the war in Gaza spread further into Lebanon. On top of the \$10,500.00 budgeted annually to CMB, the luncheon raised \$34,000. A large portion of this was matched by the federal government in aid to Lebanon.

Planning through 2025, you can expect more fundraising opportunities and we are looking to expand the group. Please be in prayerful thought about joining the Missions Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Russell-MacLean, Missions Commission chair

Children and Families Ministries report

The children and families of First Baptist Church have been growing in their belonging with the Lord and with our church. We have had several new families join in the past year. We now have 21 families with children grade 6 and under registered in our children's Sunday service programs. This has meant that we have had 10-25 children from newborn to age 12 weekly at our Sunday services (16 on average). We have three classes for children: Nursery (newborn to age 3), Godly Play (age 3-6), and Oasis (grade 2-6).

Our volunteer base is mainly made up of the parents of the children along with a few youths, young adults and grandparent figures from our church. I am so grateful for all those who faithfully serve our young children weekly! There are about 30 volunteers who ensure the safety and spiritual learning of our children on Sunday mornings.

We have established a leadership team for children's Christian education. This team is made up of Jane Duffy, Rosemary Ward, Amy Warren, Cassie Wolfe and Christie Senger. Together, we are revisiting the vulnerable people policies of our church to make sure they are up to date and accessible. We also discuss plans for the children and families throughout the year. Cassie has been particularly helpful to me as my helper weekly in Oasis as well as prepping samples and activities for the Sunday mornings and intergenerational events.

We have collaborated with the choir twice this year. The children have acted while the choir sang the stories of "The Fiery Furnace" from Daniel and "The Exodus" (Moses Led the People). Thank you to Louise Krueger for directing the choir, her imagination and help with creating the props for these performances. Thank you to Shirley and Christine Carbno and Eileen Herman for sewing a few more costumes especially for the youngest children that were used in these productions.

We held intergenerational celebrations for Shrove Tuesday (Feb.13) and All Saints Day (Nov.1). These events included a supper and activities around a theme. Our theme for Lent was "Loving God and Others" and All Saints was "Fear Not". We had 50-80 people of all ages turn out to fellowship and learn together. Thank you to the youth for leading the activities and our hospitality teams for preparing the meal.

We provided a calendar for Lent and Advent for each family. These calendars had stickers to mark off their days in the journey towards Easter and Christmas Day. These packages encourage us to read God's word daily as a family.

In June, we held our annual church picnic at Willow Island. 109 people attended. We enjoyed a delicious BBQ. Young and old participated in traditional picnic games like 3 legged races, barrel races and potato sack races. We look forward to this picnic every year!

We had the opportunity to hold two baby showers this year. We were excited to share with the Salminen-Casionans on the birth of their first child, a boy and Singh families on the birth of their first child in Canada, also a boy. The Rich family also added a little girl to their family at the beginning of 2024. It's fun to have some little ones in the nursery once again.

I am so privileged to be working with this wonderful group of children and volunteers! I thank God daily for the opportunity to serve at this church. Thank you for your support and encouragement. Please keep myself, the children and their parents in your prayers as we aim to provide opportunities for children to come to know Jesus while navigating a complex world.

Gratefully,

Pastor Cheryl Johnston

First Baptist Place Chaplaincy

First Baptist Place is a seniors' residence affiliated with First Baptist Church. It has its own chaplain, appointed by and responsible to the lead pastor of First Baptist. I have served in this capacity since January 1, 2024.

Along with my wife Marilyn as accompanist, I have offered chapel services each Wednesday at 7 pm. Our first theme was 'God's Words' - a look at important Biblical words which convey the Christian faith. Next we studied the Letter of James, then the Letter to the Philippians. As 2025 has begun, we are reading and reflecting on Paul's Letter to the Colossians. Between 8 and 14 residents attend each week.

On three occasions CK Lai and Ben Friesen have led the chapel service, in my absence. I am very grateful for their willingness to help. Xavier Russell-MacLean, Norma Holtslander, Jennifer & Adoniram Holtslander each filled in once for Marilyn on the piano.

During the first half of 2024 I was available on Thursday evenings, should anyone wish to talk. A few people took advantage of this. I also visited a few residents when in hospital.

Marilyn and I have grown very fond of our chapel group, which has become somewhat of a house church and a spiritual family to us. We sing and pray together, we share needs and joys, and, reflecting on God's Word, we encourage each other to grow in faith and deed.

It is a privilege for Marilyn and me to serve in this capacity.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Phillips

Property Report

In 2024, we were part of the city-wide upgrade to digital water meters. As a result, we are notified within 24 hours of any water used. This has helped prevent higher bills caused by running taps and toilets. We plan to insulate the empty space above the offices in the summer as this loses heat during the colder months and increases our energy bill. We're also continuing to gradually replace the fluorescent lights as they burn out with more energy-efficient LEDs. Our priority remains to reduce costs and prevent weather-related damage.

We've received a tender to repair the protective outer surface of the dome and hope to complete the work in 2025/6. As well, the mortar between the bricks on the exterior walls is crumbling in various places. Repairs to the brickwork are tentatively scheduled for 2026/7.

We are always looking for help with minor repairs and various projects.

Please contact Joel or Rob if you can help with the following:

Maintenance Projects for 2025

Maintaining the gardening

Cleaning office and ground-level windows

Cleaning the pews and sanctuary floor

Cleaning sanctuary lights and fans

Repairing the basement floor (including library)

Deep cleaning kitchen/nursery/Godly play/library areas

Developing a History Wall

New Projects Being Considered for 2025/6

Repointing/repairing the outer west, south, and east walls

Resurfacing the dome

Sanding and varnishing the outside doors

Costing/designing outside banners

Replacing outside signage and notice board

Replacing window blinds in offices

Updating lighting in office area

Summary

I would like to thank the Board and Joel for their support over the past year. As well, the workload is made lighter with the help of Marv, Len, Glenn, Cheryl, and Joel. We need help with these projects and welcome any volunteers.

Respectfully submitted, Rob Stafford-Lai

North of 60 Report

“North of 60” is a group for retirees. 2024 was the first full year for this initiative since the pandemic brought an end to the Achiever’s Luncheon. It has the goal of offering a relaxed time to catch up with one another, enjoy homemade baking, share a few words of encouragement and pray. Carol Hepting, Sue Bornowsky and Pastor Joel planned out the topics and speakers. Thanks to Louise Krueger and Cheryl Johnston for helping to set up, prepare food, and serve.

Some of the highlights of 2024 were:

- Hymn sing and visit with Oluwaseye Popoola
- A discussion on Medical Assistance in Dying
- Carol Radford- Grant on the Saskatchewan Archives
- David Hedlund on the history of the Regina Symphony Orchestra
- Chris Senger on ordination and chaplaincy at Luther High School
- Julia Krueger’s presentation from the Saskatchewan Arts Board
- A visit from CBWC Area Minister Mark Doerksen

Youth Group Report

It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone since we last wrote a report on our Youth Group! Overall, things have been going well, and we have seen some growth overall in who has been attending consistently.

Our Youth program this year has seen a more significant shift to a larger group of middle school aged students attending on a weekly basis. Xavier Russel-McLean and Pastor Joel have consistently helped lead various activities. That is greatly appreciated. We have continued to rotate each week between having a bible study or having a more “active” event. Since the new year we have been looking at various parables to see how they can relate to our lives during our Bible Study time. This has been a good guide for our conversations. We recently purchased a “Ministry to Youth” curriculum, and this has also been helpful resource so far.

Our hope is, as always, to help cultivate people of faith, who are engaged in their faith beyond what we do as a ministry. It is encouraging to see some of our students invite friends. This shows that there is a comfort level in having people interact with an already established community. There has also been some conversation with other Churches of how we can partner in ministry, and I am hopeful that something concrete can be reported soon.

Please continue to pray for our youth, our leaders, and for the families of our youth. This is often a “tough time in life” for many of the students who attend; being able to create a safe space for people to create community, and to be encouraged in how they navigate our world as a person of faith, is very important.

Yours In Christ,

Chris

Yours In Christ,

Pastor Chris Senger