



# Annual Report

## July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

For the Annual General Meeting  
October 16, 2019

***Our Vision:*** God-Dependent, Jesus-Rooted, Spirit-Led

***Our Mission:*** To fully love God and all people for God's Kingdom, pleasure and glory.

***Our Values:*** Scripture, Prayer, Generosity, Diversity, Community, Creativity, Outreach, Justice, Love



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# REPORTS OF THE BOARD

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## Letter from the Moderator

Submitted by Jan Nerenberg

Before I was asked to let my name stand for moderator, I was going through a time of feeling discouraged. Most of this was around feeling too busy and perhaps doing things more on my own than with the Lord's help. I was looking at many areas of my life and spent a little time just thinking and reading and praying. Beginning to pay attention once again, I read the following verse. It was my confirmation for the year ahead. While I had no way of knowing what was ahead, the words were none the less true for my work, community and personal life. What I needed was some balance and divine wisdom.

*"My son (daughter), if you receive my words, and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints. Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you".*

- Prov. 2:11 (ESV)

I have learned much in this first year as moderator, about leadership, making mistakes, diverse views and unity of praying together, seeking God's direction and wisdom in the business side of the church. I have continued to be amazed by our hard-working staff and by the many volunteers that help to run the day to day operations of the life and building of our place of worship. Brendon has helped me navigate this new role, and I have appreciated his guidance. We have many various ministries that help to meet the needs of our faith community and the community at large. We could not do this without volunteers like you. I thank you for your patience with me as I continue to grow in this role.

In November 2018, we participated in a Flourishing Congregations Survey through Ambrose University Seminary in Alberta. Ninety-eight persons from the morning congregation and eighteen from the Connection contributed responses. The survey results reflected a fairly positive perspective regarding our current vision and direction as a church family. On March 30, 2019, the elders and staff met to review the responses and identified two areas that we wanted to give further attention to: deepening relationships among us as a church family and continuing to build bridges into the community around us.

We also continued to repair areas of our 40-year-old building in order to maintain its longevity. This work is nearly complete at the time of this writing, with the added expense this summer of replacing the roof. The new doors have really added to the aesthetics of the building by creating a more open and inviting entrance. Thank you to those who came out to the June 23, 2019 congregational meeting, to add your voice and pass the funding request to repair the roof. I am grateful for the continued support and hard work of the building and facilities committee for all that they have done in this area. Murray Sloboda has taken on much of the leadership and workload in this area.

Our human resources and finance committees have continued to provide valued input to the board. We have seen the human resource committee re-vamp policies, make recommendations for salaries and now are looking at changing the mandate of this committee to have them more involved in staff support.

This year, we are saying good-bye on the board to Fraser Kent, who left us in April; Ron Basky and Gary Dewarle, who have both served us so well with their wisdom and grace. Cam Milner and Amy Bourassa joined us last year and have added more richness to our board. Along with these, I want to thank everyone else who serves with me: Betty Elmgren; Floyd Collins, and Mark Everett, who will continue to serve in the 2019-2020 year. We have also really appreciated Cameo Rempel, who serves as our recording secretary and Marian Voth, our treasurer, for all the assistance that they give us on an ongoing basis. As well, there are a few people that have walked with me through this year: you know who you are and thank you for all of the support and prayer.

Moving forward into this next year, we look forward to continued growth in all of the areas of our communities and each other. May we as a community, continue to incline our ears and hearts to wisdom and understanding, as we work together to serve for God's glory.

This year was marked by a few staff changes. Lindsay Nemanishen resigned from her role as Accountant and Administrator in October, 2018, to pursue other opportunities. However, she graciously agreed to provide ongoing accounting support of 4-6 hours a month. At Lindsay's recommendation, Jan Smith, our wonderful Administrative Assistant, was asked to take on the bookkeeper's position, which she has done very competently, splitting her time between that and the Admin Assistant position. Brianne Guenther was hired to provide additional Admin support, but after a few months, her mother was diagnosed with cancer and she resigned to be more available to her mom. In May, Jana-Lyn Bergen informed us that she would be leaving at the end of June to pursue a fulltime opportunity in Youth Ministry. The rest of the staff continued in our respective roles (See Staff & Personnel Report). I was grateful once again for the adaptability of our staff, and for their dedication in serving the Emmanuel Family.

It was wonderful to celebrate Rob Priestley's twentieth year with us this past January. This summer marked my fifteenth year on staff. Robin Sloboda is into her thirteenth, while Kari Elliot, Jan Smith and Christie Bodnarchuk all went past ten years. For those who may be wondering, Beverly Toth just finished her fourth year.

Kari Elliot had a three-month sabbatical, which was split between August 2018 and January/February, 2019. Some of that time was spent completing a project for a Certificate in Spiritual Formation through Carey Theological College. The indefatigable Rob Priestley covered many areas of Kari's responsibilities in her absence.

On the financial front, I am again grateful for God's faithfulness and the generosity of our church family. I am delighted with the continued support of the "Team 300" Capital Campaign and for your contributions toward the Capital Fund to help cover the cost of the facility upgrade (which were completed earlier this year), and for the continued support of the Operating Fund, which provides the funding for all of our ongoing ministries. We came very close to making our budget and ended the year with a bit of a reserve. Blessed be our God!

I am also grateful for the leadership of Jan Nerenberg and the elders as well as the support of the various committees. The HR Committee worked on some revisions to the Staff Policy Manual and conducted exit interviews with Lindsay and Jana-Lyn, The Finance Committee provided support to Marian Voth, our treasurer, who stepped into the role in November, 2018 (Thanks to Bryan Roset, who served as treasurer for the previous two years). The Facility Maintenance Committee provided oversight to maintenance in several areas, including the planned upgrades to the facility. All of these, along with the Nominating Committee, have contributed to a strengthening of the oversight that the elders provide to our community.

Through the grace of God, and the contribution of each member of our community, we continue to be a community that is seeking to be dependent on God, rooted in Jesus, and led by the Spirit as we strive to love God and all people for Christ's kingdom, power and glory. Sustained by our Triune God, we look with anticipation to the next chapter in the unfolding story of Emmanuel Baptist Church.

With much Gratitude,

Brendon Gibson, Executive Pastor

p.s. Numbers never tell the whole story, but they help to paint a picture. Here are some average attendances from the past year:

Average Attendance	Sunday Morning	Faith Kids (including leaders)	The Connection	Connect Kids (including leaders)
July-Aug, 2017	163 (173)*	37 (41)	38 (35)	13 (16)
Sept-Dec, 2017	191 (201)	53 (45)	51 (58)	22 (30)
Jan-May, 2018	176 (198)	48 (53)	55 (53)	24 (25)
June, 2018	182 (171)	49 (53)	46 (42)	19 (26)

\*The numbers in brackets are the numbers for the previous year (2017-2018)

Average attendance for other regular programming:

ESL Sunday Morning – 25 participants; 8 volunteers

ESL Wednesday Evening – 15 participants, 8 volunteers

Heart Matters (Tuesdays): 20 participants

Youth (MUSE – Sunday am) – 10 youth, 2 leaders

Youth (MUSE – Connection) – 4 youth, 2 leaders

Youth (Tuesdays) – 12 youth, 6 volunteer leaders

Youth (Friday) – 9 youth; 4 leaders

Alpha: 10-12

Scooters: 35-55 kids, 20-35 parents/caregivers

(84 families registered with a total of 128 kids)

C&C (Thursdays): 12-15 students plus Kari

Men's Breakfast: 16-24

Growing in Grace: 60

Spiritual Life Conference: 80

Summer Kids Camp: Week 1: 120 participants; 90 leaders

Week 2: 40 participants, 18 leaders

### **The church staff as of June 30, 2019\***

#### **Brendon Gibson - Executive Pastor/Pastor of Outreach and Lead Pastor, Sunday Morning Congregations (fulltime)**

Brendon is responsible for leading the staff team, overseeing the administration of the facility, giving direction to outreach, leading and teaching the Sunday morning congregations, and providing pastoral care. Brendon serves on the Elder Board, and is the voice of the staff to the Elder Board and the Elder Board to the staff.

#### **Rob Priestley - Pastor of The Connection and Creative Arts & Worship & (fulltime)**

With the departure of Chris Lortie at the end of October, 2017, Rob resumed the role of lead pastor of The Connection. Rob is also responsible for helping the entire Emmanuel community to engage in weekly worship through the creative arts and the Church Calendar, helping us to cultivate a lifestyle of worship throughout the week.

**Robin Sloboda - Pastor of Senior Adults Ministry and Adult Discipleship (.8)** Robin is responsible for pastoral care & programming for seniors at Emmanuel as well as overseeing the Adult Discipleship Ministry.

#### **Kari Elliott – Director of Care Ministry and Community Engagement, Creative Arts and Worship Associate, and College and Career Ministry (fulltime)**

As Director of Care Ministry and Community Engagement, Kari co-ordinates support groups and other special care initiatives as well as developing opportunities to help us engage the communities around us. Kari also collaborates with, and assists, Rob in all areas of worship and creative arts. With the departure of Chris Lortie, Kari assumed leadership of the College and Career ministry.

#### **Beverly Toth – Director of Family Ministries (.6)**

Beverly gives leadership to Family Ministries. In October 2018, as part of the reallocation of duties in light of Chris Lortie's departure, Beverly's hours were increased from 20 to 24.

#### **Emily Wiks – Summer Intern (fulltime, July-August, 2018; May-June, 2019; )**

Emily served the past two summers as our summer intern. In 2019, she provided support for Summer Kids Camp and children's ministry as well as providing admin relief for Jan.

#### **Jan Smith - Administrative Assistant & BookKeeper (fulltime)**

Jan, our fabulous admin assistant, devotes .5 of her time to reception, publications and scheduling and .5 to bookkeeping.

#### **Christie Bodnarchuk - Church Custodian (.6)**

Christie is responsible for cleaning and custodial support.

\* The following staff served for a portion of the past year:

**Lindsay Nemanishen - Accountant/Administrator (.8)** - Lindsay worked until the end of October, 2018, when she resigned to pursue other opportunities. Lindsay continues to provide 4-6 hours of accounting support on a monthly basis.

**Jana-Lyn Bergen – Director of Youth Ministry and Webmaster (.8)** - Jana-Lyn worked until June, 2019, when she resigned to pursue other opportunities.

**Brianne Guenther – Administrative Assistant (.3)** – Brianne served for a few months (October-January) as Administrative Assistant, but resigned to be available to her mother who was diagnosed with terminal cancer.

# MINISTRY REPORTS

## Family Ministries Department



Submitted by Rob Priestley

Family Ministries is a large portfolio that encompasses the journey from birth to university age. It is subdivided into Children's Ministry, Youth Ministries and Young Adults. The staff of the Family Ministries department have learned many things and have continued to enjoy getting to know the children, youth, and young people here at Emmanuel, as well as many of their families.

In May of 2019, Jana-Lyn Bergen tendered her resignation as Youth Ministry Coordinator. We appreciate the time she spent here with the youth of Emmanuel and her work at beginning to rebuild the Youth Ministry.

Beverly continues to do an excellent job at running our Children Ministries portfolio. She had worked hard at getting to know the families in our community. Her joy in following Jesus is infectious and she has a deep love for the kids in our community.

Kari continues to give leadership to the Young Adult Ministry. She hosts the group at her home each Thursday evening. They have supper together and then move to intentional conversation around what it means to follow after Jesus. They also participate in service projects on a regular basis.

We continue to have a group of volunteers in Family Ministries who lend their expertise in helping with volunteer recruitment, teaching, special events, scheduling, classroom care, resource prepping, preschool drop in and Kids Camp. A giant thank you to all of them for their work behind the scenes – your work has significantly contributed to making this past year another success.

As well, thank you to the many other volunteers who help in the classrooms and in our weekly programs. Without your energy and commitment we would not be able to function as a department.

### **Goals that flow out of the Family Ministries Department:**

- continue to find ways to introduce and integrate Emmanuel's vision statement into the fabric of Family Ministries and work to help children, youth, young adults and families understand the intent of the vision statement
- work to define 'Family' as a broad term in which all people of all age demographics belong and have 'a place at the table'
- continue to work on volunteer recruitment and updating all of the volunteers in the *In His Care* safety requirements
- continue to work with the teaching pastors to create services in which all age demographics of Emmanuel can worship, fellowship and learn together
- be more intentional in using Family Ministries special events as a way to invite neighbours
- regularly pray for Families at Emmanuel
- work to help people successfully transition from children's ministry to youth ministry and from youth ministry to young adults group
- work to help the youth and young adults find meaningful community within the broad Emmanuel community
- emphasize yearly rhythms which are rooted in the church calendar, with particular attention given to Advent, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter Celebration, Ascension & Pentecost
- provide & produce resources to aid the Emmanuel Community in engaging in these yearly rhythms
- work to develop responses, tools and memory triggers to help Families process and integrate the weekly teaching

Below you will find more specific reports outlining what has been happening this past year...

# Children's Ministry

## FaithKids/Connection Kids

Submitted by Beverly Toth



Leading Kids to Jesus!

A huge thank you to Jan Smith who has faithfully served as EBC Early Childhood Director for many years. She added the position of bookkeeper to her portfolio and completed her time as EBC Early Childhood Director in December 2018. She allowed me to step into a very organized system when I assumed the responsibility of overseeing the preschool wing (as well as continuing with grade school) in January 2019.

### Sept-June



Sunday morning: Nursery, Toddler, Age 4, and Age 5, Spark (Grades 1,2), Whirl (Grades 3,4), and Connect (Grades 5,6) made up the seven classes that we offered each Sunday morning.

Connection: Sunday evening saw three classes run: Preschool/K , Spark(Grades 1,2,3) and Connect (Grades 4,5,6).



For those in preschool through Grade 4(AM) and Grade 3(PM) the Sparkhouse curriculum Year Orange was used. For our older classes, we used Sparkhouse

'Connect' lessons that also contain a DVD component.

### Summer

July and August were more flexible in the class configurations. We asked those who don't regularly serve during the year to assist with classes/childcare allowing our 'regulars' a well deserved break.

### In His Care

We desire to adhere to our safety procedures and abuse prevention policies. To this end, there are two workers in each room, with an 'open door' attitude, where parents and guardians who wish to stay and see any class in 'full swing' are welcome to do so. Each volunteer is to complete an application form, criminal record check, provide us with three references, and have an informal conversation (interview) with me during the year as well.

Our privilege and responsibility is to ensure that children who attend Emmanuel experience a clean, secure, and loving environment as they engage. We want them to begin to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep God's love really is. (see Ephesians 3:18).

Our church is blessed with volunteers who pour truth and love into young lives each week. Thanks to each of you, for serving with commitment and energy and an understanding of how precious children are to God – and our community.

Over the past year, approximately 90 people have served in this important area of the church.

### Average Attendance for AM Services:

Nursery: 4 (between 1-8 children attended on any given week)  
Toddler: 6 (between 4-10 children attended on any given week)  
Age 4: 4 (between 2-8 children attended on any given week)  
Age 5: 4 (between 2-8 children attended on any given week)  
Grades 1 and 2: 5 (between 3-8 children attended on any given week)  
Grades 3 and 4: 6 (between 5-9 children attended on any given week)  
Grades 5 and 6: 9 (between 5-13 children attended on any given week)

### Average Attendance for Connection (PM):

Preschool/Kindergarten: 6 (between 3-8 children attended on any given week)  
Grades 1,2,3: 8 (between 5-11 children attended on any given week)  
Grades 4,5,6: 4 (between 3-6 children attended on any given week)

My hope for the children who attend EBC is that they will continue to draw close to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, and that their roots would grow down into Him, and their loves would be built upon Him. Then their faith will grow strong in the truth they are being taught and they will overflow with thankfulness. (see Colossians 2:6,7)

## **FaithKids Preschool Wing**

**Submitted by Jan Smith**



The FaithKids Nursery & Preschool Care Ministry at Emmanuel provides childcare during the morning service on Sunday mornings. Our responsibility is to ensure that a safe, caring, and loving environment exists for the children (aged birth to five years) in our care while allowing parents/guardians to participate in the worship services.

**Leading Kids to Jesus!** We continue to adhere to “best practice” as dictated by our Insurance Company when it comes to the safety of our volunteers and the children in their care. To that end, we still require each volunteer to have a current Criminal Record Check (must be renewed every 5 years), as well as an interview, 3 reference letters, and an application on file. All volunteers who will be in close contact with the children are required to complete this procedure.

In order to run the preschool wing on Sunday mornings a large contingent of volunteers is required. Over the course of the past year, our volunteer base has been about 37 people (which includes men, women and younger junior leaders). We must have two volunteers in a room at all times, as well as a supervising adult walking the hallways and checking in with each room periodically during the service (that’s me!). The preschool wing was basically fully staffed for most of the September – June regular season. For July and August, we attempt to give our regular volunteers a break by encouraging others to help out. We pass the pew pads around each Sunday in the summer to promote this. We would like to acknowledge and say a great big thank you to all the volunteers who currently devote their time, energy, and love of Jesus to this ministry on Sunday mornings.

**NURSERY** – Babies from birth up to 23 months of age are cared for in this room. There are age-appropriate toys and apparatus to enable our volunteers to provide the best possible experience for each and every baby.

**TODDLER ROOM** – Childcare is provided for two & three year olds in this room. There is an abundance of small toys as well as larger play structures that the kids can utilize. A colouring page & bible story are provided for the volunteers to offer to the children.

**4 YEAR OLDS** – A slightly more structured approach is offered to this group of children. While the focus is on play and sharing Jesus love, a story is provided with games, music activities, and simple crafts as options. We use the *Spark* curriculum which is consistent with all FaithKids & Connection Kids programming.

**5 YEAR OLDS** – This class is also using the *Spark Activate Faith* curriculum which follows a two year cycle through the Bible. The kids are challenged to apply what they learn on Sunday mornings in their everyday lives. Stories, scripture, object lessons, activities, games, music, and more are used to get them interested and involved.

Lyndon Smith took the photos this year for the ID tags that each volunteer wears when they are serving. The purpose of this photo ID is to help parents and children differentiate between the people who are working as volunteers on a particular Sunday and everyone else. As well, we believe it is both a safety feature and for the building of community. Thank you, Lyndon!

Finally, as a result of taking on a new position (bookkeeper) at EBC, I have had to say goodbye to my role in Children’s Ministry as of December 2018 ... after more than 20 years of serving in the preschool wing (in many different capacities). Over the years I have developed relationships with hundreds of children who have gone through the preschool programs offered, their parents and volunteers. All those experiences have been rich and fulfilling. Thank you so much for the wonderful opportunity this has been!



## Summer Kids Camp

Submitted by Rob Priestley

In 2018, we did the third part in the 'God's Good' series entitled *God's Good Mosaic*. Again, as a Family Ministries team, we created the curriculum and program for *God's Good Mosaic – exploring God's love through the pictures of John*. The daily themes for the camp were:

*Connect with Jesus; let His light guide you*  
*Connect with Jesus; let Him feed you*  
*Connect with Jesus; let Him fill you up*  
*Connect with Jesus; know you are loved*  
*Connect with Jesus; reach out to others*

We continued with the model of running both the preschool and gradeschool camps concurrently.

We had an enrollment of 60 preschool kids and 93 gradeschool kids. There were 95 volunteers that gave up time to make the camp a possibility. Thank you to Emily, Kari, Beverly, and all volunteers who helped make this week such a success.

## Scooters Indoor Playground

Submitted by Elya Lam



*Scooters is a weekly drop-in indoor playgroup for children ages 0-5 and their parents/caregivers.*

**scooters**

Wow – what an amazing season of community and relationship building we've had at Scooters!

We began our year with no advertising at all, as word-of-mouth has been our greatest asset. Due to record-breaking numbers of registrations, we were forced to close our doors to new registrants at the beginning of January. At that point, we had 128 children from 84 families registered, with an average weekly attendance of 45-55 children (plus the adults that accompany them). Nearly all of these families were from the broader Saskatoon community and were not associated with our church in any other way. Our regular attendees got to know one another closely and built friendships that continue outside of Scooters.

We continued to “show some love” to young families in our community with our Scooters/Care Ministries partnership – a new parent support and care initiative. It was a baby boom year! Many new babies were welcomed into our Scooters family throughout the year, and we were able to offer home visits, a small baby gift, and a meal/food gift card. This ministry is always very well received, and greatly appreciated by the families who were involved.

In a continued effort to support our Scooters families in all facets of their lives, we created a “Scooters Swap Board” for families to post requests for needed items, as well as post information about items they were willing to give away. We also worked hard throughout the year to intentionally highlight upcoming EBC events and opportunities; as a result, we once again saw an uptake in the number of Scooters families who attended church events (such as the Pumpkin Bash, Family Dance, and Summer Kids Camp) and had a great response to service opportunities (such as the donation of menstrual supplies for YXE Connects – a partnership with Heart Matters).

As we look forward to our upcoming 2019/2020 season, our vision is much the same as in the past:

- To continue building relationships and support systems with/for Scooters families – particularly outside of regular Scooters programming
- Increase bridge-building activities and opportunities between Scooters families and the EBC community

- Create a higher-level awareness of Scooters within the church - for increased interest, involvement, and prayers from the Emmanuel community

Our 2019/2020 Scooters season will also see some minor changes made to our registration format and daily operations, to better regulate our weekly numbers. Please keep the Scooters team in your prayers as we work to keep Scooters safe and fun for everyone, while still reaching as many community families as we can.

## **Special Events**

**Submitted by Kyla Gillings**



Planning events for families to come together and have fun, the Special Events committee, consisting of Kyla Gillings, GERALYN JESCHKE, and JORDAN SUMMACH also focuses on outreach by creating events that families can invite their friends and neighbours to.

Our year began with the annual Pumpkin Bash family fun night in October which had 232 kids plus their families attend. The Pumpkin Bash continues to be an awesome avenue for community outreach, as a large portion of the families who attend come from outside of our regular church community!

In December we held our annual Christmas Creation event in which kids invite their friends and family to watch them perform a nativity play and then join them afterward in making crafts and eating treats. During the winter months we held a Game & Movie Night as well as a Family Dance which attracted many families from our surrounding neighbourhoods, as well as huge support from our Scooters families!

In the spring our focus shifted to coordination of the volunteer lounge at both weeks of VBS in July, through which we are honoured to show appreciation to the many, many Emmanuel community members who volunteer their time during those busy weeks with baking and other treats.

A big thank you to the many Emmanuel community members who volunteer their time to help make our events possible so we can continue to develop exciting occasions for our Emmanuel community to come and play together, while reaching out to their friends and family in the broader community to join them!

## **Youth Ministry (Grade 7-12)**

**Submitted by Jana-Lyn Bergen**

The 2018/2019 year for Emmanuel Baptist Youth group has been one worth celebrating! Our group of students ranges from grades 7-12 with about 10-15 students who meet regularly. As the year went on we saw more and more of the students inviting their friends from school and this year some of them also became regular attenders. I'm so proud of the students who choose to step outside of their comfort zone and invite their friends to come and spend time with us.

During our Tuesday Youth Group meetings we spend time together, pray for others, study scripture, play games and of course have snacks. There were a number of weeks where we would also break into small groups to discuss different cultural topics and how they interacted with our faith. This year on Tuesday nights we started doing something called Bible 101. The students would read a specific passage in Mark and then would break into small groups to answer 5 questions every week. We did this with the hopes of helping students to be less intimidated about reading their Bibles on their own.

We also started doing Ebap Impact nights where the students would go and help out with one of our ministry partners for a service night. We made lunches for the Friendship Inn, spent time with the residents at the Bentley and helped organize at Saskatoon Pregnancy Options centre.

Our Friday nights are all about building friendships and creating shared experiences to help build community amongst our students. Some of the highlights were our Christmas party, going axe throwing and going to INSPIRE YXE which was a youth conference put on by Elim Church here in Saskatoon. We also went to Youth Quake – a youth conference at Briercrest College and Seminary, which was an amazing opportunity to

strengthen our relationships with our students and have them be a part of a large corporate worship gathering with other students their age.

We continued on with our Project Tuesday program. The whole point of Project Tuesday is to have members of our community come and spend an evening with the students and for them to teach them a skill that they might not otherwise have the opportunity to learn. We got to do so many different things, from photography, art projects, and even cricket! I really appreciated our community's involvement. It was such a wonderful chance for our students to build deeper relationships with people in our church.

We continued on with M.U.S.E. (Meeting Understanding Seriously Engaging) and we went through our church values each week to help the students have a deeper understanding of our church.

Thank you so much for your support, prayer and involvement with our students over this past year. It has been so fun to learn alongside these students for the past three years. I look forward to the ways that the students will continue to grow in their relationship with Jesus in the future.

## **College & Career**

**Submitted by Kari Elliott**

Our young adults continued to gather in my home each week for supper and spiritual conversations/practices every Thursday night from September through May. We generally welcomed between 5 and 17 participants throughout the season.

This year our study component was comprised of some seasonal liturgies as well as several parables out of Peter Rollins's book The Orthodox Heretic. We also worked on some spiritual practices (food as spiritual practice, meditation, examen, etc.) and service projects throughout the year (Meewasin Clean Up campaign, a Share the Warmth blanket making night, Food for Comfort Meal preparation, etc.).

During the months of my sabbatical in January and February several different community members hosted the group. I am very grateful to each one of them for their care for these young adults and the wisdom that they shared.

Our young adults are wise, beautiful, remarkable people. It's really encouraging to see them interacting with one another and inspiring to watch them initiate conversations and relationships in the broader church. I am grateful for them and for how they demonstrate lives of faith and authenticity.

## **Adult Ministry Department**

### **Adult Discipleship Ministries**

**Submitted by Robin Sloboda**

#### **Small Groups @ Emmanuel**

In September, we encouraged small groups to consider working through the resource *Hebrews: A 12-Week Study* by Matthew Z. Capps. For those who did not participate in this study we invited them to check out the small group resources on *Right Now Media*. Overall, we had about 7 groups meeting from the morning community. Thank you to all those who facilitated and participated in small groups this year!

#### **Other Adult Discipleship Opportunities**

**Sunday Morning Bible Study:** In the fall 2018, Robin Sloboda started a Bible Study on Sunday mornings at 9am until 10. The first study was on the book of Hebrews and the winter study was on the book of Mark.

**VantagePoint 3:** It was great to have two groups this past ministry year: *The Journey*, which is the first year, had 6 participants with Dave Toth and Robin Sloboda as the facilitators. And *Walking with Others*, which is the third year, had 5 participants with Jane McPhee as the facilitator. The Journey, A Way of Life, and Walking with Others are all, eight-month discipleship courses developed by Vantage Point 3 ([www.vantagepoint3.org](http://www.vantagepoint3.org)).

**The Stations of the Cross:** This is a devotional and meditative experience of the last hours of the life Jesus. Several years ago, fourteen artists from Emmanuel contributed artwork to The Stations of the Cross. Each year, we extend an invitation to our congregation to participate in this project by submitting new pieces of art. This year we would like to give a special thanks to Malcolm Gilbert, Carol Giede, Betty Elmgren, and Maria Van Der Spuy for their contributions of new art. A new devotional book was created this year to guide those who came in a reflective journey through Passion Week as they went through the stations.

**Prayer Sisters:** On January 19, those who participated in the prayer sister's ministry gathered for a celebration of God's good gifts that are given through friendship, community and prayer. There were many stories shared of how women knew another was praying for them.

**Ladies Tea:** On March 23, women from EBC gathered together in the fellowship hall to be with each other, meet new friends, and listen to Arlene Jorgenson. Arlene's devotional was on Psalm 23, "He Restores My Soul: Creating Resilience in Life."

#### **Marriage Ministry**

**Submitted by Brendon Gibson**

##### **Marriage Mentoring**

We continue to work at developing a Marriage Mentoring Ministry which equip couples to walk alongside other couples to encourage, nurture, and strengthen marriages in our community. Mentor couples are trained using a dvd course developed by Neil and Sharol Josephson of Family Life Canada.

Three mentor couples met with three mentee couples regularly over the course of the year and had great conversations. Both mentor and mentee couples reported having good conversations and were grateful for the opportunities.

We are still looking for more couples with healthy marriages (not perfect ones), who have been married ten years or more, to be trained to mentor others.

##### **Together for Good**

Together for Good, a marriage enrichment course, featuring Neil and Sharol Josephson of Family Life Canada, was offered over five Friday evenings in January and February, 2019. The course was well received by the five couples who participated. Thanks to Gary and Brenda Dewarle for hosting.

## Men's Ministry

Submitted by Brendon Gibson

Men's Ministry hosted eight breakfasts this past year, from September 2018 to April 2019. Men's breakfasts were held on the second Saturday of each month. Our post-breakfast discussions were guided by the DVD curriculum, REFRAME which explored how the gospel reframes all of life. Attendance ranged between fifteen and twenty-four.

## Prayer Ministry at Emmanuel

Submitted by Brendon Gibson

Prayer is a critical aspect of the life and health of any church. At Emmanuel, we are continually looking for ways to engage in prayer as a community. Over the past year, we sought to deepen our life of prayer in the following ways:

**Weeks of Prayer:** At the start of the ministry year (September 10-14, 2018) and again during Lent (March 10-15, 2019) we participated in a week of prayer. For the week in September, prayer guides were provided at the start of the week with requests from all areas of EBC's life and ministry, and on the Thursday evening we gathered for prayer at Awaken. For the week during Lent, another prayer guide was provided with an emphasis on praying for the city, ward by ward. We gathered three times daily (Monday-Friday, 7:15am, 12:15pm, and 7:15pm) at the church and used the guide for prayer. Attendance at the March sessions ranged from two to six persons.

**Staff Prayer:** The staff gathers daily for prayer, Tuesday-Friday, 9:15am, to commit our day to the Lord and to pray for particular needs in our community. This past year, our prayer was informed by readings from the Psalms.

**Friday Morning Prayer** met weekly at 7:00am in the fellowship Hall, from August 2018 to June 2019. Between three and seven persons gathered faithfully to pray for the needs of our church, community and world.

**Prayer Ministry During Services:** At both of our Sunday gatherings (morning and The Connection), prayer ministry is available during and after the service.

**Awaken:** Awaken is a once a month prayer gathering on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday evening of each month. Over the past year, we met from September to June. The focus has been on prayer for awakening to God and His kingdom, as well as to the needs among and around us. On several occasions, we prayed for particular ministries within and beyond our church family.

We are committed to cultivating a life of prayer through which we pay attention to the Holy Spirit, pursue Christ's kingdom, and submit to His lordship. Thanks to Alan Barr for his leadership of the Prayer Ministry over the past year. Thanks also to all who participate in these various prayer initiatives. These prayer times are all open to everyone and we encourage you to participate.

## **Membership Class**

Submitted by Brendon Gibson

Five Membership Classes were scheduled over the past year (**September 23, November 4, January 13, March 3, April 28**); however, only three were held, with attendance of four, two and one persons. Classes are usually held on Sunday afternoons, 3:30-5:00pm. Two additional membership conversation were held for persons who could not make the scheduled ones. In each of those, four persons participated.

## **Baptism Class**

Submitted by Brendon Gibson

Five Baptism Classes were scheduled over the past year (**September 30; November 11, January 20, March 10, May 5**). However, none of those classes were held, as no one expressed an interest in them. Classes are held on Sunday afternoons, 4:00-5:00pm. One person who expressed interest in baptism could not make the scheduled classes so arrangements were made for a separate conversation with them.



Study: The Book of Proverbs

Focus: Bible study, sharing and caring

Duration: Every second Tuesday, 1:30 pm – 3 pm, September 2018 – May 2019

Co-Facilitators: Harvey Everett, Ernie Atkinson

We are called to “Serve the LORD with gladness” (Psalm 100:2, NASB). Consequently, an average of fourteen adults gathered as we pursued the wisdom of the Book of Proverbs. This number was substantially increased at our Christmas and June Socials at local restaurants. We appreciated members of staff, Robin, Jan, Brendon and Rob for their technical support and encouragement. We are thankful that Evie Everett maintained our list of volunteer “lunch” contributors, and Helen consistently provided us with coffee.

In sadness and hope, we grieve the sudden passing of our dear sister, Evie, wife of Harvey Everett. She has gone to see the King. Her presence and quiet demeanour will be remembered.

We understood early on that the motto of the Book of Proverbs was summed up in one particular verse:

Proverbs 1:7 (NASB)

7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;  
Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Derek Kidner, in his book, *Proverbs, An Introduction & Commentary*, explains it this way:

*The beginning ... is not merely a right method of thought but a right relation: a worshipping submission (fear) to the God of the covenant, who has revealed Himself by name (the Lord, i.e. Yahweh ...). Knowledge, then, in its full sense, is a relationship, dependent on revelation and inseparable from character ('wisdom and training', 7b)*

The second line, “Fools despise wisdom and instruction” (‘wisdom and training’) is the very opposite of the first line. And taken positively, true knowledge involves the development of character through being open to wisdom and instruction.

Thus, we embarked on a spiritual journey exploring multiple statements of truth and wisdom in any given chapter, as varied as their applications in life demand on any given day of our lives.

At present our anticipation for next September is to venture our way through the Gospel of Mark. In his article on *Busyness and Rest*, *Tabletalk*, July 2019, Kevin DeYoung comments concerning Mark:

One of Mark’s favorite words is “immediately.” For three years, Jesus and His band of disciples were a whirlwind of activity .... (p64)

He comments further concerning Jesus,

He was busy, but never in a way that made Him frantic, anxious, irritable, proud, envious, or distracted by lesser things .... Jesus knew the difference between urgent and important. (p65)

If making that distinction is one of your challenges in life, then join others of us also this coming September.

## Library

**Submitted by Dawn Johnson**

In the 2018/19 season at the library things have been slowly progressing. I have been going through the boxes of book donations one by one and adding them to the library shelves. There has been several boxes to go through over the year. There has also been some book boxes that have gone missing while in storage that I have not been able to recover yet. Hopefully they will turn up.

The plants have been changed out for some smaller plant pots that have been hung to make more room on the display shelves.

Thank you to all the people who put up the canvas curtains around the bottom shelves for Scooters each week and VBS.

\*Just a couple of friendly reminders and information\*

-There are browsing cards hung up around the book shelves. Browsing cards are available to put in the place of any book taken off the shelf while browsing to help you remember where you got it from. Just like a bookmark for marking your page.

-Please do not put coffee cups or beverage cups on the book shelves as I have had to remove books and wipe up sticky spills that have run down several shelves a few times this year.

-Also please remember when signing out a book to put your name AND phone or mailbox number on the cards. If the book is of a sensitive nature you do not have to put your name if you don't want to.

Thank you for allowing me to serve The Lord through this ministry.

## Fellowship Opportunities

**Submitted by Brendon Gibson**

**Summer Barbeques** – Our annual summer barbeques were held on the last Sundays in July and August, 2018, and June, 2019. Approximate attendance at each, respectively, was 84, 101 and 104. We are grateful for all who participate in these fellowship gatherings, and for those who help with setup, cooking, monitoring tables, and clean-up.

**Dining Deeper** –This was our fourth year of hosting Dining Deeper, an initiative designed to help connect families from both of our communities. Families who sign up to participate are assigned to a group of 3-4 families who meet for a potluck meal, either supper on Saturday or lunch on Sunday. One Dining Deeper was held on the weekend of March 2/3, 2019, with 21 families participating. These continue to be great times of fellowship and connection for those who participate in them.



Heart Matters -- a weekly women's Bible study held at Emmanuel Baptist Church Tuesday mornings from late September through April -- offers opportunities to study and apply God's Word in daily life and to develop supportive relationships among women of all ages. Weekly attendance averaged around 25 women throughout the 2018-2019 season.

The Heart Matters Planning Committee cooperates to make each morning run smoothly. June Cathcart, Mary Friesen, Dawn Johnson and Krista Noble served on the committee this season, while Laura Monchuk provided leadership in preparing and presenting the Tuesday morning programs.

Heart Matters offered free weekly childcare to between four and seven children thanks to the efforts of volunteer coordinator Krista Noble. Olga Weibe consistently provided child care throughout the season, while Krista Noble, Kathy Malonovich, Robin Sloboda, Mary Friesen, Dawn Johnson and Laura Monchuk each pitched in to the rotation for a second adult in the childcare room. Each week, children enjoyed supervised play, songs, prayer and a healthy snack while the adult study took place in another room.

During the fall 2018 semester, participants studied *Uninvited: Living Loved When You Feel Less Than, Left Out and Lonely*, a six-part DVD series by Lysa Terkeurst. Through this impactful series, attendees gained biblical perspectives about processing rejection and insecurities. All were encouraged to step into God's unshakable love, acceptance and purpose. The women also participated in four in-depth scripture studies using coloured pencils to illuminate important words and concepts in different Bible passages related to the video study.

Leading into its Christmas brunch, the women of Heart Matters compiled 26 baking tins to share with others in the community. More than half were distributed through Parent Aide to families experiencing difficulties; the remainder were hand-delivered by Pastor Robin Sloboda to senior citizens in need of Christmas cheer. In addition, \$725 was collected for someone the women had been praying for all season in order to help offset medical bills accrued at the Mayo Clinic. Together, the ladies also donated \$441 for the Canadian Bible Society's efforts to bring the message of Christ to Israel, Palestine and Arab Israel. The women also gave \$325 to Intervarsity at the University of Saskatchewan so more young adults may come to know a personal relationship with Christ. Throughout the year, the women of Heart Matters faithfully pray and send cards handmade by June Cathcart to people in difficult situations.

In January and February 2019, the group dived into the DVD series, *Twelve Women of the Bible: Life-Changing Stories for Women Today*. The ladies enjoyed studying Eve, Rebekah, Leah and Hannah, before bitter temperatures and the Lenten season cut the series short. The committee plans to resume this study during the fall 2019 semester.

In March and April, participants embarked on *The Easter Experience* by Kyle Idleman, a cinematic study accessible through Emmanuel's RightNow Media subscription. The six teachings brought Jesus Christ's passion and resurrection to life as the ladies journeyed together through the Lenten season. Also during Lent, Heart Matters partnered with the Scooters playgroup at Emmanuel to collect sanitary products to donate to those in need locally.

Heart Matters also welcomed two guest speakers this year. In October, Kiera Fehr informed and inspired the group with a presentation about her work with Intervarsity at the University of Saskatchewan. In February, Colleen Kehler shared the encouraging story of how God led her through hardships to write and illustrate *To Trust Again: Finding Hope After Loss*. Each of these special mornings included extended time for fellowship, food and an open mic for sharing stories of grace.

Survey results at the end of each semester revealed positive attitudes about the welcoming atmosphere, the insightful video studies, caring relationships, thoughtful prayer support and leadership of Heart Matters. God has faithfully answered prayers, calling each woman and child in closer relationship to Himself and in greater fellowship with one another, while multiplying collective giftings to bless others in the wider community. May the Lord continue to be glorified by this ministry.

The focus of the senior adult ministries is to touch lives of adults 65+ within the community at Emmanuel Baptist Church and the wider community, by providing opportunities for spiritual growth, worship, care, and fellowship.

**Growing in Grace** offers an opportunity to connect with each other, have a meal together, to support local outreach organizations such as: The Bridge on 20<sup>th</sup>, Teen Challenge, and Pregnancy Options Centre (SPOC), and support World Vision (by adopting a child). The leadership team for Growing in Grace: Audrey Spate, Bettye Collins, Eugene and Sharon Elash, Helen Atkinson and Robin Sloboda.

The programs are varied aiming to meet the social, spiritual and intellectual needs of the group. On October 12<sup>th</sup> Mark Zielke, Beverly Toth, and Robin Sloboda, presented a message for Thanksgiving. On December 14<sup>th</sup>, Forest Grove's Men of Song presented a Christmas program along with singing Christmas carols. On April 5<sup>th</sup>, Ike and Mary Friesen spoke about their missionary trip to the Ukraine at the Easter Banquet.

Annually, during the months of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter, Bettye Collins and her team serve a home cooked meal--thank you Bettye and team for providing yearly these special meals.

**Coffee & Conversation:** The purpose of these gatherings is for senior adults to have a time to be together enjoying a snack, listen to a speaker on a specific topic or watch a movie, followed by a devotional and discussion time. On October 25, Colleen Kehler gave a presentation on her book, *To Trust Again: Finding Hope After Loss*. On November 22, the Neufeld Sisters presented a Christmas program with singing Christmas carols. We gathered to watch "*I Can Only Imagine*" on February 21<sup>st</sup> and on March 21<sup>st</sup> Dave Holten from the CBWC Foundation came to chat about leaving a financial legacy. Next year, we will have a variety of different events, which will include speakers on specific topics, an afternoon of playing board games and the occasional movie.

**Forever in Motion:** This is a peer led exercise group for older adults and the Saskatoon Health Region trains the leaders. The group gathered on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:00 am until 10:30, from October to the middle of May. There is a coffee time and a short devotional after exercise. Lois Bliss and Don Sawatsky were the leaders and about 16 adults attended this program throughout the winter months.

**Christmas Bus Tour:** Wilma Thompson hosted a bus tour to Briercrest Bible College at Caronport, SK. On Saturday, December 1, 54 passengers went to the festival. This year, the presentation was "*The Heart of Christmas*." The tickets for the bus trip sold out within a week, be sure to get a ticket early!

**Visitation and Care:** A special thank you to the many volunteers that visited people in our community who are home bound, or in a nursing home. Special visits were also made to many older adults and shut-ins from EBC at Christmas and Easter encouraging them with a cheerful greeting and small gift from the church.

**Funeral Ministry:** This ministry offers care and support to families after the loss of a loved one by hosting the reception after the memorial service. A special "thank you" to those who serve in this ministry.

**Transportation Ministry:** This ministry provides rides to our 10:30 a.m. service for those in need. A special thank you to the faithful volunteer drivers (Andy Smith, Gerrit Verdouw, Cal Redekop, Roger Deweerd, and Myles Sanderson) who have met a definite need for those who lack other means of transport to church Sunday mornings.

**Glimpse of Glory,** weekly worship services start at 7:00 p.m. in the Bentley Chapel, with attendance averaging over 30 attendees from a wide variety of church traditions. On the second Sunday of every month, Emmanuel Baptist Church leads the worship service and prepares Communion. A special thank you to Elsie Nickorick, Shirley Hildebrandt and Alan Barr for serving in this ministry.

**Robin's concluding thoughts:**

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all those who have taken active roles in the Senior Adult Ministry, also your encouragement and support has been cherished. It has been a privilege to work with you and to meet the seniors within the body of Christ at Emmanuel Baptist Church. As God continues to present opportunities for individual and corporate ministry by and among our seniors, let us together be faithful to Him, as we share His love in our senior community.

**Bus Tour Ministry****Submitted by Wilma Thompson**

On Saturday, December 1, 2018 we took a bus tour to Briercrest Christmas pageant, "The Heart of Christmas." We were blessed to have a full bus of 55 passengers representing various churches. We left Saskatoon in the morning, travelled to Moose Jaw where we toured "The Temple Gardens Tourist Pavilion", and then enjoyed a delicious Chinese Buffet at noon at Jade Gardens. Then we toured on to Briercrest Bible College at Caronport and enjoyed the wonderful presentation, and were also able to purchase a delightful array of homemade crafts and homemade baking. After the pageant was over we boarded our luxury bus for home, where we were treated to a prepared lunch bag supper on the bus. We were so blessed to sing Christmas Carols, play fun quiz games, and watch a nice Christian movie.

This is the fifth trip we have taken to the Briercrest Christmas presentation, and we are praising God as we are growing in numbers each year. We are so blessed to enjoy Christian fellowship together in such a fun and inspirational way, praising our Savior and celebrating His birth.

We are planning another tour this year and are waiting with anticipation to see what previous friends will be joining us and what new friends we'll be privileged to meet.

## Care Ministry Department

### Care & Community Engagement

Submitted by Kari Elliott



Care Ministry at EBC aims to provide intentional, practical care, education, and encouragement to all who are seeking healing, support, and wholeness in the midst of difficult circumstances in their lives. Community Engagement seeks to find ways to extend the love of Jesus into the world around us through personal interactions, meeting practical needs, and partnering and serving our neighbours in hopeful, Christ-centred ways. Here's a brief overview of some of the things we were able to do in Care & Community Engagement at EBC last year:

**Community Support Groups** – Our support groups last year consisted of a 3 official EBC Groups: Boundaries, GriefShare, and Heart & Soul Care. The group evaluations for all three came back with incredibly positive and lovely remarks from the participants and reminded me of how blessed we are to be able to offer these types of groups for our extended community. I'm hoping to find some new volunteers this year particularly for groups around grief and divorce, and I'm hoping to see some new groups form with the potential addition of the Sanctuary course which will aim to develop better conversations around mental health supports in the church. I would very much appreciate your prayers for these changes in our support group ministry as well as your ongoing prayers for those who participate.

**Care Fund** - The Care Fund is used to assist those experiencing financial challenges in our church and beyond. The Board of Elders approves all financial assistance requests over \$500. This year the Care Fund also provided funding for 33 Christmas Hampers and 7 School Supply Subsidies for those in need. I'm so grateful for this church's commitment to supporting the Care Fund as it allows us to provide meaningful support in a variety of difficult situations while maintaining dignity and hope for those in need. Thank you so much for your ongoing financial support in this area.

**Food Pantry** – Each week Emmanuel receives requests for emergency food assistance and to address those needs we keep a small pantry of staple goods on hand to supply basic groceries in between Food Bank access dates. This pantry is supplied through donations that come individuals in the church who bring designated items to contribute to the bags each month. (If you would like to give to the food pantry in this way, we would love your help on a few items that we tend to run short on. Please call Kari to get involved!)

The pantry continued to access fresh vegetables planted by our youth group this year. In the last 12 months Emmanuel was able to distribute 85 hampers from the Food Pantry to the wider Saskatoon community – an increase of about 15 bags over last year. It has also allowed us to form a unique relationship with the Parent Aide program in the last couple of years, for which I am incredibly grateful.

**Christmas Gift Bags** – We also continued our Christmas Gift Bag tradition this year. This initiative allows individuals, families, or small groups to pack gift bags full of most needed items for agencies around the city to be distributed over a season of high need. In 2018 we opted to designate bags for The Bridge on 20<sup>th</sup> (25 bags), Saskatoon Pregnancy Options Centre (15 bags), and Hope Restored Canada (10 bags).

**Food For Comfort** – This year we continued with our Food For Comfort Ministry, which provides nutritious meals for people in our community who are experiencing a season of extra stress around a variety of circumstances such as surgery, illness, bereavement, job loss, babies, etc. The FFC Ministry last year consisted of 25 individual volunteers, but also encouraged small groups to prepare freezer meals that could be used in a short-term capacity, specifically in cases of sudden or unexpected need until regular volunteers could be organized. The youth group also put together 10 freezer meals for us as part of their Ebap Impact nights. This year Food for Comfort provided approximately 40 meals.

## **Community Engagement**

We've also continued to form some loose partnerships and offers of support outside of our official ministry partnerships with agencies such as Parent Aide, Interval House, and the Lighthouse. Our Giving Tree service at Advent brought in 4 boxes of socks and mittens for the Lighthouse. Through the Share the Warmth program in November we were also able to make 10 blankets for the residents of Interval House. Some of the other ways we've been working at being better neighbours in Saskatoon happen in combination with Family Ministries through activities like Scooters, the Pumpkin Bash, and Summer Kids Camp which made up 120 lunches for the Friendship Inn and another 120 Hygiene Kits for residents at the Lighthouse. We took the year off from assisting with the Wildwood Winter Fun Day due to my sabbatical, but we're hoping to resume our activity there in the coming year.

One other major highlight was the Mental Health focus at the church during the month of May. We were able to offer an evening seminar with Cara Taylor Mental Health Education on the Basics of Mental Health, as well as a two day Mental Health First Aid Course through which we saw 22 people from the church receive their MHFA Certification through the Mental Health Commission of Canada.

We continue to try raising awareness of various opportunities to serve in the city through our social media presence and through a volunteer opportunities poster on the information wall, as well as using the bulletin board at the back door to communicate the details of our regular programming and other community highlights for our church to pray for and participate in.

If you would like to get more involved in our Care Ministry or Community Engagement initiatives at Emmanuel please talk with me anytime and we will work to find meaningful ways for everyone to serve.

## Worship and Creative Arts Ministry Department

### Worship & Creative Arts

Submitted by Rob Priestley

Worship is an active lifestyle that is fuelled by the Holy Spirit and nurtured through the weekly worship service. Worship involves studying Scripture, wrestling with it, thinking about how faith relates to contemporary issues, using our will to make decisions. It means doing things for God—enacting the Gospel in the everyday spaces of our living. It means experiencing a relationship with God involving our emotions, our spirit—letting him into the deepest places our inner soul. It means using our imaginations to evoke intimacy with our Creator. It means loving God with every fiber of our being, with every perceivable and imperceptible dimension of our existence.

At Emmanuel we have incredibly gifted and dedicated people who serve on a variety of teams that fall under the worship umbrella. There are music teams, a technical and sound team, a group of actors and a team of artists. Some of these teams are more formal in construct (i.e. music, technical and sound teams) while other teams come together around specific seasons or services (i.e. drama and art). Regardless, the purpose of all of these teams is to aid us as a community in exploring the nature and heart of God and working to create opportunities for us to hear from and respond to God.

Another area in which the worship department continues to be active 'behind the scenes' is in partnering with the teaching pastors of each congregation. We envision the worship service to be a beginning point for the 'other' six days of living and so we have been working at creating responses and tools that interact with worship service themes. It may be an interactive opportunity during the service, it may be an art piece designed to visually augment the spoken word, or at times it is a take home resource, but all are designed to help integrate the teaching points into a way of living.

I would like to thank the many people who have contributed their time, expertise and resources in working to integrate Emmanuel's vision for worship into a living reality.

Several times a year we organize 'special events' to which the entire Emmanuel community is invited to participate in together. Some of these are evangelistic in nature, in which we go out into Saskatoon to 'put on' an event or which we encourage people to invite friends to an event at our church, some of the 'special events' are celebratory in nature and some are designed for us as a community to ponder something together.

In the past year we continued to use the leadership of the *worship collective* in the seasons of Advent, Lent & Easter Celebration. We created several opportunities for children to be involved in our special services during Advent and Lent.

In following the church calendar, we scripted special services to facilitate the opportunity to more fully engage in the seasons of the church. (i.e. Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter Celebration, Ascension & Pentecost.) These frameworks and opportunities allow for spiritual exploration and growth in areas that are fundamental to Christianity. We also provide devotional resources as another tool to aid in our spiritual growth as a community. In addition, we created new art pieces for most of the seasons (Advent, Epiphany, Lent, Easter Celebration, and Pentecost.)

Thank you to the many, many volunteers who helped with these events—those who helped with the planning of events, those who helped put them together, those who played or preformed and those who helped clean up. It's a privilege to be in partnership with such a great community!

## Goals flowing out of the Worship & Creative Arts Department:

- do an inventory of our current sound system and replace those things that are outdated or broken
- find creative ways to lead the music on Sunday when a full band is not available
- continue to work at creating more interactive opportunities within the community gatherings
- produce a play from within the Emmanuel community with one goal of using it as a way to connect with the people in the neighbourhood
- continue to create visuals and resources that help us contemplate and respond to the rhythms of the church calendar
- find ways to use the creative arts and worship to help introduce and integrate Emmanuel's vision statement
- continue to develop musicians of all ages
- intentionally work to bring together people of all ages and integrate them into special events and teams
- invite people to explore the interplay between aesthetics, beauty, sacred space and connection with God and provide opportunities for them share their gifts and discoveries with the Emmanuel community
- provide encouragement, resources, support and training for those involved in the creative arts at Emmanuel
- continue to pay attention to my own spiritual journey, taking inventory of the places where my heart, mind and soul are well connected to God and where they need attention – and encourage others to do the same
- regularly pray for the Emmanuel Community
- provide & produce resources to aid the Emmanuel Community in engaging in these yearly rhythms
- work to develop responses, tools and memory triggers to help people process and integrate the weekly teaching concepts into lifestyle actions
- organize special events that encourage and challenge the Emmanuel Community and provide opportunity to invite neighbours and friends
- work to craft creative and interactive weekly gatherings that will provide opportunity for the Emmanuel Community to reflect on, respond to and receive from God



**Submitted by Rob Priestley**

*the connection* is part of the Emmanuel family and meets Sunday evenings. Its goal is to be a community of people who are working out what it means to follow after and emulate the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. In working to live out the Emmanuel's vision and values, and with love and respect as its guiding principles, *the connection* strives to be a safe place for all people to come and ask questions about faith and life, and to have a meaningful place in community where they can be known and know others.

The past year *the connection* experience was shaped significantly by our fall retreat. We spent time together as a community talking about our vision and creating goals for the coming year. Some of the ideas that have been implemented in the past year were the physical set up of the space. We now sit 'in the round' with the Table at the center. This physical set up serves to remind us that we are all part of the community and that ultimately the centering piece of our community is Jesus. We also have had people from the community tell their stories during the community gathering. We have also worked to make the community gatherings more interactive. We have created opportunities to pack food bags during our response time that are given to those who struggle with the ability to buy groceries. We continue to work at figuring out ways to be involved in the Saskatoon community.

### **Goals for *the connection***

- to continue to work at living into the vision and values of Emmanuel
- to continue to explore ways to bring deeper community life to *the connection* in a safe and open way through the weekly community gatherings, small groups, informal 'get togethers', Potlucks and Park Picnics, retreats, online resources, and special speakers
- to continue to push into addressing and working out current cultural and theological issues in a respectful, loving, and Jesus centered way
- to find ways to participate and partner with different community organizations, agencies, and movements that create opportunities for the community to 'put into motion' being the hands and feet of Jesus
- to continue to creatively explore ways of making the weekly community gathering a more interactive and meaningful experience in teaching, learning, sharing, and worshipping
- to work at finding ways of having meaningful intergenerational interactions
- to continue to make way for and celebrate diversity within *the connection*
- to find some ways to meaningfully connect with the morning community of Emmanuel

## Sunday Morning Congregations

### Sunday Morning Communities

Submitted by Brendon Gibson

“We gather to imagine what our lives can be like (individually and communally) because Jesus is Lord. We gather to remind ourselves of who Jesus is, who we are in Him, and to imagine and explore who together we can become because of Him.” These two sentences, expanding on a quote from theologian Stanley Hauerwas, continue to be, for me, a clarifying vision of what our Sunday morning gatherings are about. Week after week, we gather as children of the king, as citizens of his kingdom, to be renewed, inspired, strengthened and equipped for life and service in his kingdom.

As I reflect on our Sunday morning gatherings, I praise God for all who make them happen. I am grateful for Rob and Kari, for their leadership in worship and creative arts, for their encouragement and empowerment of our worship teams who lead us so thoughtfully and capably each Sunday, and for the rich and thoughtful displays through the various seasons, including the interactive collage and prayer art during lent this past year. I am grateful for our engagement with the church calendar, for our journey through the high seasons, which keep us grounded in the life of Jesus, and for The Worship Collective, which led us at the start of Advent and at Easter. I am grateful for Beverly and all who serve our children in the preschool wing, and in the grade school classes. And I am grateful for our leaders who help with Youth and with M.U.S.E.

I am grateful for those who participate in our services through stories of grace, community prayer, and joyful and thoughtful worship. I give thanks for greeters and ushers, for those who serve at the Welcome Desk and the Coffee Bar. Your welcoming presence and hospitality are essential to our community. And I give thanks for all who gather weekly, bringing our sorrows and joys, our disappointments and hopes, joining with brothers and sisters in worship of our great God and king. I find great encouragement in the growing racial and ethnic diversity of our Sunday morning gatherings. I celebrate the fact that God is bringing the nations to Saskatoon and to Emmanuel, and I am grateful for the openness and welcome with which they are received among us.

There's been some good diversity in the teaching over the past year. In July and August, 2018, the series on God in the Margins continued with studies in Amos and Philemon as explored the ways God shows up in the margins of our lives, as well as in the margins of society. We spent the fall immersed in the book of Hebrews as we considered the uniqueness and superiority of Jesus, our big brother, exalted king, prophet, priest and supreme sacrifice. Through Advent and Christmas, we looked at the names of the promised child in Isaiah 9:6: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. In January, after Epiphany, we began a series on our nine values, looking at how each of them is a gift for our spiritual formation. We began with Creativity, which Carolyn Arends helped to deepen our appreciation for, and attention to, through our Spiritual Life Conference, and continued with Outreach, Justice, Love, Scripture, Prayer, Generosity, Diversity, and Community. This took us through Lent. After Holy Week and Easter, we spent the month of May exploring Faith, Hope and Mental Health, during which several members of our church family shared their own stories of mental health. And then in June, we started into a series on Psalm 23, which continued through the summer.

I am grateful for the staff who shared in the teaching through the year: Rob and Robin; for Jordan Reimer who spoke during advent on Wonderful Counselor, and for Ernie Atkinson and Laura Monchuk, who all addressed portions of Psalm 23.

Beyond Sunday mornings, there is much that encourages me: Care Ministry and Community Engagement, ESL Coffee and Conversation, Scooters, Pumpkin Bash and Summer Kids Camp all continue to help us engage the community beyond ourselves; Prayer Ministry, Small Groups, Heart Matters, Men's Breakfasts, Marriage Ministry, Growing in Grace, The Journey, A Way of Life and Walking with Others, as well as well as Soup N Buns, Dining Deeper and our Summer BBQs all help us deepen our relationships with Jesus and each other. I am grateful for all who lead and serve in these and other areas of ministry in our community, from children and youth to adults and seniors, from care to outreach and service in our community.

I am grateful for God's grace and faithfulness in this ongoing journey, and for the faithfulness of each member of our community. I praise God for the deepening connections we have experienced over the past year, and I trust that we will continue to grow deeper – in love with Jesus and each other, and in our experience of, and witness to, his kingdom. May we live daily in the reality of his kingdom, and continue to cultivate an interactive relationship with our Triune God, in whom we live and move and have our being.

### ***Welcoming & Ushering Ministry***

**Submitted by Glenn Rutherford**

Another year has passed ... If you read my report from last year, this may sound somewhat familiar.

First, I expressed my joy in being able to serve as an Usher – to welcome people, make them feel comfortable and prepared for worship, and to work with such a wonderful group of people - the ushers.

Second, I praised those who now serve as Ushers, as a group dedicated to the ministry, reliable and friendly.

We have great people serving on our three teams. Each is great because s/he “meets to greet” warmly people arriving to worship, trying to share in some small way warmth and recognition as Jesus would do.

They are also great because they are dependable. Each of our three teams of Ushers are scheduled to serve for one month. And the teams rotate throughout the year. When someone isn't able to usher, someone else willingly “covers” for them - a sense of reliable companionship.

Ushers assist during services when someone needs direction - to the nursery, washroom or children's ministry programs. There is also the need to be aware of anyone who might be experiencing distress or need help in some other way - then to respond appropriately.

Our average Sunday attendance is approximately 210 people with greater numbers on “special” occasions – Easter, Christmas, Music Chorus performances, etc.

If you are interested in receiving more information about joining our Team, please call me at (306) 373-2646 or talk to any other Team member. We would be pleased to answer any questions you may have – and get you into our schedule.

As I've told many of the ushers, serving as an Usher will give you a wonderful opportunity to get to know others within our fellowship with whom you may not otherwise have contact.

As we serve, we do it in the spirit of Christ, playing a small part in preparing people for communal worship.

### ***Coffee Bar***

**Submitted by Karen Verdouw**

The Coffee Bar Ministry was set up to provide an opportunity for people to engage in conversation, welcome new people and encourage fellowship amongst members of the congregation. The ESL group has also been joining with us for refreshments and a time of socializing between the end of their group time and the start of the morning service. This continues to be well attended by their group. We have been having some people from the ESL class volunteering to help serve at Coffee Bar this past year.

With the extra flow of people utilizing the Coffee Bar before the service it continues to be necessary to always schedule 2 volunteers each week while ESL classes are running. This year we have had 3 people step down from their roles at Coffee Bar and have had 5 new people joining our serving team for a total of 15 volunteers. These wonderful people have been serving faithfully throughout the year. There are also several individuals who regularly contribute home baked goods throughout the year, for which we are grateful. We have, however, begun to limit the amount of baking that gets put out each week as consumption was getting a little out of hand. We see the baking as a bonus and not a necessity, so we usually limit it to 6-8 doz. pieces of

baking each week. Staff at the church have been keeping an eye on supplies and regularly purchase the cream and coffee as needed.

This will be the second year that we close the Coffee Bar for the month of July. This month seems to show the lowest usage and with so many people away on vacation it can be challenging to staff it. Therefore, in order to give all of our volunteers a well-deserved break, we decided to shut it down and give everyone a chance to miss us 😊

As for future vision, I suspect the Coffee Bar will continue for as long as people utilize it and support it.

### **The Welcome Desk**

**Submitted by Jane McPhee**

The Wonderful Willing Welcoming Women have continued to be on duty at the Welcome and Information Desk each Sunday morning to offer a friendly smile and welcome folks to our church community - and we also answer questions!!! It's an important ministry, as we all seek to live out the Kingdom mission of living in community with one another and offer a hand of friendship. I have had some people tell me that the welcome they had at the Desk and the response to their questions was why they came back a second time to EBC!

This is where newcomers or walk-in guests can get questions answered about what's going on at Emmanuel Baptist Church, how to connect with Pastors or others in the community, where their children can learn about Jesus with others. It's also where people can get information about contributing their offering through the debit machine, getting new mailboxes or other ways to be part of the Emmanuel Family. Along with the Welcoming crew and the Ushers, we are part of making folks feel like we are glad they have come to be with us!

It is not a big commitment, and not a large group of folks helping in this ministry, but it is important as one of the first contacts people may have with our church..... And part of partnering with God to reach out to people in His love.

We always welcome new volunteers, and if you like meeting new people and being one of the first to church on a Sunday morning, Come Join Us!

# Outreach Ministry Department

## ***Outreach Ministry Report***

**Submitted by Brendon Gibson**

Outreach is an important aspect of our life as a Christian community. We are committed to engaging the community beyond ourselves through actions and words that communicate the love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ. As we experience God's love in our lives, we communicate his love in our conversations and we express it in our actions. As citizens of Christ's kingdom, we bear witness to Jesus and his kingship through word and deed. We proclaim the good news that Jesus is Lord, and that he is making all things new, and we demonstrate that reality in acts of mercy, compassion and service. We do this corporately, through various outreach initiatives, and we seek to equip and encourage members of our community to do so personally, in their particular spheres of influences.

Most of our ministry activities have some element of an outreach component to them. When we gather for worship, we want to be a place where all are welcomed, loved, and invited to explore and pursue God at their own pace, without coercion or pressure. All of our programs should be safe places where those who are not yet followers of Jesus can journey with us in community, ask questions without discrimination, and "check out" who Jesus is and why he matters. Our acts of mercy, service, and compassion should be offered with no strings attached.

As a church, we partner with individuals and ministries as they reach out to specific people in need or in other geographic locations. We participate in mission trips to serve and to learn to become global disciples. We share our church's resources with those in need; acknowledging that everything we have is a gift from God. We present the Gospel in creative ways, using creative arts, music and dramatic presentations. We want to welcome those who feel alone to know God and to be a part of this church family. Programs like Alpha & ESL Coffee and Conversation Circles are designed to develop meaningful relationships and to introduce people to Jesus.

**Blood Drives:** Through our ongoing Partners for Life partnership with Canadian Blood Services, we pledged to provide 30 units of blood for 2018. Over the course of the year, a total of 43 units of were donated, up from 35 the previous year. Thanks to all who continue to give blood.



**Canadian Blood Services**  
*it's in you to give*

**City-Wide Food Drive:** The 14th annual City-Wide Food Drive was held on Saturday, May 4, 2019. Once again, it was a great success, although, again, the amount of food collected was down from the previous year. Robin Bellamy (from Circle Drive Church) and Brendon Gibson worked on behalf of the Food Bank to mobilize and co-ordinate volunteers from churches across the city to collect food for the Food Bank. Bags with posters asking for donations had been distributed by the Star Phoenix earlier in the week. On Saturday, May 4, between 11:00am and 1:00pm, over four hundred volunteers from twenty churches fanned out across the city collecting food that had been left on doorsteps. In total, we collected 51,000 lbs of food, compared with 59,660 lbs for 2018. About forty-eight persons from Emmanuel participated. Thanks to all who participated.



### **Missions:**

#### **Ministry Partners and EBC Missionaries:**

"*Ministry Partners*" refers to ministries or individuals that:

- The Elder Board (or Mission Committee of the Elder Board) and church have recognized as a part of the Local & Global ministry & mission strategy of the church.
- Ministry Partners will enter into a Ministry Agreement Covenant with EBC.

## **EBC Commitments**

- EBC will give visibility from the platform during worship services at least once every 12 months in the context of a *Moment for Ministry*.
- EBC will encourage our people to give either directly to the sponsoring ministry or through Emmanuel Baptist Church through designated line items in the EBC Ministry Budget.
- EBC will encourage our people to prayerfully consider volunteering for the ministry or individual.
- EBC will encourage our church family to regularly pray for the individual and/or ministry and needs by listing them in the bulletin.
- The Ministry Partner may be highlighted in other appropriate ways (web-site, Mission Board, etc.)

"*EBC Missionaries*" are those who are now, or who have been, a part of the Emmanuel Baptist Family and are serving a Christian ministry locally, demographically (e.g. YFC staff) or overseas. Those who are EBC Missionaries:

- May or may not receive visibility from the platform during worship services, depending on individual needs and scheduling.
- May solicit support for an individual's ministry needs, not for the ministry they are serving.
- Will be listed in the bulletin for regular prayer.
- Will be highlighted in other appropriate ways (web-site, Mission Board, etc.)

## **Selection Criteria for Ministry Partners and EBC missionaries**

- Must agree with EBC statement of faith.
- Partnership must help EBC fulfill our mission (*To fully love God and all people for God's kingdom, pleasure and glory.*)
- Recognized charitable organization status with CRA (or affiliation with such an organization in case of individuals).
- Must be a part of an ongoing ministry.
- The maximum number of partners will be governed at the discretion of the Board of Elders based on resources and spiritual leading.

## **EBC missionaries must:**

- have Mission Committee approval of itinerary, project goals, etc.
- Presently is a part of the EBC community (for at least 6 – 12 months. Exceptions to this would be those who have previously been a part of the EBC community, but their ministry has taken them to a different location. It would be up to a pastor of the individual EBC community to determine whether or not the individual has actually been a part of the community).

## **Curent EBC Missionaries:**

Arlene Jorgenson (Leader Impact) – Leader Impact is a division of Power to Change. Leader Impact helps marketplace leaders explore the relevance of faith in God to their professional and personal lives, through business forums and small group discussions. Arlene has been involved with Leader Impact in the city for the past fifteen years. In 2018, the elders affirmed Arlene's request to be recognized as an EBC Missionary.

## **Local Partnerships**

As of June 2019, Emmanuel was committed to ministry partnerships with five local organizations. Each of these ministry partners may receive financial support through a Designated Fund and are supported by people from Emmanuel, who serve as staff, volunteers or Board Members. Annual reports for each of our partners are found in the Appendix:

1. The Bridge on 20<sup>th</sup> Street
2. Saskatoon Pregnancy Options Centre (formerly Real Choices Ministries)
3. Inter-Varsity International Student Ministry
4. The Quest at Christopher Lake
5. Hope Restored Canada

## **Global Partnerships**

Currently, Emmanuel has one global partnership with the Association of Rwandan Baptist Churches (AEBR), the **Rwanda STEP Partnership** through Canadian Baptist Ministries. This has been ongoing since 2004.

STEP is an acronym for Serving, Training, Energizing Partnerships. A STEP partnership is a three-year renewable commitment to a partner denomination in a foreign country. Through CBM, CBWC churches have partnerships in Bolivia, El Salvador, India, Kenya, Lebanon, and Rwanda. A STEP partnership involves:

- Making a financial commitment of \$10,000 per year for the length of the term. Of this amount, 75% is allocated to ministry priorities established by CBM in dialogue with the global partner. The remaining 25% is designated by the church in consultation with CBM.
- Sending a minimum of one short-term mission team to visit your global partner during the length of the partnership
- Providing prayer support for the ministries of CBM and the global partner
- Being open to opportunities to serve and be served, train and be trained, by maintaining ongoing dialogue with CBM and our church partner around global issues and ways to respond to them

## **Alpha**

**Submitted by Rob Arthur**

The Alpha course is a 13 week program where new Christians or those interested in the Christian faith can interact together, through a video and a lively discussion time. Alpha bills itself as “the safe place to ask difficult questions.” The open, free discussion of the Alpha course is critical to the success of the course. The idea of Alpha is to give the participants a safe place to come to and in a relaxing atmosphere discuss what Christ means to them in everyday life, answer questions about the church and ways to worship God. There is much about the Christian faith that is explored during the videos that might never come up in another venue.



This year there were two Alpha programs. We had usually had 6 to 10 participants in each of the fall Alpha and winter Alpha courses. Some of the international students had never thought about or even heard of many of the basic Christian beliefs so they were challenged by what they were learning. Many also attended the Coffee and Conversation ESL class during the year. There were always many questions on a wide range of topics.

During Alpha it was so good to have some seasoned Christians coming to Alpha who added some maturity and perspective during the course discussions. Adam and Leonard often showed up to give their perspectives on many of the Alpha topics. It is quite a time commitment but so appreciated when they had time to add to the conversation. Having the monthly soup and sandwich supper was a nice way to connect some of the students with those in the church.

There was a totally redone set of Alpha videos with many more multimedia elements and extra conversations added into each Alpha video for Sept 2016. This was done by the Alpha course group and included many international perspectives and scenes including Canada. This was well received by those who had seen part of the previous Alpha sessions. We continue to have many that want to learn more about Christ and our life with him for those who have never heard before and those who want to renew their commitment to him.

We are looking forward to another season of Alpha starting in September.

ESL Coffee and Conversation



© Emmanuel Baptist Church  
Saskatoon, SK, CANADA

ESL (English as a Second Language) Coffee and Conversation has continued to flourish during its tenth year at Emmanuel. For the third year, two weekly classes have run from Sept to May: an Entry-Level Class on Wednesday evenings led by Gordon McCullough and Jonathan Lecnik, and an Intermediate class on Sunday mornings led by Alan Barr and Cameron Milner. The Wednesday class has focused on functional English skills using a variety of materials including a series of booklets developed by Carol McCullough. This approach enables tutors to choose appropriate materials to meet their learners' language needs. The flexibility of this

approach has been great for learners and tutors alike, resulting in a more relaxed and productive learning environment. The Sunday class has continued to use bible-based discussion lessons, written by Cam Milner; the themes for 2018-2019 included: Christmas, Easter, the life of Moses, and the life of David. Average attendance was 20 to 25 on Wednesdays and 25 to 35 on Sundays.

The strength of our ESL classes continues to be the small and personal size of the discussion groups, with one instructor for every 2 to 5 learners, and the focus on conversation. Our volunteers continue to serve weekly and to host special events, which is a big commitment. We thank them for their faithfulness. The opportunity to work consistently with the same learners has led to growing friendships and made it an absolute joy to serve. This year, several new volunteers have discovered how much fun this ministry is.

Special events for 2018-2019, all of which were well attended and great fun, included a Fall Barbeque at the acreage of Brian and Jill Cook, a Christmas party, a celebration of Chinese New Year, a visit to the Warman rodeo, and a Wrap-up Barbeque at the home of Kathy Malanovich. Our faithful driver Rob Arthur continues to provide transportation on Sunday mornings and connect with many learners throughout the week.

The ESL learners continue to enjoy special events at Emmanuel. We thank the many people who work so hard to put on the Thanksgiving Display, the Christmas and Easter Worship Collectives, and the Stations of the Cross (viewed by the entry-level class using a simplified bilingual guidebook). The Sunday class warmly acknowledges the volunteers at the Coffee Bar, who welcome us after class ends at 10:15 and enable continuing conversation over refreshments.

After pioneering the ESL ministry at Emmanuel and leading it for over nine years, Cecilia Rajanayagam has needed to step down, as she and her husband Gary Teare have moved to Calgary. We thank Cecilia for her unfaltering vision, diligent leadership, attention to detail, care for volunteers, and sincere love for the learners.

Please continue to pray for us, that our ESL classes will continue to grow in effectiveness and friendship, both helping the learners to grow in their conversational English-language skills and introducing them to our faith and our Lord.

# FACILITY REPORTS

## **Facility Maintenance Report**

**Submitted by The Facility Maintenance Team  
(Murray Sloboda & John Dodman)**

### Things Completed in 2018 - 2019

- Installed in toilets in nursery and handicap washroom
- Did construction major renovations
- Doors were replaced around the building
- Small amount of drywall work performed in classroom and youth area
- New siding was installed
- New windows installed on older portion of the building and sanctuary
- New front ramp poured

The maintenance committee worked hard to get the improvements done, which the bulk of work was completed in December and some finishing work being done in May and June to complete the project. Thanks to all the staff for putting up with the workers over that 6-week period. Also, thanks to all who contributed to the Team 300 Capital Campaign. This helped a lot to get all the items on the list completed.

The next major issue has been leaks in the office area and front foyer. We have had roofers come up and have a good look at the roof and their feedback was that to try and fix a leak, the more leaks will be created. The roof is as old as the building (almost 40 years) and this type of roof (gravel) is not meant to last much more than 30 years so we are looking into options on this.

### Items Being Monitored

- Sound system (we are working on pricing this out and hope to proceed with work as soon as possible, this is very important)
- Parking lot is in reasonable shape and we continue to watch it and repair where necessary

A sincere thank you to everyone who gave of their time for to participate in the spring clean-up in May, and to all who generously donated to the capital campaign throughout the year.

## **Facility Rentals**

### ***Wedding and Event Coordinating***

**Submitted by Jan Smith**

Emmanuel only hosted one wedding on-site in 2018/2019. However, there have been a number of other events that we have been able to host. The event coordinator position consists of opening up church facilities, being around if any problems occur, and helping with set up/take down for the events (as well as locking up the facility afterwards). Through various birthday & Christmas parties, music recitals, appreciation banquets, Board meetings & AGMs, games nights and a World Vision Comedy Night Fundraiser we have been able to interact with those who are connected to our community and their social circles by providing them with a space to gather together, fellowship and celebrate.



## Appendix 1



The Quest at Christopher Lake is a Baptist camp and retreat facility situated on the beautiful shores of Christopher Lake. Our mission is to draw all people who come through our gates a step closer to God. Camp ministry is unique in the sense that it is a very relaxed and fun atmosphere where we can share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with people who may not be connected to a church.

### **Your contribution**

You may wonder if camp ministry makes an actual change in people's lives? The answer is YES! Because of your contributions and kindness over the years, lives have been touched and changed for the Kingdom. As we track many of our previous campers and staff, we can see how they developed from your babes in Christ to mature leaders for Christ in our own churches and communities.

### **The value of camp ministry**

The value of camp ministry should never be underestimated. I had the privilege of hearing a youth pastor speak recently on how a cabin leader at camp led him to Christ and today he is a youth pastor leading others to Christ. It's testimonies like these that inspires us to get up in the morning make a real tangible difference in people's lives for Christ.

### **Our theme**

Every year we have a special theme that we share with our summer campers. This year is no different and our theme is Jeremiah 29:11,

***For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.***

Our aim with this theme is to let every camper and staff member know that God knows them personally and that God has a plan and purpose for each person's life. We are hoping our theme will further inspire our visitors to draw closer to God and seek His perfect will and purpose for their lives.

### **Looking forward**

In my quiet time I felt the Holy Spirit guiding me towards Exodus 34:10,

***Then the Lord said: "I am making a covenant with you. Before all your people I will do wonders never before done in any nation in all the world. The people you live among will see how awesome is the work that I, the Lord, will do for you.*** What an amazing word.

Let us think for a moment about those who have never heard the message of salvation and with many new people moving to Canada in recent years – let us trust and pray that God is going to use The Quest in new and amazing ways!



---

### **The Bridge Foundation**

To meet the people where they are at, to accept them as they are, and for God's body to share His unconditional love.

### **The Bridge Mission**

The Bridge exists to bring people together, unified by God's Holy Spirit, to meet the needs within Saskatoon's inner city, so that ALL would be changed.

### **The Bridge Values**

- #1 Connection to God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- #2 Safe Environment
- #3 Unconditional Love
- #4 Presenting Opportunities

### **The Bridge Goals**

Our focus continues to be relationships. Daytime ministries involve providing meals, clothing, showers, hair-cuts, teaching and connecting. Evening ministries focus specifically on each demographic of men, women, youth and children, plus there's a mid-week open Bible Study. All ministries are going strong and continue to provide prime opportunities for us as staff to share the truth and love of Jesus.

### **The Bridge Progress and Growth**

One of the things we are especially excited about in this season is the growth in the opportunities that the Lord gives for us to disciple. With the opening of our new Life-Skills Development wing and the provision of different staff members, we are now able to offer a wide variety of different classes, classes that deal with people's emotional and spiritual needs, as well ones more practical like sewing and card-making. This, combined with all the other ministries offered; opens up many more opportunities for our visitors to grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus and with their brothers and sisters in Christ. As visitors come and see and engage in the various opportunities offered, we see glimmers of hope in their eyes for a better future.

### **The Bridge Future**

Finally we are thrilled to announce yet another opportunity for discipleship this fall and that is our "Released Disciple Internship". There will be 4, 8, and 12 month tracks where people will learn about and be released in their identity, and God-given gifts and callings.

Thank you so much for your partnership. Together we are making a difference in advancing God's Kingdom.

## **OUR PURPOSE**

We are committed to providing generous support, education and acceptance to women and their families who are experiencing unplanned pregnancy by striving to meet their emotional, spiritual and physical needs.

## **STAFF & BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Cathy LaFleche – Executive Director  
Tracy Unger – Client Services Director  
Anne-Marie Hughes- Community Outreach and Special Projects Director  
Hannah Browns – Admin Director

24 active volunteers work in the Centre weekly

Deborah Larmour – President  
Ruth Carr – Treasurer  
Clement Ng – Secretary  
Steven Menshenfriend – Board Member  
Benjamin Altrooge – Board Member  
Cameo Rempel--Board Member

**Charitable Registration #86530 4430 RR0001**

## **AFFILIATIONS**

- Member of the CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PREGNANCY SUPPORT SERVICES (CAPSS)
- Member of Heartbeat International and Care Net
- Member of the CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

## **Centre ACTIVITY Highlights**

- Began our Capital Campaign for the move to our new location. Have raised \$41,000 so far of our \$140,000 goal.
- Presented Respect for Life Program to Grade 9 students in Saskatoon and Humboldt with Fountain of Hope Inc.
- Provided volunteer training in January and May 2019. Currently have 24 official volunteers who are trained to work with clients and several unofficial volunteers who help behind the scenes and with fund raising.
- Moved into our new location at 2543 Dudley Street June 1. Began seeing clients June 5.

- Welcomed high school students earning Christian ethic volunteer hours and members of various churches and community groups to come help at the centre.
- Provided experience for 3 second year medical students to participate in the activities of the centre as part of their community resource exposure.
- Fall Gala & Silent Auction September 28, 2018 with 400 guests - \$59,000 raised
- Continued to open on Saturdays for those who work or go to school during the week.
- Attended CAPSS conference in Kelowna April 2019. 2 staff, 2 volunteers and 2 board members were able to be inspired and renewed.
- Began offering Bright Courses: Our Earn While You Learn parenting program now streaming onto our computers for instant upgrading of material.
- Continued to nurture our Syrian refugees and immigrants from other countries with education and support. Have found many abortion vulnerable women among our newcomers and students.
- Moms drop in is still a popular meeting place for isolated moms. Friendships are forming. Two volunteers take charge of this weekly event

### **CLIENT STATISTICS FOR 2018**

- 1265 Total Client visits
- 205 New Client cases , 269 clients in all
- 63 known live births
- 154 clients received options counseling
- 41 abortion minded/vulnerable clients
- 172 received parenting education
- 39 clients came for post abortion counseling
- 7989 items given out from our closet/boutique

### **FUTURE GOALS**

- To take 2 staff to the annual CAPSS conference: this will be held in Montreal PQ in 2020. It is a 3 day opportunity for learning and networking with other Pregnancy Care workers across Canada.
- To adjust to our new location at 2543 Dudley Street, becoming good neighbours and a community resource to pregnant women and families.
- To develop a male mentorship program for dads
- To offer an in house bible study for clients, staff and volunteers starting in September
- 2019 Fall Gala & Silent Auction will be held September 20<sup>th</sup> at TCU Place

#103-2543 Dudley Street  
 Saskatoon SK S7M 5V3  
 306-665-7550  
 spoc@sasktel.net  
 www.saskatoonpregnancy.com

We have made the switch from working with undergrads to working with international graduate students (Masters and PhD) and visiting scholars. We have learned that these are usually not in regular classes, that they need to be present in their labs at odd hours in order to follow experiments, they are away to conferences, and especially towards the end of their studies their focus on studies nearly consumes them. For all these, we pray and look for ways to support and encourage, meeting as they are able.

For the Christians, we have found the "2+" card of personal evangelism to be a great tool. Some Christians have become inward-looking, and this tool helps to identify people around them that need Jesus, giving simple steps to become effective witnesses. We saw several Christians' lives transformed by this concept.

We took three students to URBANA at the end of December. This proved to be valuable in their walks with God and witness to others. Ongoing prayer meetings and one-to-one mentoring is part of growth as well.

More people were involved in Bible study this year. Two studies were initiated and led by Christian students (the two of us led others) and these of course grew the most in their walks with God. A grad couple has made a recommitment to Jesus. Sadly, we did not have any students make new confessions of faith in God through Jesus this year.

The regular Saturday soccer has borne fruit this year. Gerry has made contact with Christians whom he is now mentoring, as well a non-Christians now in Bible study. One is also in the Marriage Alpha course.

We are presently running our third series of the Alpha Marriage course in this year. We have seen relationships saved and strengthened. While in Toronto a few weeks ago we visited a Mexican couple who took the course (and as a result got married). They said it was the course that has most affected their lives.

Summer ministry with ongoing students or with those who have come just for the summer continues on campus, in our home or backyard or in various locations in or outside Saskatoon. The Christian Gathering during this time is Wednesday mornings at 7:30.

We will welcome new students in September with the goal of having a Thanksgiving Camp. We are grateful that a group of alumni has taken on the responsibility of running Christmas Camp 2019, so that while we will also be there, we get to spend more time with the students.

Thanks for your continued prayers, financial support and encouragement in our ministry among International Students.



## Hope Restored Canada

**Submitted by Joeline Magill  
Interim Executive Director  
On behalf of the HRC Board of Directors**

Hope Restored Canada (HRC) is a non-profit, federally registered charity that focuses on eradicating sexual exploitation in Canada. Our goal is to create a world where those affected by sexual exploitation are renewed and restored in healthy relationships.

At HRC, we focus on two areas:

- 1) reaching out to those in the sex industry offering a caring relationship, assistance in life transition, and supports to walk through recovery and reintegration; and
- 2) education of social service providers and the general public on the issue in Canada, root causes, prevention strategies, and how to recognize the signs of exploitation in those around us.

The past year has been an exciting year of growth and continued learning for HRC. In addition to offering the hotline, we continue with weekly outreach in the massage parlours, reaching out by text and meeting women who are working online. We have had the opportunity to connect with over 250 individuals working in the sex industry locally and nationally.

Some notable highlights from this past year include:

- Monthly “change the ending” session at the YWCA Shelter for Women who are residing there, having conversations about healthy relationships, and signs of trafficking.
- The 2nd HRC Summit happened on April 26 & 27 with a focus on collaboration, care for the helper, and learning about the issue of trafficking in Canada.
- External training opportunities for social service providers, and health care providers.

As we look forward to the future, our priorities include stabilizing resources, strengthening our educational programming and local partnerships, and enhancing our prevention tools. The board has been actively working on strategic planning in each of these areas. Thank you for your support and continued prayers!

(306) 371-4673 (HOPE) • [info@hoperestoredcanada.org](mailto:info@hoperestoredcanada.org) • [www.hoperestoredcanada.org](http://www.hoperestoredcanada.org)



Our mission is to help marketplace leaders discover the relevance of faith in their personal and professional lives. We do this through discovery events (Forums speaker events and small discovery groups) and growth events (global exchanges, speaker training, leadership opportunities).

The Saskatoon City Team consists of myself, as Chair, 5 other business people and 1 staff person representing various city churches.

We hosted a Forum breakfast in October and May (average attendance 60) with Christian business speakers who've been trained to deliver a high impact business message while linking to their story of faith. We hosted the 42nd ANNUAL SASKATOON PRAYER BREAKFAST in April with speaker Bill Adsit, a successful businessman and residential school survivor, which was attended by 350 people.

We currently have 6 discovery groups operating led by business men and women at various times, days and places with open membership. Two Global Exchanges (Cali, Columbia in November and Medellin, Columbia in March) were attended by 4 Saskatchewan couples. We also are raising up leaders for a City Team in North Battleford.





# **Annual General Meeting**

October 16, 2019

*Emmanuel Baptist Church exists ...  
to fully love God and all people  
for God's Kingdom, pleasure and glory.*



**EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Date: Wednesday, October 10**

**Time: 7:15pm**

**MINUTES**

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:17
  - a. Quorum confirmed—15% of voting members of Emmanuel Baptist Church
2. Opening Prayer—offered by Betty Elmgren
3. **Agenda Approval—M/S Robin Crich/Floyd Collins  
Carried**
4. Approval of minutes from Members' Meetings
  - a. Approval of the Minutes of the November 15, 2017 AGM
    - i. **Motion to approve the minutes M/S: Jan Nerenburg/Robin Crich  
Carried**
  - b. Approval of the minutes from April 18 meeting
    - i. **Motion to approve the minutes M/S: Betty Elmgren/Bryan Roset  
Carried**
  - c. Approval of the minutes from May 9 meeting
    - i. **Motion to approve the minutes M/S: Murray Sloboda/Barb Dawson  
Carried**
  - d. Business arising from minutes
    - i. Building Project Progress Report—Fraser
      1. New concrete out front
      2. Materials have all been approved and ordered
      3. Stripping the building has begun
      4. \$15 000 unexpected cost due to asbestos
    - ii. Update on The Quest—Brendon
      1. Special business meeting was held addressing 3 concerns CBWC wanted them to address before granting a loan
      2. Reconciliation meetings are being held between The Quest and EBC and First Baptist
        - a. Brendon clarified that EBC was not alienated, but will participate in the process
        - b. New churches will be invited to join the financial support of the camp once reconciliation process is completed
      3. Governance Manual is in the beginning stages of being updated, but this could be a process of a few years
      4. Gratitude expressed for the financial help through the summer
      5. Unless support from churches can be increased, financial situation is not yet healthy
      6. New staff is being hired
      7. There is an almost entirely new board

8. Several baptisms were held at the camp over the summer, including Ernie's granddaughter

5. Reports and Related Business

- a. Nominating Report—Erin Hantke-Trew (Chair of the Nominating Committee)
  - i. Nominating Committee: Ron Basky, Jenelle Lepp, Erin Hantke-Trew, and Glenn Stumborg
  - ii. Motion to elect the Elders, Moderator, and Treasurer.
    1. Continuing board members: Ron Basky, Mark Everett, Betty Elmgren, Jan Nerenberg, Gary Dewarle, Floyd Collins, and Fraser Kent
    2. Nominated board members: Cam Milner and Amy Bourassa
    3. Nominated board chair: Jan Nerenberg
    4. Nominated treasurer: Bryan Roset (willing to serve until December 31, 2018)
- b. Executive Pastor, Moderator, and Ministry Leaders available to take questions on their reports.
  - i. The Bentley should be paying for electricity for the sign that they have on EBC property, but they have not been. This year, exploration needs to be done to determine how much they should be paying for electricity each year.
  - ii. EBC has been leasing part of the parking lot from Emmanuel Village for overflow. This has not been used, so the board will explore how to get out of the lease.
- c. Finance
  - i. 2018 Audited Financial Report—Bryan Roset
    1. Total donations to the operating fund were \$686 923 which is a decrease of \$44 726 from the previous year. Total operating costs were \$746 402 resulting in a deficit of \$32 955.
    2. The surplus from last year was transferred from the internally restricted operating reserve fund to reduce the current year deficit to \$10 485. According to EBC policy, the internally restricted operating reserve fund balance is to be maintained at a minimum of 5% to a maximum of 10% of the previous year's actual operating donations. This policy has been suspended for a year because of the deficit.
    3. Capital Fund donations: \$126 925 Current cash balance: \$134 894
    4. **Motion to receive 2016/2017 audited report from Heagy LLP Chartered Accountants. M/S Wayne Elmgren/Bill Roesler Carried**
  - ii. **Motion to appoint Heagy LLP Chartered Accountants as Auditor for the coming fiscal year. M/S Bryan Roset/Floyd Collins Carried**
  - iii. Prayer of Thanksgiving
  - iv. Presentation of 2018/2019 Budget

1. Offerings are budgeted to be \$47 577 over last year's actual offerings and budgeted expenditures have been decreased by \$2387 for a budgeted reserve of \$10 485.
  - a. Reduction in Outreach Ministries (\$6082), Discipleship Ministries (\$2800), and Worship Ministries (\$707) budget lines.
2. **Motion to receive the general operating and capital budgets for the 2018/2019 fiscal year. M/S Gary Dewarle/Jan Nerenberg Carried**

6. Vote Results

- a. Presentation and blessing of the 2018/2019 Board of Elders and Officers
  - i. Total of 60 votes (6 absentee ballots)
    1. At least 95% in favour of electing all nominated individuals to their respective positions
  - ii. **Motion to destroy the ballots M/S Jana-Lyn Bergen/Sharon Smith Carried**
- b. Expression of appreciation for the work Lori Moffat has done as a board member and moderator.
- c. Prayer of commissioning—Lori Moffat

**ADJOURNMENT**

1. **Motion to Adjourn the Meeting M/S Lori Moffat/Kari Elliott**
2. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07

**Board reviewed the minutes on October 25, 2018.**

**MINUTES APPROVAL**

Name: Jan Nerenberg Name: Amy Bourassa  
 Signature: Jan Nerenberg Signature: Amy Bourassa

Emmanuel Baptist Church

Special Members Meeting RE: Roof replacement

June 23, 2019 7:30pm

Call to Order: 7:34pm

1. Update on building improvements—Murray Sloboda
  - a. \$280 000 spent to date
  - b. Asbestos had to be professionally removed
  - c. New windows, siding, doors
  - d. Construction is nearly complete
    - i. A few adjustments to fix the gap in doors and creating a better slope to the main entrance
  - e. Lower roof needs to be repaired
    - i. Flat roofs generally last about 25 years, this roof is about 40 years old
    - ii. Roof is now leaking in the foyer, office, and nursery
      1. Creates a mould issue and repair issue
      2. Each leak repair could cost \$10 000-\$15 000
    - iii. Recommendation that a new, rubberized roof be installed
      1. Makes sense to replace the flat roof all at once.
      2. Replacement would not include the sloped roof.
  - f. Expression of appreciation for the facilities committee and invitation for more members to join the committee
2. Presentation of Motion

**Given the recent leaks in the roof over the front entrance and office wing, Emmanuel Baptist Church approves the replacement of the roof at a cost not exceeding \$140 000 (taxes included), to be funded by the secure line of credit through the CBWC Foundation. M/S Chantelle Kurtz/Murray Sloboda**

- a. Discussion
  - i. Will the other sections of roof need to be replaced in the near future?
    1. The rest of the roof seems to be in good repair so far. The slope helps the snow and rain to fall off. To replace the whole roof would be about \$300 000.
    2. When the rest of the roof is replaced, there will be more asbestos to remove in the felt membranes.
  - ii. Will the new roof be sloped?
    1. Not significantly, but the rubberized produce is tested in swimming pools and seems to last a long time. It's the current industry standard.
  - iii. When was the torch down section last replaced? Will it become a problem?
    1. Not likely for about 10 years
  - iv. Will mould removal become a concern?
    1. Perhaps, if the plywood has started to mould
  - v. Comment that there have been leaking concerns since the church was built.

- 1. Windows have been raised, so leaking in the walls should be addressed, but the slope is still toward the windows.
- vi. The Board did think about a sloped roof, but that solution would cost about \$500 000.
- vii. 3 quotes will be sought, and the cheapest quote will be accepted.
- viii. How long will it take to pay off?
  - 1. About 10 years
- ix. Important to communicate to the congregation the things that need to be replaced down the road to prioritize meeting the budget and keeping the reserve fund.

3. Vote

- a. Scrutineers: Lori Moffat, Floyd Collins, Ernie Atkinson, Cam Milner
- b. Yes: 53 No: 1 Abstained: 1

**Motion to destroy the ballots M/S Amy Bourassa/Kim Elliott**

Adjournment 7:57pm

**Board reviewed the minutes on September 19, 2019.**

**MINUTES APPROVAL**

Name: Jan Nevenberg Name: Amy Bourassa

Signature: Jan Nevenberg Signature: Amy Bourassa

**Emmanuel Baptist Church**  
**AGM Agenda**  
**October 16, 2019 – 7:15 PM**

Call to order (Quorum is 15% of voting members of the church)

- 1) Greeting and Opening Prayer
- 2) Agenda approval  
Motion for approval
- 3) Approval of the minutes of the following Members Meetings
  - a. Motion to approve minutes of the AGM on October 10, 2018
  - b. Motion to approve the minutes from the June 23, 2019
  - c. Business arising from the minutes
    - i. Progress report on facility
- 4) Reports and related Business
  - a. Nominating Report
    - i. Motion: Election of Elders, Moderator and Treasurer
    - ii. Scrutineers to count while other business is being presented
  - b. Executive Pastor, Moderator and Ministry Leaders available to take questions on their reports.
  - c. Finance
    - i. 2017/2018 Audited Financial Report  
Motion to receive 2018-2019 Audit report from Heagy LLP Chartered Accountants.
    - ii. Motion to appoint Heagy LLP Chartered Accountants as Auditor for the coming fiscal year.
    - iii. Prayer of Thanksgiving
    - iv. Presentation of 2019-2020 Budget
      1. Motion to Receive the General Operating and Capital Budget for the 2018/2019 fiscal year
- 5) Vote results (5a)
  - a. Presentation and Blessing of the 2019/2020 Board of Elders and Officers
  - b. Prayer of commissioning
- 6) Doxology and Motion to Adjourn

# Strategic Priorities

## Strategic Priorities Report

Submitted by **Brendon Gibson**  
(with input from staff)

The following Strategic Priorities were established in 2017 as a result of a survey of the Emmanuel Family, which informed a Strategic Discernment Conversation that involved about thirty-five persons, including the elders, staff and a cross-section of the Emmanuel community. The following report is an attempt to track our progress on these priorities:

Strategic Priorities	2018-2019 Progress Report
<b>1. Strengthening Unity within Diversity</b>	
Reaffirming and reinforcing our commitment to Jesus, to our core beliefs, and to our vision, mission and values as gleaned from the bible, while cultivating healthy conversation around cultural and theological areas in which we accept and embrace diversity.	
How will we accomplish this? By...	
a. Ongoing attention to the church calendar in worship and teaching.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ongoing</li> <li>- C&amp;C wrote and prayed through several liturgies around high seasons in the church calendar (Advent and Lent).</li> </ul>
b. Annually revisiting and reaffirming our core beliefs, vision, mission and values in worship, teaching and communication (print and online).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Brendon did a sermon series in the morning on the values. The series was launched by Carolyn Arends who spoke at our Spiritual life conference on Creativity</li> <li>- Rob revisited the values twice at <i>the connection</i></li> <li>- Ongoing in print and online</li> </ul>
c. Regular community conversations to explore current cultural and theological issues (e.g., Indigenous (re)Conciliation, Creation Care, LGBTQ issues)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-messaging and teaching at <i>community gatherings</i></li> <li>-<i>the connection</i> teaching included revisiting Indigenous (re)Conciliation and Creation Care</li> <li>- C&amp;C participated in the Meewasin Valley Clean Up project for the second consecutive year. C&amp;C also looked at several parables and journal articles that led our conversation into areas of privilege around cultural and</li> </ul>

	theological issues (Creation Care, LGBTQ, Reconciliation, and Ableism).
<b>2. Strengthening Community Engagement</b>	
Inspiring and encouraging the members of our community to share the love of Jesus with the communities around us through deed and word.	
How will we accomplish this? By...	
a. Continuing to serve the wider community through initiatives like Support Groups, Scooters, ESL, Alpha, Pumpkin Bash, Summer Kids Camp, Food Drive, Blood Donations, Christmas Hampers and Bags for Partners, and through our ministry partnerships with The Bridge, IVCF International Students, Saskatoon Pregnancy Options Centre and Hope Restored Canada.	- Ongoing throughout the year - <i>the connection</i> created response stations that included packing food bags and making soup to help with hunger needs in the city
b. Continuing to work at developing relationships with the community associations and schools around us (e.g., in the neighbourhoods of Wildwood and Lakeview, Eastview and Brevoort Park).	-Continued to extend offers of support to Wildwood & Bishop Pocock Schools via field trip support & assembly attendance where appropriate. -Hosted the Emmanuel Village Community Garden AGM & Potluck (Brendon also sat in on meetings with the garden, city, and condo board to discuss ease of access to the garden & offered to host a BBQ should the gardeners be interested in such a gathering.)
c. Exploring additional opportunities for outreach ministry around us and in our city (e.g., Sturby Place).	-Expanded the Food Pantry program to receive donations from both congregations to meet the demand for food bags -Continued relationship with Parent Aide -Regularly updated the list of volunteer opportunities on Info Wall. (perhaps we should be highlighting a partner organization once a month in our weekly programming email?) -Youth and C&C both did meal preparation to extend the Food

	<p>for Comfort program to members of the Scooters community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-range of service projects for C&amp;C</li> <li>-Mental Health First Aid Course</li> <li>- Scooters/Heart Matters organized a drive for menstrual hygiene products in March/April that went to support YXE Connects</li> <li>- Kids Camp Hygiene Kits for the Lighthouse</li> <li>-Share the Warmth blankets</li> <li>- Home-Baked Cookies to Shut-In Senior Adults</li> </ul>
d. Identifying and/or developing appropriate ways of sharing the gospel with our neighbours and friends (and equipping our community to engage with them).	
<b>3. Strengthening Spiritual Formation</b>	
Deepening our passion and practices for becoming more Christ-like while acknowledging the uniqueness of each person's spiritual journey.	
How will we accomplish this? By...	
a. Continuing to provide multiple opportunities (courses, workshops, studies) and resources through the year for engaging in spiritual formation practices and encouraging greater participation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Journey/A Way of Life/Walking with Others; Heart Matters, Men's Breakfast; C&amp;C; Small Groups; Sunday Morning Bible Study; Spiritual Life Conference, Lent and Advent Resources</li> <li>-offered an all community interactive collage and prayer opportunity during the season of lent</li> </ul>
b. Offering alternative (holistic) approaches to spiritual formation that engages mind, heart, body and senses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stations of the Cross (new devotional booklet), Week(s) of Prayer Guides, Interactive Stations at the Connection;</li> </ul>
c. Encouraging greater participation in spiritual conversations and mutual mentoring among our community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Primarily from the pulpit</li> <li>-<i>the connection</i> fall retreat</li> <li>-at <i>the connection</i> community gatherings members of the community tell their stories and</li> </ul>

	share what they have been thinking about (including youth and children)
<b>4. Strengthening Congregational/Generational Connections</b>	
Fostering opportunities for greater inter-generational and cross-congregational interaction.	
How will we accomplish this? By...	
a. Continuing to provide opportunities for multi-generational and inter-congregational gatherings of all kinds (fellowship, outreach, worship, prayer)	- Soup 'N' Buns, Worship Collectives, Dining Deeper, Ladies Afternoon Tea; Summer BBQs (mornings); Park Picnic Potlucks (Connection), Joint all-congregation BBQ in Wildwood Park; worship teams
b. Exploring new ways to foster stronger connections between the various ages of our community, healthy transitions between stages of life in our community, as well as deeper connections between our congregations.	- Youth and C&C held a combined event (Bananarama) to help older youth students meet and interact with their future peers. - Seniors, Youth and Children worked together to create cards for seniors. - Youth hosted Elders for a board games evening - Prayer Sisters
c. Developing mentoring initiatives that brings together older and young members of our community for regular conversations (adults/seniors with children/youth/young adults).	- Marriage Mentoring - worship teams in both morning and evening gatherings
d. Working to improve our communication in all areas (pulpit, print, email, website, social media).	- Ongoing

