



FIRST BAPTIST

church • cranbrook

**Hearing and knowing the
voice of God – and
responding to it**

**“He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out... and His sheep
follow Him because they know His voice.” John 10**

2021 Annual Reports

**Annual Ministry and Missions
Congregational Meeting
March 10th, 2021**

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First Baptist Church Cranbrook Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, March 10th, 2021 – 7 pm

The purpose of this congregational meeting is to bring us together to think, pray and discuss FBC's ministry (in reach) and mission (outreach). We desire to reach unanimity where possible: to reach consensus always. So we encourage free, passionate, and honest discussion of the issues we face as a congregation. We may disagree, but we may not be disagreeable. We may express ideas or problems, but we may not attack the people who state those ideas. Scripture tells us that our discussions are to be free of anger and disrespect for either people or their positions. (Col 3:8). In the spirit and letter of Mt. 18:15ff, should confrontation be required, it is to be done in private. However, in public we are to "make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification..." (Ro: 14; 19). As chair, I will try to hold us accountable to these words. May God give us all grace and cheerfulness as we serve Him and build each other up.

Devotional and Prayer

- 1. Call for additions to the agenda**
- 2. Ratify Minutes of 2020 AGM**
- 3. Reports: Have been available. We trust you have had time to review them. While the reports will not be read, there will be a time of engaging with the various reports and ministry areas.**
 - 1. Friendship Ministry**
 - 2. Congregational Care**
 - 3. Mill Creek Baptist Camp**
 - 4. Young Life**
 - 5. Library**
 - 6. Church Clerk**
 - 7. Envelope Steward**
 - 8. Facilities Committee**
 - 9. Space Project**
 - 10. Nominations Committee Report**
 - 11. Administration Committee**
 - 12. Treasurers Report**
 - 13. Elder's Report**
 - 14. Music and Worship**
 - 15. Children's Ministry**
 - 16. Pastor of Mission, Outreach & Youth**
 - 17. Pastoral Report**
- 4.**
- 5. Listening for God's Voice in Direction and Vision for First Baptist Church of Cranbrook?**
- 6. Closing Prayer**

First Baptist Church Cranbrook Annual General Meeting

Tuesday March 3rd, 2020 – 7 pm

The purpose of this congregational meeting is to bring us together to think, pray and discuss FBC's ministry (in reach) and mission (outreach). We desire to reach unanimity where possible: to reach consensus always. So we encourage free, passionate, and honest discussion of the issues we face as a congregation. We may disagree, but we may not be disagreeable. We may express ideas or problems, but we may not attack the people who state those ideas. Scripture tells us that our discussions are to be free of anger and disrespect for either people or their positions. (Col 3:8). In the spirit and letter of Mt. 18:15ff, should confrontation be required, it is to be done in private. However, in public we are to "make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification..." (Ro: 14; 19). As chair, I will try to hold us accountable to these words. May God give us all grace and cheerfulness as we serve Him and build each other up.

Membership: 31

Quorum: 20

Devotional and Prayer – Tyler Birkham spoke on listening to the Spirit and acting on what we are prompted to do. To look and see where God is working. He read a verse that was very impactful to him (Matt 11:28-30 the Message) in his faith. "Learn the unforced rhythms of grace" – what should we do? What will we do? Also read from an essay by Margaret Wheatley on Listening. Listening, and the unforced grace that that offers is powerful. Shown in the story of Acts 3.

1. **Call for additions to the agenda** - none. Motion to accept agenda as presented. Jim Nicol/Jeff Nicolajsen. Carried.
2. **Ratify Minutes of 2019 AGM** – motion to ratify the minutes of the 2019 AGM. Carl Desjarlais/Jim Nicol. Carried.
3. **Reports: Have been available. We trust you have had time to review them. While the reports will not be read, there will be a time of engaging with the various reports and ministry areas.**
 - a. **Library** – No comments
 - b. **Congregational Care** – No comments
 - c. **Facilities Committee** – No comments
 - d. **Church Clerk** – This job was added to office admin role. This will see a bit of a change with the coming change of the office admin position. Annalee Siemens – Robyn is resigning from these roles (church clerk & envelope steward)? Tyler Birkham – yes, she will not be staying on as a volunteer in them after she leaves the office admin job. Walter VanRietschoten – what does the last sentence mean of the church clerk's report? Tyler – they are youth.
 - e. **Envelope Steward** – No comments
 - f. **Friendship Ministry** – Sue Coolbaugh – even though the church has budgeted \$500 for this ministry, it has been a long time since we have accepted and used these funds. There is a lot of support (\$2800) from the wider community for this ministry.
 - g. **Wednesday Homeless Breakfasts** – Bill Taylor – Wednesday homeless breakfast is no longer happening.

- h. **Mill Creek Baptist Camp** – Alison Kidd – the board has hired Steffi Reynolds as the Executive Director for at least this year. Registration is open, things are moving ahead.
- i. **Young Life** – No comments
- j. **Music and Worship** – Tyler Birkham – bravo for juggling different plates.
- k. **Children’s Ministry** – Tyler Birkham – there is a massive amount of people and details in your report, which requires a massive amount of organization.
- l. **Space Project** – Jim Nicol – things have constantly been in flux. The carpets have already been redone. Looking into change some of the Fellowship Hall lighting to LED and keeping that under the Space umbrella. Painted the Narthex area. The sanctuary has not been redone, will get quote, but not sure if we will do that right away. For finances, we have a pretty good idea that there is \$85,000 that we have not touched from the loan we took out. We think we will end up being better than our budget by \$20-30,000 (once GST refunds are in). Thanks for your patience, generosity in helping, donating funds, cleaning, fixing, and prayer support.
At this point, now that the project is complete, we are lumping the money that is coming in together with the General Fund. We are moving away from the 2 separate budgets (General Fund and Building Fund) and making them just one. Kevin Ewaskow – we should impart this last bit about the one all encompassing fund to the 80% of the congregation that is not here.
- m. **Administration Committee** – Al Dyck – over the last couple of years, we have had the joy of doing a little bit of travel in all sorts of places, with all sorts of churches. Spoke of the giving that is done in some of these churches, with different options, including online. Jim Nicol – Admin has been looking into this for some time and is starting to make some progress. Stay tuned.
- n. **Treasurers Report** – Jon McWhirter – one of the things we have noticed in the last little while is that we are spending a bit more than we are receiving. Last year we spent about \$5000 more than we brought in. We had money in the bank, so it was not an issue. We do have a monthly budget to meet, as well as the commitment to pay down the building fund. January & February have been under (which is the typical trend). Last year we cut it quite close with giving, so something to prayerfully consider.
- o. **Elder’s Report** – No comment
- p. **Nominations Committee Report** – Tyler Birkham – now is the season to have ongoing discussion for elder positions. Please pray for that as we move towards the Spring election.
- q. **Pastor of Mission, Outreach & Youth** – Aaron Hansen read a note from Jessika & Shammah Odongo from Art Waves that was sent to him today. Also spoke about the Ordination process that he is undertaking. Meryl Burnham – does your wife count as the church’s representative to be a part of the Ordination Council in Vancouver in May? Aaron – no, relatives do not count.
- r. **Pastoral Report** – Tyler Birkham – was looking at the bulletin from last Sunday, and some of the things in the mix, and there were some new things in there – the Suggestion/Question box, and the questions that we will entertain here tonight. A lot of this stuff comes back to Pastor Kevin, and the ways he fosters community. Annalee Siemens – were we supposed to put our names with the questions to go in the box? Kevin Ewaskow – Question box was Marian Ma’s idea, and questions meant to be anonymous. Attended a ministerial meeting today. Usually, the meetings are painful. Over the last couple of years that has started to reshape, and there has been some new comradery. Please pray for that, to keep the

togetherness that is there. Cory Greidanus – who are the churches involved? Kevin – Christian churches, so not Jehovah’s Witness, Mormons, etc. Upwards of 10-14 people attending. Judy Mistal – is it doctrine that makes it difficult? Kevin – yes.

Cory Greidanus prayed for the discussion that took place.

Jon McWhirter moved to accept the reports that have been presented, except for the treasurer’s that needs to be amended. Cory Greidanus seconded. All in favor. Carried.

- 4. Election for Jack van Leusden to Nominations Committee
Annalee Siemens and Jon McWhirter counted ballots. Vote was unanimous in favor of Jack.**
- 5. Listening for God’s Voice in Direction and Vision for First Baptist Church of Cranbrook**
- 6. Motion to Adjourn – Walter VanRietschoten**
- 7. Closing Prayer – Kevin Ewaskow**

FRIENDSHIP MINISTRY

Friendship met for 10 Monday Evenings before Covid-19 restrictions came into play on March 12. It has been a difficult time for our Friends as most of their routine support programs and activities were severely modified or cancelled. Thanks to Tim and Caitlin Matway for contacting each one last Spring with a doorbell/ mailbox brown bag of encouragement. Others have made limited contact in person for hiking and outside activities. Phone calls have been an important means of connecting.

We were saddened when Garfield Amburg passed in the summer. He was a Charter member of Friendship and in recent years worshipped regularly in our Church.

We all look forward to when we can resume meeting together again. Hopefully, this can happen in September 2021.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sue Coolbaugh

Coordinator

CONGREGATIONAL CARE REPORT

I have been back in the Congregational Care Ministry since April 2020 and so much has changed with COVID.

There are many volunteers under the umbrella of Congregational Care that make this ministry work. Much of what I do and therefore, what the others do, is dependent on being informed of the needs of people within our church. Usually, someone will drop me an email, text or call me to find out if I have heard or know of a situation that needs some love and care. I truly appreciate that!

Prior to COVID and during COVID, there have been times I should have been helping with a situation, but I have not heard of it and find out when the need has passed. Usually, the issue has been resolved but I feel that I haven't done my job or kept up well enough with the needs of our church. We just have so many wonderful, caring people that take the task on themselves! Please call, email, or text with any concerns and I will try to direct you to one of the volunteers within this ministry, take the task on myself or simply stay informed. It is truly amazing how "in the loop" I have been kept during the pandemic of people that need some extra love. The congregants of FBC really take care of one another. The services I coordinate, or usually coordinate within this ministry are:

Visitation

This ministry is looking a lot different currently. I know some people within the church have taken it on themselves to phone people out of the directory and check up on them. I received a phone call like that myself and it sure felt nice. Many times, I don't know of a need but rather get an email or text after the visit has taken place telling me all about it. Thank you to the people who step up to this task and take it into their own hands. Also, much of the visiting is taken on by staff, not just volunteers or friends. The visiting that I know about is wonderful, and I know there is a ton that goes on that I don't know of. We are so lucky to have a congregation that cares for each other so well.

Hospitality

Up until COVID, Diana has been faithful in this area of service, which includes Sunday morning coffee, monthly potlucks, and keeping the kitchen stocked with the supplies required. Diana is also responsible for keeping the kitchen organized and clean. When major cleaning is needed, Diana may ask for help with this task. A way we can also help Diana

regarding potlucks, when we are back up and running, would be to only bring fully prepared meals. We usually need extra help in the kitchen for potlucks. Erin is greatly missed for her hard work plugging away in the kitchen but more so for her smile and kindness.

Meals for Shut-ins

This is an area where these people can only be helped if I know there is a need. Also, I can only provide this service when we have volunteers to prepare the food and people who will accept it. I have found so far that close friends and family have usually stepped up to the plate on this without me even knowing. I find most times a close friend or family member will set up a Meal Train calendar, the link is sent out and people may sign up if they are able. Meal Train or the like, is a wonderful tool.

I believe this Congregational Care Ministry is vital to the health and growth of First Baptist Church. When you feel loved, thought of, and cared for, it is only natural to want to make others feel the same. Spread that love and light around people!! I would be grateful if you would give a moment and think if you may fit into this ministry somewhere. I'm not asking you to commit on a regular basis or a huge amount of time. Maybe you could help Diana out on potlucks or clean the kitchen when the time comes, or maybe you even have your own idea how to spread the love? If you're not sure, please call or email and maybe we can think of something together.

Of course, everything is different right now and this ministry is not running normally or at full capacity but when we are back to "normal" we may be calling out for some help.

I would like to thank the many who make First Baptist a truly caring family of believers. Thank you for making this church feel like coming home.

Blessing and love,
Tricia McLeod

Mill Creek Camp report

Looking Backward

2020 was a very weird year – bet you've heard that enough! Covid-19 and camp really do not mix. A part of what makes camp so special is the opportunity to be immersed in an environment and community of faith, love, worship, and nature for an extended period of time. The environmental shift can make all the difference for lasting heart-change.

With no in-person overnight camps allowed last summer due to the pandemic, we offered on-line camps instead which were well received, but not hugely attended. We also were able to use camp as essentially a campground. This provided some income for us and was very popular. Lastly, we ran a very small Trek program, our leadership development program for youth grades 9-12. It was our only in-person programming and we cherished the opportunity.

We were able to hire 3 staff alongside our director. Facilities wise, we renovated our kitchen floor and had volunteers out to paint, build, chop, clean, and much, much more.

Although it was a summer that felt cancelled, we were still able to connect with our campers, help them engage with Christ, and discover what discipleship can look like in their lives today. That's what we are here for

Looking Forward

2021 holds a lot more questions than answers at this time because of the continued impact of Covid-19 on overnight camping (and everything else). However, we are much more prepared this time around. We are planning to run some

programming online, some form of day camps, the Trek Program, and possibly some smaller family camps. We will also be renting out the facilities to families again, as we did last year. Alberta will have more specific guidelines for overnight camps in March which will allow us to make some better-informed decisions.

What we really want for 2021 is to be there for you! Our mission is to be a resource for our supporting churches, to our local communities, to young people, and to you. We love it when you connect with us! Let us know how we can support you during a second Covid-19 summer.

Thank you so much for your continued support for our camp ministry!

Steffi Reynolds
Camp Director

Young Life Report

Young Life has been in the Kootenays for 28 years now, and no one could have predicted this past year. We started off the year with doing some club and campaigners for the kids until the Covid-19 hit. We did everything online until the Spring/Summer when we were able to do a summer camp with about 20 kids attending. The Fall was a very unpredictable time, but we were able to have good leader meetings including one that was hosted at Rock Ridge.

At the very end of October, I, Vanessa, was hired on. I wasn't quite sure what to expect during the pandemic, but I know our God has a great track record. He isn't limited by Covid.

Beginning In the first week, I focused all my energy on building relationship with our new team of leaders, committee, and donors. Also connecting with the Pastors from around our beautiful area. What amazing shepherds!

We held our first event mid-November before the restrictions, and the kids had a blast at our man-tracker event! When the restrictions tightened, we knew we had to do something more than just Zoom. Our team decided to do up surprise activity boxes to give to kids, so we could work together on it through a videocall... it was awesome! We met new kids through that and gifted each new child with a little welcome gift to show our support during these times. We've encountered families in rough situations, and we were able to be a light in the dark. I just praise God for the work of His hands and for your support to make it possible. It gets better!

After combing through the guidelines, working with our head office, and speaking with health officials- we got the go ahead to have club in a building! According to the PHO, a youth organization can have up to 50 people masked in a room with adequate space. The moment I heard that, I was on the hunt for a building. God pulled through like He always does! We managed to secure a lease downtown and we have just started having club in that space. It will be every week!

While all this was happening, I was in prayer asking God how we are going to reach these kids. We are not allowed into the schools due to pandemic restrictions, but we need to reach them. I believe He said we were to raise up kids to go get the kids. I wasn't quite sure how He wanted this to be done, but within that week I got text. The Connect Church Youth Leaders wanted to partner up with us! They believed God had spoken to them regarding Young Life and how they needed to join us. I was cautious with many questions, knowing that Young Life needed to remain as Young Life. I agreed to go for coffee to discuss this opportunity. During the same time, God had already been speaking to my heart about unity and how His word says that they will know us by our love for one another.

During our coffee, the youth leader had mentioned her vision of equipping kids to go get kids. The same thing God had been telling me deep in prayer! All my concerns were addressed, Young Life remains Young Life, but we just get more leaders and more kids for the mission. I see God's hand on this, so I know it is His will.

So, in the next few weeks, we will begin meshing. Giving ourselves to God, each other and to the outcast kids we will pour our lives into. Thank you for your support, it has gone a long way. Please let us know how we can pray for you. We love FBC.

Kind Regards,
 Vanessa Shropshire
 Staff Associate
 Young Life Cranbrook & Kimberley

Envelope Steward

The Envelope Steward is responsible for recording all designated donations to the church as well as the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) process. Donations to the Benevolent Fund are not included in this report.

For 2020, 144 receipts were issued for donations over \$20 in the calendar year (compared to 148 in 2019). Please note, last year there were 21 tax receipts that were issued specifically for the SERVE Mission trip to Whitehorse that was planned for our youth.

Totally receipted offerings for 2020 was **\$457,049.64** (compared to \$533,739.69 in 2019).

The number of EFT donors was 50 (compared to 43 in 2019). EFT donations accounted for \$227,230 in 2020 (compared to \$200,780 in 2019).

In the spring of 2020, we added online giving as an option for donations. The number of Online Donors was 28. Online donations accounted for \$83,992.89 in 2020.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH CRANBROOK FUNDS REPORT FOR 2020	
FUND DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
General	\$421,059.74
Building Fund	\$23,615.00
Missions	\$9,769.40
Food Bank	\$280.50
Retired Pastors (White Gift Fund)	\$75.00
Daily Bread	\$60.00
Refugee Friends	\$670.00
Operation Christmas Child	\$75.00
Canadian Baptist Ministries (Thanksgiving)	\$1,245.00
Cranbrook Ministerial Scholarship	\$200.00
TOTAL	\$457,049.64

Respectfully Submitted by Natasha Ewaskow

See appendix 1 for breakdown of Monthly Contributions

Church Clerk

There is currently no Church Clerk.

Library Report

Our mission is to provide a Christ-centered resource to inspire, inform and safely entertain our multigenerational congregation. We want our library to be a free and trustworthy source of learning and entertainment.

Our current library resources consist of:

Books 2261 (~80%) categorized as Adult fiction + nonfiction, Teen, Juvenile, Children, Christmas

DVDs 552 (~20%) categorized as Adult, Family, Children and Christmas

CDs 10 (~1%) for all ages

Bible Study materials, personal or group, cross the categories of Books or DVDs, adult or teen.

The library has an annual budget of \$1500 generously provided by the church. This is distributed three ways: \$500 for new book purchases, \$500 for new DVDs, \$500 for maintaining and upgrading our library automation system. We are grateful that our budget is augmented by frequent generous donations of high-quality books and Bible study materials.

The library is now completely automated. All books, DVDs, CDs in the library are catalogued and barcoded. There is a dedicated library computer station with explanatory signage. The system is very user-friendly and allows patrons to sign in by name and quickly scan the barcode of the item being borrowed or returned. There is also a search function to determine if a particular book, DVD, or author, is in our collection. To locate an item our open plan library is organized by sections: (1) adult and family DVDs (2) non-fiction books arranged by the Dewey Decimal System (3) juvenile and children's books and DVDs (4) fiction books arranged alphabetically by author, and teen books. Bible study resources are grouped together in the non-fiction section and Christmas books and DVDs are displayed at the appropriate time of year.

The 2020 pandemic has significantly affected library operations. Although the library has mostly remained open (books are extremely low risk for virus transmission) it has had minimal use due to restrictions on gatherings in the building. In the 12 months January to December, only 170 items (books and DVDs) were circulated, the majority of those early in the year before shut-down. Also, the many books culled from the collection could not be made available to congregants and were instead donated to a local thrift store. Free Bibles and devotionals will be available when worship services resume.

Our library committee members are Helen VanRietschoten, Judy Mistal and Betty Mosher, and Walter VanRietschoten as our "IT guy". We are happy to receive any comments, questions or suggestions regarding the library that would help us improve the service.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen VanRietschoten

Facilities Report

This has been a very quiet year for facilities maintenance, due to COVID 19. Some of the projects that were done were:

- Plumbing repair in the old office basement, so the lines would drain better before winter.
- A handrail has also been installed on the basement stairs.
- We now have a 3-yard refuse bin in the parking lot which should come in handy once we are able to make more use of the building again.
- A new sound booth was completed in the sanctuary under the direction of Matt Kidd and seems to be working out well. He did a really good job.

Projects For 2021

- Replace all the old florescent fixtures in the fellowship hall and lobby with new LED fixtures, switch the sanctuary to LED bulbs. Also repair the electrical plug-ins that are not working in the kitchen. There will also be some other upgrades at the same time. The nonworking kitchen plugs will also be checked out and hopefully be repaired. The church will also be eligible for a rebate on this work. Thanks to Jim Nicol for doing all the legwork on this project.
- We have a problem with water leaking into Pastor Kevin's office and above the 4th St. Entrance to the handicapped parking access doors. This needs to be addressed soon so that we hopefully can avoid a mould and rot situation. I have asked Brown Dog Contracting and City Glass to check this out and this should be done in the spring when the weather warms up. The admin. Committee has approved this as these leaks could have fairly serious consequences. This contractor came with a good recommendation.
- The lawn mower will be checked out in the spring and we will need a blower and a new whipper snipper for yard maintenance if Za is going to do this.
- This is a wish list item. Putting in a sprinkler system around the old office building.
- The basement and lobby stair nosing are coming loose and will be repaired under warranty by flooring superstore. We are going with metal nosing that should attach better. This was installed in the beginning of February.

Respectfully submitted by,
Bill Taylor

Space Committee

Some of you might be wondering why there would be an annual report for the Space Project, asking yourselves, ‘hasn’t that wrapped up?’ Well, yes, and no. Looking back at last year’s annual report, there were a few things that had not been completed at the time of writing. So, in this report I will try to summarize where we are today and what has occurred since the last report.

To answer the question above, yes, the project has wrapped up officially. The key items of the renovation are now completed and financially, the cost of the mortgage is being paid through our regular church finances and there is no longer a special Space Project fund. I will list those things that were completed after the last report, and I will detail some current upgrades that are being managed by the Admin and Facilities Committees. Since I was most familiar with the details of the renovation, I stepped in to help with the work that is ongoing.

The final items:

- Painting the narthex was completed by volunteers within our congregation.

- Carpet installation in sanctuary and balcony has been completed.

Once the Space Project wrapped up, we realized that there were a few electrical concerns outside of the scope of the project that should be addressed. These were the receptacles in the kitchen tripping breakers if used and various fluorescent lights failing. We attempted to use the same electrical contractor to address these issues but were delayed for various reasons. Then COVID-19 hit, and everything was put on hold. Now that some time has passed, we have realized that having an empty church is a good time to pursue completion of this project and our finances are strong enough that we can afford to move forward. We are working with a different contractor who is able to ensure we receive the Hydro rebate, which is now larger than it was a year ago.

Ongoing items:

- Troubleshoot receptacles in the kitchen.
- Upgrade remaining fluorescent lighting throughout to LED.
- Upgrade other remaining lighting to LED where reasonable.
- Work should be completed by the end of March 2021.

In Christ,

Jim Nicol

Chair, Space Project Committee

Admin Committee

Current Members

Carl Desjarlais (Elder Liaison)	Jon McWhirter (Treasurer)
Bill Taylor (Facility Chair)	Hennie Tait
Walter VanRietschoten (Chairman)	Jason Spyksma
Alex McLeod	

Purpose

This is a standing committee under the Board of Elders. Its purpose is the development and administration of budgets, audits, staff, and internal reviews. It also manages the property and provides support services to the church office.

Business Undertaken in 2020 (a year of many blessings)

- In April, the “Space Project” reached completion for this committee. I would like to express wholehearted thanks and appreciation for the hard work that Jim Nicol put into this project over several years!

- Covid-19 restrictions resulted in some changes in committee function for 2020. Summer and fall, in person meetings, have given way to videoconferencing.
- An online giving option was established for the congregation.
- An investigation into church rental liability was undertaken. Current insurance covers the church for injuries that are due to our negligence. Individuals and organizations renting the church will not have liability coverage for their negligence. Current rental policy states that they will need to provide evidence of liability coverage for themselves as a condition of rental.
- We welcomed Natasha Perich into the position of church office administrator replacing Robyn Hansen.
- We welcomed Za Heng into the position of church custodian.
- Photocopier replacement lease was negotiated and approved. A first-time lease for a refuse bin has been arranged.
- The church budget for 2021 was developed and recommended to the Elders Board for approval
- At the end of 2020 we welcomed back Alex McLeod to committee membership
- Negotiations with an electrical contractor have resulted in a quote for replacing aging light fixtures and repairing broken electric circuits within the facility. Cost of the repairs will in part be covered by the provincial rebate program. These repairs will hopefully be completed by March 2021.

Looking Forward to 2021:

- Arrangements will need to be made to update the church property appraisal for insurance purposes.
- There is a water leak around some windows on the south side of the building that will need to be further investigated and repaired as the weather improves.
- When Covid-19 restrictions ease and we are again allowed to meet as a congregation we look forward to implementing the annual staff review process.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Walter VanRietschoten

Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee is responsible for fostering Elders nominations and elections, as well as volunteer leadership within FBCC. The group met virtually and in-person (when appropriate) on a few occasions to discuss, pray and coordinate communication and discussions for FBCC volunteer leadership and Elder elections.

Thank you to Annalee Siemens, Jan Klassen and Jack Van Leusden for their generous contributions of time and input to the committee in 2019 and for allowing their names to stand for election (in the affirmative!!) again on Tuesday June 23, 2020. Thank you to Elders Terri Taylor and Cory Greidanus for their leadership on the Nominations Committee as well. The time and attention and wisdom of all is much appreciated, thank you!

With gratitude and on behalf of the Nominations Committee,

Tyler Birkham

Treasurer

This year was unlike any other as far as ministry for the church goes.

Our finances were strong and like previous years our giving exceeded our spending.

We do not have final numbers from our accountant but the numbers from our bookkeeper indicate that we have a surplus of approximately \$42,000.

The attached income statement shows that we spent \$6970.09 more than was brought in over the course of the year. This was to be expected because we have expensed \$92,865.40 from the building fund, but this money was already sitting in the account and earmarked prior to the start of 2020. The whole amount will be capitalized and moved over the balance sheet as part of our yearend adjustments.

This leaves us with income of \$85,895.31.

This represents \$18,000 in principle payments we have already made to our capital loan that shows on our balance sheet.

\$10,000 that was budgeted to hold for future large expenses.

\$15,000 in additional debit payments that were budgeted but not sent.

Leaving us with approximately \$42,000 in surplus from the year of 2020.

Recommendation is to hold this budget surplus in general account. In 2021 there will be an unbudgeted expense to update lighting in the building to LED's as well as a repair to the 4th street side of the building to stop intrusion of water. The facilities and Admin committees have been working with local contractors to get this problem fixed as weather permits. Likely late spring or early summer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon McWhirter

Treasurer

****Please see appendix 2 for Profit & Loss Statement****

Elders

When 2020 began, we were looking at a "normal" year doing all the normal things. However, as we all know, things turned out to be far from normal. At the start of 2020, we had Terri Taylor, Carl Desjarlais, Cory Greidanus, Tyler Birkham (Chair), and Pastors Kevin Ewaskow and Aaron Hansen serving on the board at First Baptist Church in Cranbrook. The nominations committee was looking for other people willing to step up to be on the board and the admin committee.

Shortly after successfully nominating Matt Quick, we had to shut down our in-house services and move to an "online" format. Over the summer Matt officially joined us on the board and Tyler's 6 years on the board were completed,

forcing him into a “sabbatical” time off the board. This left some big shoes to fill and Cory was selected by the board to fill the Chair roll.

Over the summer, with the support of Marian Ma, we started to equip leaders for our small group initiative. In September, we started small groups which went through the “ReFrame” program by Regent College, with good feedback when this concluded in 2021. As we transitioned into 2021, small groups continued to function vibrantly in our faith community. We continue to have further discussions on how these groups will likely form the future foundation of how we operate as a church.

Through the summer we also spent money on improved audiovisual equipment, redesign of the sound booth, and initiated a “live streaming” church as we opened our doors to a limited number of congregants with in-person services resuming in the fall. This was short lived but was beneficial to see that we could offer meaningful time together as well as serve those at home.

By November, new public health restrictions again stopped in person services, yet our participation with the weekly online streamed service has around 100-150 views weekly. We consider this a success as these are “screens viewed” which could potentially be reaching between 200 and 250 people weekly if we assume more than one person per screen.

We ended the year with amazing participation with our online Christmas service passing our candle virtually around our community as we gathered to take in the excellent service that so many hours were put into.

As the board reflected on the 2020 year, we were grateful to know we have such faithful members. As the saying goes ‘put your money where your mouth is’; FBC Cranbrook has done that. When we introduced our 2021 budget we were amazed at the faithful giving. With this giving, we have blessed and poured into many lives in our community. One focus that we had as we ended the year was to work on clearing out our “Benevolent fund”. We discussed how money left in the account goes stale like gas left in a gas tank. We were able to give to many needy families and individuals who would be blessed by an unforeseen financial boost. Moving into 2021 we want to say “Well done church family” be proud of yourselves and your faithfulness in this way.

Looking forward, there are still needs that we have identified and hope to see met in FBC. We continue to feel that the work/participation balance could be improved. There continues to be a smaller number of people doing a majority of the work. For us to continue to be relevant and vibrant as a community we would love to see more of you all take on work in making this church an even more vibrant place as we seek to reach out to the community of Cranbrook.

Specifically, we would love to see more of those that call FBC their home faith community to join as “Members”. With membership you can be a part of the board, nominations committee, and the admin committee, and work more as a leader in our church. Right now, there are many vacant positions that have historically been filled with a volunteer and those who have been volunteering are getting to the point where they need a break.

So, this report is also a call out to all of you who are reading this that there is much work to do here in Cranbrook to make Christ’s light shine, and we would encourage you to take up this offer and look to participate and help with this work.

Respectfully submitted by,
Cory Greidanus
Elders Chair

Music and Worship

Well, it's that time of year again. Time for reflection, and for putting down thoughts on paper.... or.... keyboard. How does one sum up a year like 2020? I looked back at my last report, as is my tradition, and realized there wasn't a lot of "thinking about the future" in it. Probably for the best, as my plans and ambitions would have changed anyway!

What does it mean to be the church?

This question has certainly been challenged in 2020. While we were unable to have in-person gatherings for the better part of seven months out of the twelve that made up 2020, I feel like I still have a keen sense of what it means to be a participant and a congregant at FBC Cranbrook. Well, rather, I've been thinking about it a lot, as I'm sure we all have.

Earlier this past November the staff and elders gathered (when we were allowed to do that) to discuss an article by Parker J. Palmer. It was published in 1998 and is titled, "Thirteen Ways of Looking at Community (...with a fourteenth thrown in for free)." It is a great read and covers a lot of ground in its fourteen points. Palmer proposes that community exists whether we want it to or not. It's not something to be manufactured and distributed, but rather a gift that is to be received. In order to receive this gift of community we need to develop in ourselves a "capacity for connectedness." The primary way of developing that sense is through contemplation. Palmer writes:

"By contemplation I mean *any* way one has of penetrating the illusion of separateness and touching the reality of interdependence. In my life the deepest forms of contemplation have been failure, suffering and loss."

That's a real "pick-me-up", hey? Palmer continues,

"when I fall, I see a secret hidden in plain sight: I need other people for comfort, encouragement, and support, and for criticism, challenge and collaboration. The self-sufficiency I feel in success is a mirage. I need community – and, if I open my heart, I have it."

I think my, and Palmer's point, in writing this is that whether we are meeting weekly as a congregation, or not, we still exist in community. Sure, we only gather once a week as a congregation, but during the other six days we are living our lives! We are going into our hobby places, our works spaces, our homes, our families, and neighborhoods to be salt and light to the world!

In being unable to gather in person I have become aware of, and missed, the comfort, encouragement and support that happens before, during and after a service. I also see that I am missing the criticism, challenge and collaboration that comes with that time spent together.

I think one of the hardest parts of doing services online (from my perspective as a staff member at FBC) is that it feels like we are putting things out into a vacuum. That's not to say we don't hear any feedback. We do, and I thank you for your e-mails, texts and phone calls of encouragement and constructive feedback. Truly, thank you. But it's not the same as saying "hello" before a service, watching everyone as they participate together, and chatting and catching up after service. It feels SO WEIRD to end our livestreams. It's like, "Is the video off? Is that it? I guess we pack up and go home now."

All this to say, I miss you. But also, we are still a community. And as discouraged as you may feel there are others like you, friends and fellow congregants, who are still here, trying to do the best they can, seeking after Jesus in order to be salt and light to the world. So, pick up that phone and make the call, send that text or e-mail or schedule that Zoom call and talk to someone. Check in on how they're doing, encourage them. We are still a community, whether we gather once a week or not. We are still living life, with all its ups and downs. And if we open our heart, we can receive that gift.

Despite circumstances, I believe this year was filled with immense opportunity, reflection, and growth. I am deeply encouraged by our church community in these areas. This year I got to work on skills and passions that have long lay dormant. In my heart of hearts, making music is one of the things I enjoy the most in life. I have many fond memories of my Prairie Bible College days, recording in my dorm room, or going down to the studio and collaborating with friends and teachers; creating. And so, when church got locked down, and we had to figure out how in the world are we going to run a church service, I knew exactly how. Thank goodness for technology! We were still able to "meet" online, even with old and borrowed equipment.

In May I got the go ahead from the Elders Board to purchase some permanent gear for the church, which included a USB audio interface, a permanent camera, and a new iMac computer to run it all. Over the summer we did some minor renovations to the sound booth to add space so we could include video in our services (thanks to Jeremy Friesen and Bill Taylor for their help with framing and mudding). As we started meeting in person again in September, we also got to test drive our new livestreaming set up and we haven't looked back.

We have many volunteers, old and new, who are helping keep things sounding and looking good every Sunday. Carlisle Bortolotti, Gabe Nicol, Darren Beisiegel, Jeff Nicolajsen and Alison Kidd have been plugging away at the soundboard while Jeremy Siemens, Cory Greidanus and Justin Thomae have been diving into the brave new world that is video.

Probably one of the most encouraging things for me this year was putting together the Christmas Eve Service. I welcomed the involvement of SO MANY people, and I hope it was encouraging for all of you to "see" people you probably haven't seen for a long time. Like I said, we are still a community.

I don't know what the future holds, but I do know that I can place it in God's hands and trust in Him. I know that He calls me to move through my days with patience, wisdom, kindness, and grace. That is my prayer for all of you, until the days when we can gather again.

Grace and peace to you.

Matthew Kidd

Children's Ministry Report

Highlights of January to March

1. Orange Curriculum: Our life applications for these months in Elementary were Knowledge, Love and Forgiveness. Our Toddler and Preschoolers' Bottom Lines were: Jesus can do anything, Jesus loves everyone and I can follow Jesus.

2. Children's Ministry physically closed March 13, 2020.
3. As of March 17, I started sending out weekly emails with curriculum videos (worship, bible story and lesson) and activities to parents for both Elementary and Preschool age groups. The content continued to follow the Orange curriculum. These resources included what we would have done if we could have met at the church.

Highlights of April to June

1. Our life applications for these months in Elementary were Humility, Perseverance and Faith. Our Toddler and Preschoolers' Bottom Lines were: Jesus is Alive, God loves me and I can believe in Jesus.
2. I delivered Easter Packs to each of our families. It included an Easter Photo Scavenger Hunt for families to do on Good Friday that would replace our annual Stations of the Cross.
3. From mid- April until mid-July I was voluntarily on leave due to Covid-19. I continued to deliver monthly packs to families that included monthly devotionals, parent cues and activities for each child. I also continued to email the weekly videos and curriculum to parents and posting on Facebook materials and resources for parents.

Highlights of July to August

1. On July 12 we presented Bibles to our Grade 1 kids during our online service using pictures of the kids. Bibles were then dropped off at their house.
2. I didn't deliver any packs during the summer nor were weekly emails sent. Parents were given a link to the curriculum to access as they desired.
3. I sent out a survey to Parents to see if there was an interest in doing a VBS camp wither virtually or in person. The results indicated that there would not be enough interest in doing one.
4. On August 30th I gave a message titled "It's Personal" to encourage parents and members of our congregation to be authentic in who we are and in our faith in order to influence the faith of the next generation.

Highlights September to December

1. We are unable to do a Back-to-School BBQ for the community, so I did a "Back-to-School" Event for our church families. Stations were set up in our parking lot and at each station families would read scripture to encourage them as they began a new school year. At each station children were also able to choose a different school supply.
2. We were still unable to have Children's ministry in the church even though we were now a loud to have a small gathering for services, so the online curriculum was pushed. Preschool was offered but no families were at church to participate. The nursery room was open for parents to use if they needed during a morning service, but it was rarely used.
3. Family services (on Sunday evenings) began September 20. They were geared towards elementary students (as I was using the Elementary Orange curriculum) but children with many different ages attended. We had 17 families participate in at least 1 Family Service that ran every Sunday except Thanksgiving Sunday and November 8. Our last Service was November 22.
4. When December came, I went back to delivering monthly packs to families. I also started to include weekly lesson and craft supplies for Toddlers and Preschoolers. With the December packs I also included special supplies for families to engage in Advent.
5. Our life applications for these months in Elementary were Friendship, Integrity, Thankfulness and Advent (hope, joy, peace & love). Our Toddler and Preschoolers' Bottom Lines were: God has a plan for me, God's got it, and Jesus is amazing.

I am very thankful for all the support I have received from our church family, especially the volunteers that helped with Children's Ministry for the first few months of 2020. Thank you to all of you who served in the Nursery, Preschool, and Elementary small groups, as well as our Check-In and Snack teams.

It has been challenging to do "Children's Ministry" during this pandemic. My focus has been to support parents who are in the greatest (and sometimes only) position to disciple their children and raise the next generation of Christ followers. I found that Family Services were a great way to get parents and kids "on the same page" as they learned about Jesus together. It is my hope that those services created opportunities during the week for families to continue to converse and learn together.

I am not sure what Children's Ministry will look like or how it will have changed going forward but I do know that our parents and grandparents are our most important asset as we continue to do God's work in showing kids the way of Christ. Please pray for and support them as much as you can and in wonderful and surprising ways.

Respectfully submitted by,

Natasha Ewaskow,

Pastor of Children and Families

Missions, Outreach and Youth Pastoral Report

A lot was different about this past year. I have tried my best to recall and retell those events here.

The Green Home Spiritual Care Team

In January of 2020 we met with the new Activity Coordinator, Katherine Murrell, to make sure that the work the Spiritual care team were doing was what they need. Katherine is not new to the Green Home and was very encouraging about the value she sees in the work of the Spiritual Care team. When the pandemic hit, Wendy, Pat, and Laird were no longer able to serve in the GH, but they continued to maintain connection with staff and residents through writing.

Wendy has carried on a weekly devotional that she sends in and the rec team of the GH distributes to the residents, sometimes printed copy or even just read aloud to them. It has been such a blessing to the GH that they have asked permission forward it to the care home in Kimberley as well. During the Summer Pat and Wendy were able to be at the GH helping to direct any visitors that were admitted to visit a resident. This ministry continues to be a key way our FBC family is involved bringing God's shalom to the world.

Canadian Baptist Ministries

Our Cross-Cultural Ministry Partners at CBM engaged with many different challenges this past year. In 2019 CBM responded to 8 relief projects, which is more-or-less typical. In 2020 there were 32 relief projects engaged with by CBM. The work is vast, and the need is great in our world.

The filed staff we support were also affected in various ways.

Andre Sibomana

The country of Rwanda relies on tourism as an economic driver, so travel restrictions have dried up that source of income substantially for the people there. Farmers are also affected by in country restrictions that hinder them from getting their produce to market, leaving it to go bad. Andre asks for prayer for the Church there to be adaptable and for unified vision for community leaders moving forward.

Bill & Janice Dyck

At the beginning of the pandemic Bill and Janice made the decision to stay in Bolivia rather than return to Canada. Bolivia saw heavy loss and a severe lock down was implemented. Bill and Janice continued to support the various ministries they relate to as best they could digitally. They made the decision to return to Canada in the Fall and continue to support the work in Bolivia through whatever online channels are available to them.

Cheryl Bear

Cheryl has concluded her work as a Strategic Associate with CBM. She served as CBM's Indigenous Relations Specialist two and a half years and will now continue her work in the Downtown East side of Vancouver. We thank God for Cheryl's work, and pray for God's continued blessing to be up her.

Art Waves Ministries

Jessika and Shammah have continued to press into what God is calling them to do and be in the Soweto area of Nairobi. Their work with the youth of that district has been so impactful. Their dance troop would visit schools and their various partners in music made some wonderful original recordings and videos. They have even been working with 3 young artists by helping them have a stable place to live. It was great to be able to see Jess and new daughter Nissi this past December.

University Christian Ministries

Joanna Skucas has had to be very creative in her continued ministry to university students at BCIT. With social distanced visits outside and many online gatherings, the work of connecting with students has been made more challenging but at the same time fruitful. More students have engaged with the ministry this past Fall than in other years. Joanna's husband, Ian, is still on the road to recovery and will be transitioning to long-term disability while he heals.

FBC Youth

At the beginning of 2020 one of our main goals was fundraising and training for the Serve trip to Whitehorse, YK. The team of students (and their parents) prepared a perogy dinner fundraiser. We made over 200 dozen perogies by hand under the fantastic direction of Norma Ewaskow and had a fun evening of serving them to guests who were also able to participate in a silent auction.

When the pandemic began, our main interaction with youth had been on Sunday mornings. We began a weekly Zoom video call in late April and this was helpful for our youth until school started using the same format. So, we halted those efforts and went back to the drawing board.

Summer camp was going to be drastically different this year, so we decided to do our own take on summer camp at home. This was possible because of the volunteer efforts of Alyssa Quick, Tara Delaire, Danielle Peters, and Brandon Peters. Each volunteer connected with a small group of students who did fun activities together and had intentional conversations about their faith. It was such a positive experience that groups have continued to the present. New team members were added in the Fall (Carlyle Bortolotti, and Jim Nicol) and Tara stepped back from helping in the Fall. I am so grateful for each of these volunteers who are loving our teens.

Each new announcement of restrictions feels like a punch to the gut, so we would value your prayers as we do our best to encourage and engage with our young people.

Everything Else

This was such a challenging year. Trying to “pivot” so many ways on so many different avenues of ministry has really felt at times like too much. God has been faithful through it all, and FBC Cranbrook has been gracious all the way. I am so thankful to my co-ministers at FBC, Kevin, Natasha E., Matt, and Natasha P. They have been so great to work with!

One of the significant things that happened for me in 2020 was going through the ordination process. In January I was working on a paper I needed to write for the Ordination Examination Committee. In February I attended a 2-day seminar and pre-exam in Vancouver, where we had to present our papers and answer questions from others who were also in the process of being ordained. It was a helpful experience and I left there thinking that I would need to travel back out there in May for the actual Exam Council. This was not the case.

In August it was announced that the Exams would happen over video on October 5th. I was encouraged by the support of those who watched the exam and the kind words from many in the congregation following. I look forward to the day when we can be together again and make it official.

Something that was more draining and consuming than I had thought at first was taking on many of the admin tasks after Robyn was laid off in April. None of the tasks were overwhelming on their own, it was just the fact that what I became responsible for was expansive, as in, little jobs in all sorts of areas of the church. Adding that to regular disruptions in youth ministry and Sunday responsibilities was quite fatiguing mentally.

One thing I am really wondering about and would love to see us share stories about is the ways in which we as a church have been engaging in mission this past year apart from any church organized thing. For instance, I know that several people were involved in delivering groceries to people who needed to stay home and not be out in public. People volunteered with the Food Bank and the Salvation Army. People cared for their neighbours in simple ways, and this is the work of the Kingdom of God in our midst. If you have a story to share, please contact me. I would be honoured to hear it.

Respectfully submitted by,

Pastor Aaron Hansen,

Pastor of Mission, Outreach and Youth

Pastoral Report

And here we go for 2020!

As I pulled out my notes on this past year, I was both perplexed and surprised. These two reactions were because in the midst of so many things that shut down due to Covid-19, there were so many things that happened in the church or my area of ministry that I had a hard time believing it!

From the start of 2020 the church was in a position where the pastoral team and leadership were talking about what might come; what is something “new” that God might desire to do in this growing, vibrant community of FBCC. It was very interesting what this “new” season would look like.

I started a sermon series called “Some voices on Love,” where I sourced sermons about love from some great preachers throughout history and the present. I followed up that series with one called “For the sake of the World.” It seemed like a natural progression to learn about love and then take this learning to the world, by the leading of the Holy Spirit. Then in mid-March we all know what happened. COVID-19. Anyone tired of hearing or reading about it yet?! This set in motion a number of transitions.

Since Easter was soon upon us, we worked hard at getting many of our Easter services in order. Tenebrae was recorded, Good Friday joint service with Knox Presbyterian was cancelled, and Easter Sunday was recorded. We continued to talk “in house” about how best to get the services online for people to watch. Matt Kidd was an invaluable resource throughout all of these transitions; from recording, to renovating the sound area, to sourcing and installing AV tech, he went above and beyond. Thank you so much Matt.

As the new normal was recording services, and having the building virtually shut down, through conversations between pastoral team and elders it was decided that Pastor Natasha and Robyn would go on the CERB benefit. This worked well as Robyn resigned and started an amazing Frozen yogurt shop (Twisted Peaks) with her sister Becky. Pastor Natasha needed to transition in children’s ministry by providing resources at home for kids and parents to work through, rather than ministry at the church.

We worked together to continue to provide recorded services online until the fall when we started live-streaming Sunday services in September. We also began having people attend the service on-site on a reservation-basis. Ushers and greeters stepped up their attention to that ministry by helping with headcounts and assigned seating. Attendance to our services was short lived as places of worship were severely restricted by the PHO in November. This came on the cusp of celebrating Pastor Aaron’s Ordination, supposed to be held on November 22. With heavy hearts for Aaron, it was postponed, and we will await the day for him to cash in his giant “One Free Potluck” coupon, and all raise a hearty “Amen, Reverend Hansen!”

As we approached Christmas there was some new initiatives to keep the congregation engaged with the season. With the help of Rob Amsing, I worked on making 85 miniature Advent Candle holders. These candle holders and candles, along with a prayer calendar, special advent youth Cards, and Family advents packs were distributed. The feedback was very encouraging. Christmas Eve service had many plans attached to it as we were hoping restrictions would be lifted and so had hoped to have 3 candlelight services of gatherings under 50. To no avail! Instead through a great deal of participation, an incredible Christmas Eve service was put together featuring congregational candle passing, a diversity of talented musicians and singers recording songs, and other aspects of the service coming together. It was recorded and set ready for the Eve and was wonderfully viewed.

In terms of congregational care, leadership started the initiative of apportioning approximately 20 people to each elder, and pastor, to call and check in with. This was met with great response and appreciation. This happened multiple times throughout the year, as well as newsletters, and Christmas cards being sent out. Although there were general restrictions in place for meeting, it did not slow the steady stream of pastoral calls or visits from myself that took place.

In-home visits transitioned to walks in the community forest. It was not hard to discern from these visits and calls that there was an increased level of both anxiety and loneliness that was correlational to the gathering restrictions, isolation and uncertainty that came along with the pandemic.

Early in 2020 conversations with Marian Ma took place to look at launching an intensive approach to small group ministry. This was met with great enthusiasm from the elders and through the summer we launched the training process for the small group leaders. We also had leader groups working through the ReFrame (put out by Regent College) material that would suffice as the teaching curriculum in the fall. Approximately 20 people took the leadership training and, in the fall, over 6 new groups started. These groups added to our existing groups meant that close to half of our regular attenders were involved in some type of small group ministry. I preached through the book of Colossians in the fall to accompany the ReFrame material.

One of the interesting shifts in ministry for myself was a transition in how funerals, or celebrations of life, unfolded. At the beginning of the year, I did a service with an overflowing McPherson funeral home, and a reception filled with people shoulder to shoulder. As the year carried on, I did a service under restrictions at Westlawn Cemetery where under 50 people in attendance were socially distanced out across the lawn. By the fall I was conducting a service that was live streamed and only up to 10 people were allowed in the McPherson Chapel area. This is a small example of how ministries have shifted to be responsible to the restrictions set in place and honouring the mandate from the PHO.

Ironically, when it came to helping with the “Service of Remembrance” that McPherson does at the end of the year, it was decided to be done only by live stream. The staff at McPhersons was overwhelmed as they had double the viewers than they had ever had attendees. This was another indicator that in our crazy new world sometimes there are opportunities that we are reduced to that can have a surprising outcome. (One small but important note here. This past year we remembered both Arnold Lowden and Bill Elliot who passed away. I was honoured to be able to officiate the small gathering and live streamed service for Bill.)

Another surprising outcome was the “success” of the Cranbrook Bucks Chapels. I contacted Nathan Lieuwen in the fall to see where we were at with starting up a chapel, and with enthusiasm it was decided that we would start as soon as possible. I talked with the coach and we felt that it was good to have the first chapel mandatory for all the guys. So, we had 20 young men come out. The surprising thing that happened was that in the subsequent bi-weekly chapels we had between 15-18 guys come out. This is triple the amount we were used to in the past. The guys were engaged and jovial, very receptive to the messages and learning how faith engages every part of our life – even hockey life! Again ironically, I think that the fact that the team was under a type of “bubble” protocol, it made it only natural to go to the events that other teammates were going to, hence the high number at chapel.

There are many other stories that I could share, but I will try and end this report with some important details. I responded to some prompting and stepped up to sit on the Cranbrook Ministerial board. It has been good. In the FBCC office I have spent a great deal of time this past year trying to lead and encourage an ever-changing pastoral team, as people went on CERB, or moved on, or were hired on (Natasha Perich, our new Office Administrator, Sept 2020, doing a stellar job!). This was only compounded by changing dynamics in COVID restriction. Leadership is slippery enough at times on its own, let alone engaging pandemic dynamics.

Furthermore, it has been a blessing to see our Elders Board try to lead as best they can, each with their own gifts and ability during this past Year. Cory has been doing a brilliant job taking the role of chair, Carl has been sincere and diligent in his caring phone calls to many congregants, Terri has done a wonderful job with so many small practical and administrative details, and Matt has brought a thoughtful and creative dynamic to the elder’s board, even initiating an FBC art group. My only concern with the elder’s board is that there are not enough elders on the board and the ones that we have will become weary of so much work and responsibility.

Thanks to our Administrative committee for their work in hiring for the office admin position and new custodial person. And a huge thank you to so many people for stepping into situation that were familiar with new and unfamiliar mediums

for us. For all those who preached a message to a camera – Well done! To all those who ushered and greeted with masks and rubber gloves on – great job! For all of you who pre-recorded music from home and sent it in – super-duper! For all of you who sanitized after small group meeting – real clean work there! For those of you who learned Zoom – heck of an adventure! For each of you that drop an envelope off at the church in a box, or signed up for EFT for the first time, or donated online – spectacular – we had a very good year financially!

I will close with this. Throughout this year I have heard of pastors and people in ministry struggling; struggling with their own call, with a dwindling congregation, with a congregation that is unresponsive. It has not been an easy year for anyone. Yet, as I look back of this past year, I can sense the deep faithfulness of God, to us, and through us, one to another. The words of Lamentations 3 ring so true, words that were written in the midst of so much devastation, and declared now during a difficult season:

“I’ll never forget the trouble, the utter lostness,
the taste of ashes, the poison I’ve swallowed.
I remember it all—oh, how well I remember—
the feeling of hitting the bottom.
But there’s one other thing I remember,
and remembering, I keep a grip on hope:
God’s loyal love couldn’t have run out,
his merciful love couldn’t have dried up.
They’re created new every morning.
How great your faithfulness!
I’m sticking with God (I say it over and over).
He’s all I’ve got left.” (Lam. 3:19-24. MSG)

And so, may each of you, who have been called by our Great God, into discipleship of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, equipped and indwelt by the Holy Spirit - May you know that that his love is limitless, and it will reach you wherever you are and not matter how long you feel like you have been alone. May you know the courage and perseverance that will bear you up, by the power of the Holy Spirit. May you know the grace of God which will enable you to remain whole and joyful in midst of trials. May you know the unquenchable hope that we have because our Saviour has defeated sin and death and he promised to keep us secure in his care, for all days and past the end of days. Amen and Amen.

In Christ,
Reverend Kevin Ewaskow