



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**

2022 Annual Reports

**Annual Ministry and Missions
Congregational Meeting
March 1st, 2022**

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First Baptist Church Cranbrook Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, March 1st, 2022 – 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.

ATTENDEES: Kevin & Natasha Ewaskow, Robyn & Aaron Hansen, Cory Greidanus, Natasha Perich*, Matt & Allison Kidd, Al & Nancy Dyck, Walter & Helen Van Reitschoten, Bill & Terri Taylor, Pat Braun, Carl & Terri Desjarlais, Katharine Nimmert, Jan Klassen, Jeff Williams, Dale-Ann & Jack van Leusden, Vanessa Shropshire*, Ben Quick, Matt & Nicole Quick, Tyler Birkham, Rachel & Rick Friesen, Jim Nicol, Denise Nicolajsen

*Indicates non-members

Membership: 29
Quorum is reached.

Devotional and Prayer

Devotional by Cory, (reiteration from Kevin's message on Sunday) Do we believe that God wants to do a new thing? Are we willing to partner with the Spirit as we are invited into new relationships? Reading of the song "Open Up", by The Brilliance.

- 1. Call for additions to the agenda** – we will include an update from the Faith Gender and Sexuality Committee toward the end of the meeting
- 2. Ratify Minutes of 2021 Budget Meeting** – Natasha E. moves to accept the 2021 minutes, Katharine seconds, the minutes are approved
- 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. Young Life** – Vanessa Shropshire gives a report in person: Big thank you to FBC for support and care. A lot has happened in the last year. Young Life in Cranbrook has 80-100 youth involved currently in this ministry. Most youth attending are non-Christian, who even face oppression at home for coming to club. This year there have been a number of suicide attempts and a lot of home abuse has come to light. Relationships with the Ktunaxa are being built through youth that are attending. Club – started meeting weekly at McDonald's to work around restrictions with some leaders not being vaccinated, but soon they will be able to do rapid tests in order to meet in person in the regular location. Contact work – desperately in need of new leaders, though a few are being trained now. Camp – the youth are super excited to go to Rockridge already, even non-Christian kids. All-in-all Vanessa is immensely grateful for our support and encourages us that if you're living, God has a plan for your life and consider whether its his plan that you could help Young Life in some way.

2. **Friendship Ministry** – Alison Kidd informs us that Friendship has been meeting on Zoom regularly (weekly). Zoom is a difficult platform, but it has been really good to meet together. As the individuals are part of a vulnerable population they must continue to meet online until Covid-stuff settles down.
3. **Congregational Care** – Cory mentions Tricia McLeod will no longer be our Congregational Care Coordinator. This is a vacancy that will need to be filled. The elders continue to brainstorm how this ministry can be more relevant at this time.
4. **Mill Creek Baptist Camp** – Kevin mentions MCBC is looking for another stakeholder from FBC Cranbrook. Natasha E. mentions that being a stakeholder is different than being on the board, you don't have to attend weekly meetings.
5. **Library** – Helen asks that people please use the library!
6. **Church Clerk** – Natasha Perich: a couple of amendments to the report – the membership review was conducted in December 2021 by Kevin, Jack, and Cory. There are some people who have been members for a long time but for some reason have never been in our roll. As these come up, they will be added to the roll, but the numbers in the report will nevertheless stand for the 2022 year.
7. **Envelope Steward** – Natasha Ewaskow handed out the reports in person at the start of the meeting: There is a typo in the report that says 2021 where it should say 2022.
8. **Facilities Committee** – Bill informs us that there have been some people interested in taking over facilities chair. We are hoping to have the stucco finished in the Spring, this is depended on the contractor being able to find reliable employees. Cory: big thank you to Bill and others who have taken care of a lot of updates to the building.
9. **Nominations Committee Report** – Cory comments that the committee met in February to discuss the vacancies in the church, treasurer, more elders, etc. Jack mentions Doug and Norma have agreed to take on the Facilities position.
10. **Administration Committee** – Cory reminds us that we still do not have a treasurer.
11. **Treasurers Report** – Jon was unable to attend the meeting but passed along information to Cory. In 2021 we spent \$19,653.07 more than we are received, although that number does not reflect December online giving. At the moment though, it seems that our bank account is balanced. Jack suggests getting a new profit-loss statement representing Jan1 to Dec 31 so that we can reference the numbers once more. We will contact our bookkeeper for this.
12. **Elder's Report** – Cory mentions the elders are meeting monthly or more praying for our church and discussing the challenges that arise. Open for questions: a resounding thank-you to the elders for their hard work.
13. **Music and Worship** – No report was given; Matt will be returning to his position on March 7th.
14. **Children's Ministry** – Ruth Lockhart stepped in on a volunteer basis in September to coordinate Children's ministry. There is discussion around how to develop and change this ministry so that it can be more relevant and meet the needs of our church. There is also discussion around what to do about hiring someone permanently for this position. Natasha E. points out that some families aren't coming because there is not much of a children's ministry happening, but children's ministry isn't happening as it normally would because families aren't coming back. So, we need people to come back. Katharine

offered the encouragement that we need to do our best to keep trying, because there are other churches whose children's ministries have been completely decimated.

- 15. Pastor of Mission, Outreach & Youth** – Aaron informs us that Youth ministry has been very challenging this year. Communication with youth has been a huge hurdle. The youth in our community have been really struggling this year. Mental health struggles have increased a lot due to the new Covid landscape. However, the small groups that formed have been the lifeline for the youth and have kept the ministry going. There are 20-30 youth actively involved in small groups, and about 50 who attend events.
- 16. Pastoral Report** – Kevin shared that it was a gift to take his leave, and he felt supported in being able to let go of responsibility for a while. And thank you to all those who took on extra so that he could take a leave. Dale-Ann expressed an encouragement that Kevin's ability to share his struggles authentically and openly was an example for the rest of us to also be honest with ourselves and one another.

AL offers that we need to hold out a picture of a healthy, flourishing church as a beacon to others.

Kevin responds that there is a lot of divisiveness throughout leadership of churches in the CBWC. Yet, we are lucky here at FBCC, because Covid regulations have not been divisive for us. Looking forward to May 2022, we may be in for some division. The toll this has taken on pastoral our leadership has been immense. There is a lot ahead of us, but why would we give up now. If we go down now, we're going down "guns a-blazing". We do need to hold out a picture of a healthy church, and its hard work to be healthy.

Jan offers that the division in our world is endless. Especially when every small group is going through FGS material, and its heavy. Yet people are engaging this material, and loving one another through division, and that's the image of Jesus. It's hopeful how we are walking through our pain together since we are growing from this.

Motion to accept the reports with the correction to the Envelope Steward report and Church Clerk Report. Jack motions, Alison seconds. The motion is unanimously accepted.

Update from the Faith Gender and Sexuality Committee from Jack:

The committee did a check-in with the various small group leaders (7 total), and the overarching response was very positive. The leaders feel that though the groups have been difficult, they have been very good. There are about 75 people involved in the LLF study material and small groups. There has even been good feedback about the material that is being used. The committee is grateful to the leaders that have been willing to facilitate, as that is no easy task with this content matter. Meeting with Dennis Stone revealed that amendments to the voting motion (motion 1) can be made on the floor of the gathering, so we may see the motions changing in real-time at the assembly. We can send as many delegates as we want, though we can only send 3 voting delegates (1 pastor, 2 voting members at large). We will determine our delegates before April 25th. The conference will be held May 26-28th, we can give details on accommodations for those that would like to attend. If there is a significant enough split in the voting, we will not move forward with that – there needs to be strong consensus. We will be voting as a church body on motion 1 on April 26th.

4. Proposal of Community Garden by Natasha Perich (see appendix B, C)

Denise motions to add a \$4,000 budget line for the Community Garden for this year's budget, Walter seconds, motion is unanimously passed.

Major concerns voiced during discussion are: irrigation, sustainability for volunteer engagement

How we can meet these: sprinkler timers, collaborating with other organizations in the community for volunteer base and know-how

5. Budget amendments and updates:

a. Amend budget to reflect increase in giving to Art Waves

Aaron motions recognize an extra \$100 monthly to Art Waves, Rachel seconds, motion is passed.

b. Include cost of FBC Community Garden if approved

c. Discussion and vote on plan for surplus

Matt Quick motions to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned.

6. Closing Prayer from Tyler Birkham

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.

ATTENDEES

Aaron Hansen, Cory Greidanus, Kevin Ewaskow, Natasha Perich, Matt & Allison Kidd, Carl & Terri Desjarlais, Walter & Helen Van Reitschoten, Jeff Williams, Al & Nancy Dyck, Robyn Hansen, Natasha Ewaskow, Bill & Terri Taylor, Annalee & Laird Siemens, Darren Beisiegel, Jason Spyskma, Terry Lynn Jeffers, Ben & Pat Braun, Wendy Clibbet, June Elliott, Keith Lowden, Jim Nicol, Jack & Dale-Ann van Leusden, Valerie Harris, Tyler Birkham, Al & Yvonne Vance, Matt & Nicole Quick, Alex McLeod, Jon McWhirter, Wendell Dalke, Tim Matwey, Katharine Nimmert

Membership: 41

Quorum: 20

Devotional and Prayer – Cory spoke about having clarity to listen for the voice of God among the noise of our lives.

- 1. Call for additions to the agenda** – Cory calls to add Church Clerk discussion and Benevolent Fund discussion.
- 2. Ratify Minutes of 2020 AGM** – Walter motions, June Elliott seconds. Aaron motions to accept the minutes. Motion passed.
- 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.**
 - 17. Friendship Ministry** – Friendship started up again for the first time in a year. Some younger volunteers stepping up to help and the connection that's happening is really cool so far.
 - 18. Congregational Care** – Tricia has been in charge of this ministry for a long time now, looking for more help with congregational care. There is a lot to do in this crazy season.
 - 19. Mill Creek Baptist Camp** – Mill creek is open to rentals but waiting to see what health restrictions will be like to make plans for this summer. Allison mentioned the accommodations are great.
 - 20. Young Life** – Vanessa is the new area leader and very passionate. Young Life in Cranbrook is partnering with Connect Youth leaders, which has been a dream for a long time. They are working on the transition from High school to adulthood for the youth.

21. **Library** – Helen assures that the library is always open for use, and she looks forward to having people back in the building to make more use of it.
22. **Church Clerk** – Natasha Perich will be taking this over, sorry for the confusion. Member numbers are 113, 1 non-voting.
23. **Envelope Steward** – Natasha mentions that it has been a steep learning curve from the start, and there have been many learning moments. Cory offers some praise for the faithful giving of people in the church who have not held back but continued to give faithfully. There is already a substantial shift toward Electronic Giving. Possibly update the name of the position to something more appealing.
24. **Facilities Committee** – Thanks Bill for his hard work. There is an ongoing project to replace all the lights and outlets in the kitchen. Ongoing repair impending for the south side leaky window. Its all going to be expensive. Budget excess may go toward this.
25. **Space Project** – The space project is wrapped up and remaining loose ends transferred to the care of Admin committee.
26. **Nominations Committee Report** – This has taken a back seat, Cory thinks “we should pick this up again”. Cory would like to focus on baptism and membership right now as well as nominating new elders.
27. **Administration Committee** – Za working as custodian now, going well.
28. **Treasurers Report** – Budget Surplus, put towards the loan but will see what happens with the windows before making this decision. Terri Taylor proposes that the benevolent fund should be kept track of, and should be tax receipt-able, as it has not been in the past. Around Christmas time, \$2000 was given to people in the community, but as soon as that happened there were some big donations. Praise be to God, let’s see how much more we can bless people. Jon informs that Jason Spyksma will be taking over treasurer role.
29. **Elder’s Report** – Goal is to get more people involved in Elders board and make it something easier and less daunting to join. Big thanks from Annalee to elders for all their work.
30. **Music and Worship**- Super big, huge thanks to Matt who has taken on a lot more than what he signed up for. There have been a lot of necessary updates and upgrades to equipment and Matt has worked a lot harder than ever.
31. **Children’s Ministry** – It’s been a hard year. Its different to transfer the onus of discipleship completely onto families/ parents. Family services when they were running were fantastic because parents were learning with their kids at the same time which was good for continuity. The hardest part now is all she can do is send out kids packs and there is not very much feedback.
32. **Pastor of Mission, Outreach & Youth** – Congratulations to Reverend Aaron. One of the best things that has come out of the pandemic has been the creation of a youth team who meet regularly with their small groups and gives them opportunities to deepen relationships in a meaningful way. Natasha Ewaskow mentioned that it has been amazing for their daughters.
33. **Pastoral Report** – Kevin forgot to mention that Jim Abbot also passed away in the report. Otherwise, thanks to people for showing up. This is why we are going to try Zoom church coming up, it is good to see faces and we need to connect any way we can. Introduced the motion of CBWC for changing membership process to include same-sex relationships. There will be an Assembly in 2022 to discuss the Identity Statement (which we will need to send some members to), and we will need to discern where

we stand on this. This is daunting. Please start by praying for the process of discussion and the hard work that will need to go into this. The last Bucks chapel is happening tomorrow, which has been a bright spot in a dark cloud. This has been an opportunity for ministry to still happen in a time of not very many opportunities.

4. Motion to accept reports as presented by Jason and Walter. All in favor. Majority favors to receive reports. Motion to adjourn by Annalee second by Al Dyck. Meeting Adjourned.

5. Closing Prayer – Benediction from Kevin: “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.” (taken from his Pastoral Report 2021).

Friendship Ministry

Enterprising Volunteers with technical savvy enabled us to start ZOOM meetings for our friends last March. We continue to have these online meetings each Monday evening. Many of our folks and volunteers log on for a time of worship with Alison Kidd followed by a message and prayer time.

Although we are anxious to gather in person, we are cautious until their programs are more open to include others in their presently small cohorts.

We appreciate your prayers and support for this ministry.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sue Coolbaugh
Coordinator

Congregational Care Report

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. The services I coordinate, or usually coordinate within this ministry are:

VISITATION – This ministry looked a lot different during 2021. 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 (phone or in person depending on the time and situation) has taken place telling me all about it. Thank you to the people who step up to this task and just take it into their own hands. Also, a great deal of the visiting is taken on by staff, not just volunteers or friends. The visiting that I know about is wonderful and caring and I know there is a ton that goes on that I don't know of.

HOSPITALITY – Up until COVID, Diana had 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 (cupboards, drawers and notifying the Facilities Committee of any and all repairs needed). When a major cleaning is needed, Diana may ask for help with this task. Extra help in the kitchen is always needed for potlucks-mainly with dishes and clearing tables.

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.

Of course, everything is different right now and this ministry is not running normally or at full capacity.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Tricia McLeod

Please Note, Tricia will no longer be participating in Congregational Care. Therefore, we are in need of a new Coordinator for this ministry. If you are willing to help in this capacity, please contact the elders or church staff.

Amendment added by,
Natasha Perich

Mill Creek Camp

The camping season of 2021 was a summer of gentle rebirth. Restrictions temporarily lifted here in Alberta in the late spring. We hadn't anticipated this, and it took us a little by surprise! We ended up focusing on our Trek program primarily, which is our leadership development program for teens grades 9-12. We had a great group of 10 teenagers that chose to spend an intense two weeks learning, studying, and growing together. They were able to hike an overnight backpacking trip and help run a Junior Teens' Day Camp. We were not able to run week-long camps in 2021, but we held many "Camp Days". They were short but oh so sweet!

We are so excited as we prepare for a return to week-long camps for 2022! We couldn't be happier to anticipate engaging with our campers in person. Our mission is to support the building of relationships, foster faith, and turn that faith into change. We do that best when we are physically together onsite at our little piece of paradise.

We are so grateful for your support, First Baptist Cranbrook! Our prayer is that Mill Creek serves everyone who attends, and that God uses us this summer to do His will. Thank you for your prayers and blessings, and we hope to see you this summer!

Respectfully Submitted by,
Steffi Reynolds
Camp Director
Mill Creek Baptist Camp

Young Life

The Young Life report will be available at the Annual General Meeting, sorry for the inconvenience.

Envelope Steward

The Envelope Steward report will be presented at the Annual General Meeting, sorry for the inconvenience.

Church Clerk

The membership list consisted of 113 active voting members and one non-voting member at the beginning of 2021, for a grand total of 114 members. A review was held in January of this year with Pastor Kevin and Cory Greidanus which resulted in an updated list for active membership. We welcomed four new members in 2021 through baptism: Carlisle Bortolotti, Tessa Reutgen (non-voting), Aiden Duguay (non-voting), and Jonas Duguay (non-voting). However, 19 members have been moved from the active to the inactive membership list.

Some criteria for moving members from the active to inactive list are: no involvement for one calendar year, asking to be moved to the inactive list, physically moving away, and confirmed (consistent) attendance at another church. Other criteria may arise situationally. Of course, we also lose members when they go to be with Christ – lost to us, not to him.

The list of active voting members now stands at 95, with another 4 members that remain in the non-voting category; this makes a grand total of 99. This number will stand for the entire 2022 calendar year. As individuals become members, their names are added to the list, but the membership number does not change until the next review.

In summary, the changes to the active member list are as follows: 4 members were added through baptism, 10 members were moved to the inactive list due to no involvement, 4 members began attending other churches, 2 asked to be removed, 2 moved away geographically, and 1 passed away.

This may seem like a high number of members lost, but for the sake of transparency, there are more members that will be moved to the inactive list at the next review.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Natasha Perich
Church Clerk

Library

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Helen VanRietschoten, Judy Mistal, Betty Mosher

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide a Christ-centered resource to inspire, inform and safely entertain our multigenerational congregation; a free and trustworthy source of learning and entertainment.

RESOURCES

Books 2277 items (80%) Adult fiction & nonfiction, Teen, Juvenile, Children, Christmas

DVDs 553 items (19%) Adult, Family, Children & Christmas

CDs 18 items (1%) All ages

Bible Studies Personal or group, adult, or teen, across the categories of Books & DVDs

BUDGET

\$1500 annually, generously provided by the church. This is distributed between new book purchases, new DVD purchases, and library computer maintenance and updates.

We appreciate the on-going donations of good quality books, DVDs and Bible study materials that augment our resources.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

The library automation system is user friendly with a barcode scanner for checking books out and back in, and a search function to find particular book titles, authors, or DVDs.

Library use has suffered a severe decline as pandemic restrictions continued in 2021. The number of books and DVDs circulated was only 76 for the entire twelve months.

FUTURE PLANS

We continue to purchase new items and display them to tempt patrons back to the library. Any questions or requests can be directed to any of the committee members in person or by email. We will look for ways to encourage the

congregation to use this free, easily available resource. And we pray that restrictions will lift, and our church building filled with life again.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen VanRietschoten

Facilities

The electrical work for upgrading the florescent lighting in the church building has been done. Light bulbs in the sanctuary will be replaced as needed. We now have a tool for reaching these bulbs. It is stored in the basement storage room. Please return it there if you use it, thank you.

Facilities Projects 2022

1. I hope that we are able to complete the final coat of stucco on the south wall this coming spring. The contractor has had difficulties finding crews but thinks he will be able to do it in the spring.
2. Some more plumbing repair will be required in the old office building basement due to old pipe needing replacement. It can be done in house.
3. The blinds in the mezzanine area windows are in the process of being cut down to fit the new windows and should be installed by the time you read this. By reusing these old blinds there is a pretty good savings overall.
4. The gutter beside the front portico will need repairing in the spring.
5. Otherwise, I don't see any thing major at this time.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Taylor

Administrative Committee

CURRENT MEMBERS:

Jack Van Leusden (Elder Liaison)	Vacant (Treasurer)
Vacant (Facility Chair)	Hennie Tait
Walter VanRietschoten (Chairman)	Jason Spyksma

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 2021:

Custodian services were initially supplied by a new employee Za Heng. Soon after, he and his family moved east to Ontario. The committee reviewed the position and needs of the facility. As a result, a contract with Gilgal Janitorial Services Limited was arranged.

Investigations of the water leak affecting the south wall of the building showed extensive involvement with wet rot affecting structural two by fours around several of the windows. Stucco, window, and renovation contractors were engaged to both find the extent of the water damage and repair the affected areas. A decision was made to reduce the vertical height of some of the windows and more properly match the window weight with the frame durability. Final stucco repair has been delayed by a difficulty in finding workers late in the season. It is hoped that the repairs will be completed this spring. A big thank you to Bill Taylor for his coordination and planning of this extensive repair.

Rocky Mountain appraisals completed an assessment of the property and buildings April 23, 2021. The appraisal came in at 3.795 million up from 2.45 million in 2017. The appraisal was required as a result of the Space Project improvements. Facility insurance has factored in the new appraised value.

Accidental death and dismemberment policy has been taken out to provide coverage for church volunteers.

Electrical repairs, upgrading light fixtures to LED specifications and meeting current electrical code requirements was undertaken last year. Considerable savings were achieved as this was done under a Provincial Rebate Program. Reduced electricity usage for lighting will help reduce ongoing electrical costs.

Hot tar repair of parking lot pavement cracks was completed.

The provincial government recently passed the Landowner Transparency Act. The Church was required to report land ownership under this act. Report provided by Rockies Law.

LOOKING FORWARD to 2022:

- The vacant positions Treasurer and Facilities Chair need to be filled urgently for this committee to function well.
- Review of the budgeting process components and staff remuneration is underway.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Walter VanRietschoten

Nominations Committee

CURRENT MEMBERS: Cory Greidanus (committee chair), Jan Klassen (member at large), Alyssa Quick (member at large), Jack vanLeusden (elder liaison), Terri Taylor (elder liaison).

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 Elders elections.

In 2021 we welcomed Alyssa Quick to the committee and a big thank you to Annalee Siemens who has now stepped back and resigned from the committee. Also, thanks to Jan Klassen, and our elders Jack Van Leusden, and Terri Taylor for their generous contributions of time and input to the committee in 2021.

Jack van Leusden, Kate Troxel and Rachel Friesen were nominated to eldership by the committee in 2021 and were affirmed and welcomed to the board of Elders.

We continue to seek out and fill vacant positions into 2022 and appreciate your prayers and support as we approach individuals in our congregation. The time and attention and wisdom of all is much appreciated, thank you!

Submitted in gratitude and on behalf of the Nominations Committee,
Cory Greidanus

Treasurer

The church currently does not have a Treasurer. After holding the position for a number of years, Jon McWhirter is ready to pass the touch. Jason Spyksma briefly held the position during 2021 but needed to resign due to other commitments.

2021 was another year with Covid restrictions. I have attached a profit and loss statement from our bookkeeper; however, it is still missing our online giving for December (Appendix A). The statement shows that we spent \$19,653.07 more than we received in donations.

As usual, the staff and committee members did a great job managing expenses this year. The only outlier in spending versus budget was the facilities budget. This was due to the expensive repair to the windows along the 4th street wall that was necessary to stop the intrusion of water into the basement walls.

Respectfully submitted,
Jon McWhirter

Elders

Greetings FBC Cranbrook,

Reflecting on this year brings up various feelings: some are positive, and some are more difficult to reconcile. I think we will find that time and work need to go into unpacking the changes that COVID has brought. Our dynamic climate and hopes of lessening restrictions were followed by tighter restrictions. The hope of vaccines and the reality of Omicron have made navigating and pivoting a challenge. We are on a path to rediscovery as we understand and unpack the impact of this on our faith community.

In January of 2021, we re-cancelled in-person gatherings and distributed our “online Christmas eve” service. Vaccines were beginning to roll out, but we remained a virtual church having in-person small groups to keep our “bubbles” small. We held our Spring congregational meeting in person, and we heard two things: some people were ready and wanting to re-engage with in-person gathering, but also, some people were very cautious and nervous to re-gather. This tension still remains, and as a board, we recognize this: our hope and prayer is that our congregation will engage and still be drawn into community in ways that they feel safe to do so. We are grateful to our church staff for being flexible and absorbing the extra work that is involved in meeting the more dynamic needs of churches during COVID. Weekly, we have around 20-30 “views” of our service online and in-person attendance has varied week to week.

At the spring congregational meeting we welcomed Kate Troxel, Jack van Leusden, and Rachel Friesen to the board of Elders. With new Elders on board, we welcomed new life and giftings to the leadership of our Church. We said a “goodbye” to Carl Desjarlais as he stepped down from the Elders board, and we are incredibly grateful for his years of ministry to our community, and we welcome and bless the work him and Terry are doing with God’s Clothesline.

We heard from some new voices on Sunday mornings over the summer months as we facilitated a leave for Kevin and some much-needed time and space for staff to holiday and refresh after a difficult season of navigating COVID. Thanks to the many volunteers that made themselves available to lead music, usher, and share a message on Sunday mornings. As we moved into the Fall, Sunday mornings began to look and feel a little more ‘normal’, though we realize that many still chose to engage from home.

The Elders and staff gathered at the beginning of November for a retreat, and we had many meaningful discussions around vision, seasons, and discernment. We left the retreat encouraged: though there is still much to work through, we continue to faithfully, consistently, and intentionally discern where the Spirit is leading and how God wants to shape and design our faith community at First Baptist Church Cranbrook. Though it feels as if this season of COVID is unrelenting, our hope and prayer for the church is that we can remain intact relationally, deepening in our faith and appreciation of God’s heart towards a hurting world, and that His love continues to work in and through us.

As a church, we were blessed to witness the baptism of Carlyle Bortolotti (most viewed service of 2021!). As well, 3 of our youth were also baptized in October. From the Benevolent fund, we were able to bless and love people in our community with \$3600 and have a remaining balance of \$2,134.66. Thanks to all who contribute to our benevolent ministry.

As mentioned, our small groups have continued to grow and become a vital part of how we gather as a faith community. We are deeply grateful for those who are participating and for those who lead or facilitate these groups. In September, at the direction of the Elders Board, a Faith, Sexuality and Gender committee was struck. There were two Elders and three members from the congregation. Their mandate was to come up with material to study and a process for studying it in anticipation of voting on the C.B.W.C.’s motions at the Assembly in May of 2022. These motions are tied to the C.B.W.C.’s Identity Statement which includes their definition of marriage. The committee came up with material and packaged it into a ten-week study. The process for looking at the material is in small group settings. These studies began in January of 2022 and will finish towards the end of March.

Looking forward, there are still needs that we have identified and hope to see met in FBC. Specifically, the most urgent vacancies are: treasurer, facilities people, admin. committee, and congregational care. We continue to ask all of those who call FBC home to be involved in making our faith community amazing with the gifts that you have been blessed with. We also would love to see more of those who call FBC their home faith community to join as “Members”. Please reach out to an Elder if you have questions about what being a member means as we want to hear from the voices within our church by way of voting at meetings and stepping into vital roles within our church. If you call FBC home, please consider joining Baptism and Membership classes this Spring.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report. Please pray for the leadership of our church as we discern what being conformed to the image of Christ looks like on the corner of 4th and 14th.

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cory Greidanus
Chair of Elders

Music & Worship

Due to a medical leave, no report was submitted.

Children's Ministry

Report covering January to May 2021

The focus of Children's Ministry for the start of 2021, due to Covid gathering restrictions, was to do whatever possible to enable the Orange curriculum and activities to be put into the hands of families with children. Monthly curriculum packs were distributed to homes for the months of January to May. They included lesson plans and supplies as well as Parent Cues for Elementary, Preschool as well as Toddlers. Weekly emails with curriculum videos were sent out to families to engage the curriculum. Special Easter packs were also delivered at the end of March.

At the end of June, Bibles were delivered to our Grade 1 students, and gifts to our Grade 5 students as they transitioned into our Youth Ministry in the fall.

Our life applications for these months in Elementary were Responsibility, Kindness, Patience, Peace and Commitment. Our Toddler and Preschoolers' Bottom Lines were: Jesus is amazing, Jesus Loves Me, I Can Love Like Jesus, Jesus Wants to be My Friend Forever and God's Way is Perfect.

At the end of May I had completed my ministry at FBC, and a committee was formed to do an exit interview, glean an understanding of the needs for Children's ministry, form a job description and solicit to hire a person for this position. This process took place from April to May, and the posting was effective in late Spring.

Over the summer there was no active children's ministry. Ruth Lockhart engaged the Children's ministry as coordinator in September.

It was a pleasure and honor to serve the families of First Baptist Church for the past 10 years. I have many wonderful memories of storytelling and dancing in large group, small group laughter and discussions, Easter songs, Christmas Pageants, Stations of the Cross, Camp Fundraisers and so much more. Thank you also to the many volunteers I had the joy of serving beside. Lastly, thank you to everyone at FBC for your support and encouragement over the years.

Respectfully submitted by,
Natasha Ewaskow
former Pastor of Children and Families

Report covering September to December 2021

Highlights of September and October

In September and October, I observed a variety of people taking turns leading Sunday school. There would be one or two adults with an activity for the kids. I jumped in to help a few times as I observed the ratio of children to leaders was overwhelming for them sometimes.

Highlights November and December

Starting the first week of November, I began spending anywhere from 8-20 hours a week doing volunteer work on Children's Ministry. This included:

- Emailing parents
Creating a new volunteer list and setting up volunteer schedules
- Reaching out to potential volunteers
- Learning to use the Orange website, Playlister, Mailchimp, setting up my laptop with church systems, etc.
- Creating lesson plans
- Setting up Sunday school
- Cleaning up after Sunday school
- Shopping for Sunday school supplies
- Liaising with other churches and leaders
- Connecting with parents, leaders, and children regarding feedback on Sunday school
- I led 7 out of 8 Sunday School sessions in November and December and planned and coordinated all of them with planning done for all 3 age groups.

I used 3 main directions in creating Sunday School lessons.

1. Connecting with the sermon topic and main verse and incorporating that into the lesson. My heart is that the children will be learning a piece of what the parents are learning upstairs in order for families to have increased connection regarding learning about Jesus.
2. Orange curriculum. I found the videos very helpful and familiar for the children and utilized many activities. I found a lot of the Orange curriculum is customizable and so I was able to create the lesson connection with the sermon that I had hoped for. Orange gave me the flexibility to create as simple, or as complex a lesson as I wanted. I came into volunteering in this capacity with a lot of apprehension regarding this curriculum, but when I educated myself about what the Orange curriculum entailed and the possibilities, I was able to utilize this resource in a way that works for FBC at this time.
3. My own lessons and activities. I have a myriad of resources and previous lesson creations that I tapped into.

Our life application for November was the topic of the sermon combined with the Orange topic of “Be Content,” and helping others with what we have. We finished off the month by connecting with a church in the Fraser Valley where they had major flooding.

Our application for December was “Celebrate Christmas” with Joy, Love, Hope, and Peace (going along with the sermon topics as well). We practiced a song to perform for the church as well. We learned about Compassion, had the compassion tree set up, had a birthday party for Jesus as part of the “Joy” Sunday, provided glow sticks and age-appropriate stations for the Christmas even service, and packages for the following Sundays.

Thankfully, there has been strong volunteer support, but I found that there were rarely enough people to split the Sunday school into 3 age groups (preschool/nursery, k-2, and 3-6) which would be ideal for children to learn on the days when more children show up. I began focusing more on big group sessions, and only breaking into smaller groups when there were enough volunteers. Over the holiday season, I was asked to make packages and stations and led a small kids session as part of the church service upstairs. I have noted an average of 9-23 children attending church weekly.

Due to Covid, there are a lot of factors to be accommodated as volunteers frequently are unable to come in, and many people are wary of taking part in volunteering with children right now. This requires flexibility and has posed a challenge that has been interesting to navigate.

Many children have returned to Sunday School for the first time during this period and many are nervous and scared. My heart is to create a familiar, safe, and fun environment where kids can learn about Jesus, connect with friends, and bring home knowledge that they can share and grow in with their families. My hope is to create lessons that have as much safe connection as possible for families with family members and with others during a time when connection is often hard to come by. I also hope to have more of a connection between children attending church and

children at home. I would like to make videos, send links to Sunday school videos, and drop off a craft to kids at home. This requires me to go through the lists of families and compile a new list of who would like these resources and is connected with FBC as there have been many changes during the pandemic.

I have loved watching how God has given direction in leading Children's Ministry and where He is leading in the future as we are navigating a complex time. He is in control, and we continue to hold His hand as we move forward.

Respectfully submitted by,
Ruth Lockhart
volunteer children's ministry coordinator

Pastoral Report of Outreach, Mission & Youth

Another not-typical year in the books for us as a church.

Youth Ministry

Youth ministry has been steadily happening this past year. Our current model is based around small groups. These groups formed during the Summer of 2020 and have continued on till the present. They were formed to emulate a cabin experience at summer camp and are grouped mostly by age. We have five groups currently led by 5 volunteers and myself. Each group has 6-10 youth that they try and stay in touch with and plan activities for. While this method is not reaching all our youth, it has been a significant experience for many who have been involved.

Thank you to our current leaders, Brayden Alexander, Carlisle Bortolotti, Waldo Klause, Danielle Peters, and Alyssa Quick. Your continued love and acceptance for teens is making a difference that we may never understand this side of eternity, and it is an honour to serve alongside you.

Thank you also Brandon Peters, and Jim Nicol for your investment of time and care with our youth. May God's goodness sustain you in your next season of life and service with Jesus.

Something that has been difficult to get back to is large group events. We had a few sporadic ones in the Spring, and in the Fall set out to have one at least every six weeks. We have had good response to the ones we have done and, thanks to some volunteers, should be able to increase the frequency of events to one a month.

During the Summer, we were able to have a number of our youth participate in Serve, which is an annual mission trip/ youth conference put on by our denomination. Usually, we would travel somewhere and have youth from all across western Canada in a single location for this, but in 2021 groups from all over did service projects in their own communities. In the evenings we would participate in a virtual rally over Zoom. We participated in a community BBQ put on by the Salvation Army one day (which included God's Clothesline. More about them later), resurfaced some of the walking trails around Elizabeth Lake, and did a bunch of different jobs with Cranbrook Food Recovery. At the end of our time the youth who participated helped to lead the Sunday service that week.

Outreach and Mission

We continue to support a number of partners who are engaged in various forms of outreach around the world. Globally, we have partners in:

- Kenya, Shammah and Jessika Odongo, Enzi (formerly known as Art Waves Ministries)
- Rwanda, Andre Sibomana
- Bolivia, Patty Nacho and Bill and Janice Dyck

Nationally, we support the work of Joanna Skucus and University Christian Ministries at BCIT.

Locally, we partner with:

- Young Life
- Hospital Chaplaincy
- Green Home Spiritual Care
- Cranbrook Bucks Hockey Chaplaincy
- The Food Bank
- The Salvation Army
- God's Clothesline
- Friendship Ministry

All of our partners have faced significant challenges to the ways they have operated. We continue to pray for and support them.

Something that grew during this past year was an initiative by members of FBC to make clothes available to those in need for free. **God's Clothesline** got started this past year out of the desire of Terri Desjarlais to meet a need she saw in our community. They welcome donations, especially of men's clothing, and would greatly value your prayers as they discern how to operate going forward.

Mission Support with Intention. We are also trying something new going forward. In the summer we met with some representatives from Compassion Canada and talked with them about the possibility of partnering with a specific part of the world. They said that was possible and we are going to have a general focus as a church with Kigali in Rwanda. This was started with the Compassion Sunday that happened in January with Drew Westergaard, where 5 kids were sponsored from that region. Rwanda is already a place we have ties to through our support of Andre Sibomana of Canadian Baptist Ministries. The hope is to create relationships that can grow into something far greater than a face we give money to.

For me, 2021 was one of growth (which doesn't get easier with age), and I am grateful to God for His sustaining love in my life. The beginning of 2021 was a real punch to the gut as the bubble of hopes-of-ministry-without-restrictions was burst. We had to continually set aside plans, and that was hard.

Throughout the pandemic, my role in Sunday services has increased. I have contributed a bit more in regard to preaching, but my main area is with the Welcome and Call to Worship and Prayer times. Going back to in-person gatherings in the summer was a large hurdle, as we needed to get so much volunteer help to make them possible. In God's mercy he provided a way and we have been meeting this way ever since. I am so grateful to all who participate in leading our services. This was growth.

It was both joyous and difficult, for me, to hear of youth who were a part of FBC getting baptized at a different church in the summer. Joyous because they are choosing to deepen their commitment to following Jesus with all their life. Difficult because I found out about it accidentally. Difficult because I had to wonder about what this meant for all the efforts we had made to connect with those young people and their families. Was it enough? Where did I let them down? Lots of questions and doubts. But God is faithful through it all and will continue to be so. This was growth.

Significant things happened in my life in October. On the 17th the journey to ordination was completed. I thought beforehand that it would be sort of like a graduation in terms of how it would feel. I was wrong. It was far more profound. I think it was because I was unaware of the role that you, my church family, would play (and continue to play) in it. I want to thank you for the ways you affirmed me (both that day and many others) in this quest to serve the body of Christ. It is truly an honour to serve here.

On October 24th, we baptized 3 youth at our church and affirmed them in their desire to follow after Jesus with their whole lives, which was wonderful. And the following week, after leading the welcome and prayer time, I returned

to my seat and found my thoughts wondering if what I had prepared and done was acceptable to the people present? Had my efforts satisfied people? Were people meeting God because of me? Grandiose thoughts, for sure. And quite hollow feeling to tell you the truth. In that moment though, I felt like the Holy Spirit challenged me with the question “is that your job?” Meaning, are people’s interactions with God really dependent on how well I pray. And in that moment, I felt like a weight was lifted off my shoulders. I had come prepared. I had offered what I could. And God accepted that. I was enough. This was growth.

This has been a difficult year for my coworkers, with many different challenges happening in their lives. I love and appreciate each of them so much. While life hasn’t been easy, it has been a meaningful experience to travel these hard roads alongside them and my life is better for it. This continues to be growth.

I have been involved with helping to coordinate how we will engage with the material that our Faith, Sexuality and Gender committee has worked so hard to put together for us. I want to thank each of the folks who participated in that committee. Your efforts have given us a chance to grow well through this uncomfortable conversation we are having to address. May we all grow as God’s people.

May we all be the Father’s children, Jesus’ disciples, and the Holy Spirit’s partners as we walk together this next year.

Respectfully submitted by,
Reverend Aaron Hansen
Pastor of Mission, Outreach and Youth

Pastoral Report of Spiritual Formation

2021 was an incredibly diverse year. It held immense challenges for the church congregants and ministries, as well as challenges personally and vocationally for me.

The year started with restrictions still in place for gathering and so we continued to adapt and refine our online presence and interaction.

I started a sermon series “Waking up Again” to inspire and highlight our relationship with God; for people to see God’s engagement in their life, and that Christ’s presence can be, “new every morning,” (Lam. 3:22-23), (Or at least new in this season!).

Behind the scenes we were developing a way to use Zoom to connect as a community. It was met with good reviews and was used for certain Sundays in March and April. There was a sense of “fellowship and togetherness” on zoom that people had missed. For the other Sundays we were doing some prerecording and live streaming.

The Easter Season held many opportunities to reflect and engage Passion week. The “Art Group” did lino cut prints, with many different ages participating; the prints were copied and posted online for reflection. A Tenebrae service was recorded as a podcast, and there was a live stream of a good Friday Service. Easter Sunday was both joy and sorrow, as there were several people who came to do the worship and tech in our “Resurrection” Sunday, however, without a congregation to celebrate with, the sorrow due to our lack of fellowship was evident.

In May and June, we decided to preach through the 7 points in our Covenant of Fellowship. (This is a document that is associated with our membership classes and forms a basis to how our membership and community should live together and live in the world.) I preached 3 sermons in this series, Bob Jones and Pastor Aaron tackled the rest.

It was at this point in the year that the increasing stress due to COVID related dynamics with ministry, as well as the diminishing health of my mother, led me to ask the elders for a leave of absence. I was physically, emotionally, spiritually, and psychologically drained. My leave started June 1st and lasted until August 16th. During this time, I

arranged for assessment and appropriate professional care in the areas of my physical, psychological, and spiritual health. Aside from that, I met regularly with Cory, our Chair of the elders. I want to deeply thank all the people who stepped up to fill the different ministry related things that needed tending. Also, a deep thank you to the elder's board for their sincere care, and all those who prayed for my family, my mom and I.

My reintegration to the lead position towards the end of August was to be gradual (although it was more like an airplane hitting the tarmac). However, it was filled with changing dynamics: a vacant Children's ministry position at the time, watching and waiting for Covid restrictions to unfold, and a growing anticipation of what the fall might hold. Furthermore, as we "kicked off," we faced the reality that the summer had been a time where many people in our fellowship had either moved to other churches or who had simply decided to stop engaging FBC as their place of community and worship.

I started September with a series on Joy and Sorrow, as it seemed appropriate both personally and pastorally; highlighting these two dynamics of life as two sides to the same coin that flips about in our life.

The Fall also saw the re-engagement to chaplaincy for the Cranbrook Bucks. The ministry had flourished the season before, and it picked up where it left off. Through the fall numbers of between 15-20 attending were consistent, and opportunities abounded for encouragement and discipleship. Thank you to all those who supported this ministry through prayer, financial donations, and cooking meals (the guys love home cooked meals!).

October came and we were hitting a bit of stride as a church. Children's ministry had taken more form with volunteer leadership from Ruth Lockhart. We also *finally* had an ordination celebration service for Pastor Aaron; a great time of affirmation for him.

November began with the Banff Pastor's conference (Nov. 1-4) and our pastoral team/elders (pt/e) retreat in Windermere (Nov. 5-7). The Pastor's conference confirmed the toll that COVID, and specific motions put forward by the CBWC for Assembly 2022, had taken on pastors. Many pastors were not there due to resignations and others were very weary. The pt/e retreat was a rich blessing and I felt it a privilege and gift to lead. Our time was spent discerning where we were at as a church community and how God is leading us at this time and into the future. Although we were missing Matt Quick, all those attending contributed in unique ways; their gifts, personality and sensitivity to the spirit enriched each other and exemplified discernment in how God is moving at FBCC.

At the end of November, I was off to a retreat at Kingsfold, focused on "Transitions" and discernment in that process. It was a rich time and help to meld some of the things that needed to be clarified from the Banff Pastor's and pt/e retreat.

The Fall also saw us start a monthly communion and prayer service. The focus of this time was to create space and liturgy that would give people the opportunity to be edified in fellowship, prayer and partaking in the Lord's supper together.

Advent rolled into December and had us waiting, watching, and anticipating towards Christmas. There was focused effort on helping many in our community through the benevolent fund. We also went ahead with an in-person Christmas eve service which was wonderfully attended and filled with celebration. A big "thank you!" to all of the volunteers who led worship, ushered and did the technical support – not just at the Eve service, but all of you who have been helping out throughout the year!

As always there were numerous times of pastoral care, counselling, and visits to keep in touch with people. I led many funerals through McPhersons Funeral Home, as well as co-led with Grant McDowell the annual Service of Remembrance in early December. Related to our church, I led a service for Bill Elliot (who passed in Dec. 2020, but the service was in Jan 2021), and Lindsay Anderson (April of 2021). We also said goodbye to a long-time member Donna Anderson who passed in December.

Through the year there was also a great deal of time focused on how we as a church might approach the CBWC Assembly of 2022, as there are certain motions that our church needed to be prepared to vote on. Specifically, a statement on marriage, and how, or if, membership works itself out to same-sex couples. A sub-committee was formed (The Faith, Sexuality, and Gender Committee) and did an excellent job of discerning and compiling materials for a small group study that would be engaged at the beginning of 2022. This study is to inform the congregation and help us make a decision about how we will approach the vote at Assembly 2022. Thank you again to Jack, Bob, Alison, Matt and June for their hard and thorough work in this area; we anticipate that it will bear fruit in many ways.

I would like to thank First Baptist church for their care and support over this past year. I could not have anticipated the many challenges, stresses, and difficulties that I would face individually, personally, pastorally and as part of this community. Yet, despite all of hardship, the remarkable care, prayer, support, grace, and love that was offered by so many people in FBCC enabled my family and I to regain health, persevere, rest, and remain hopeful. Thank you again.

I will be a little creative with Hebrews 12:1-3 and close with this:

“Therefore, may we all remember that we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses! Those who have gone before us and are cheering us on. And let us lay aside every weight; let us bear each other’s burdens as well. Let us steer clear of the sin which so easily ensnares us, so that we can run with endurance the race that is set before us. “Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we’re in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he’s there, in the place of honour, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he ploughed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!” (MSG).

Peace,
Reverend Kevin Ewaskow
Pastor of Spiritual Formation