

2021 Elders Report

Psalm 27

1 *The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear?*

The Lord is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?

2 *When the wicked advance against me to devour me,*

it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.

3 *Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear;*

though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

4 *One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.*

5 *For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.*

13 *I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.*

14 *Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.*

What a year it's been! If you have felt disjointed and dispirited, you likely are not alone. The word that has become popular in our society is "Pivot". And like it or not, Bethel became more adept at pivoting. As we dealt with another year of ever-changing regulations, it may have become hard for you to not become cynical, perhaps questioning the God-given political authorities, who have been granted some biblical mandate to be obeyed. Often we forget to pray for these leaders, especially if we disagree with them.

We wonder, as believers, why the Lord has, in His sovereign will, allowed these years of trouble on the nations. And then we hear the anti-God, defiant voices in our culture and we might wonder if the pandemic was allowed by God as a tool to warn and correct the nations (if they would not harden their hearts and only heed the warning).

We have much to be thankful for as an assembly, as do many of the assemblies around Edmonton. For example:

- We have remained open this past year, albeit with reduced numbers physically attending, and we seem to have a good spirit of harmony as an assembly. Although we are small in number, almost all of us are engaged and contributing to the work.
- Meadowlodge Bible Camp proceeded with day camps over the summer, and has made progress on some capital work, and appears to have a renewed vision for the future.
- Mount Carmel Bible School has a new president and we pray for growth and perhaps a renewed vision for the school. As elders we have had some concern related to the direction the school seems to have charted over the last number of years and we would rejoice if it returned to its assembly roots.
- Grace Fellowship Church began formally in May and we should continue to pray for our brothers Steve Cortez and Shayne Poirier and their families as this work develops.
- We are thankful that the Food Pantry, which Bethel partners in, has continued with a number of local believers (and Mount Carmel students) volunteering. We wish that there was no need for such a ministry - however, it is good to be involved in serving the poor in our community. Pray for contacts that are deeper than simply supplying food products. Pray also, that the Lord would sustain those who labour in this work, and that our building would be able to handle the heavier use.
- Landscaping has occurred on Bethel's property (both in the front and along the parking area). The fire, at the rear door of the chapel, in October, has been quickly repaired.
- Many of the Social Events that normally characterized our gathering have been postponed, and yet it is great to still meet over a coffee between meetings.
- Over the past year, as an assembly, we have largely been unaffected by the more deadly forms of the COVID-19 virus, although the newest strain has affected several in our fellowship. What a good reminder to hold each other up before the Lord in prayer.

In the coming year the Elders would cherish your prayers as we hope to return to "normal - or better". We plan on continuing to use Zoom to minister to those who are shut-in. Zoom has been something that many in our assembly have been thankful for - although it can never replace meeting each other face to face, or sitting together at the Lord's Supper. We hope to have more fellowship events in the months to come and we would encourage each person to watch for those events and plan to attend. Remember, if you want to be visited by the elders just call or email us, don't wait, it's not an inconvenience, we are happy to meet with you!

Dave Walton, Frank Parker & George Idema

2021 Deacon's Report

Each year we as deacons aim to provide a steady undisturbed environment for the Bethel family. Our goal is to make sure all the necessities are covered for the various activities and ministries of our membership. With Covid hitting the world, everything changed, but as always, many of our members stepped up and filled in the gaps. Like many churches, we've moved fully into the internet era, providing our services as much as possible to those who can't attend with Zoom meetings.

In early spring a minor leak happened in what used to be called the coffee room or youth room. Turned out that it was some ice damming happening where the pitched roof meets the flat roof, on the north side. As the weather warmed and some snow melted in the warmest part of the day, it would then freeze each night. After a couple of days of this, the water could not flow to the proper drain, and it found its way through the membrane into the building. It was a very small leak, but we had that whole junction repaired. That should hold back the problem for some years, but it reminds us again to keep an eye on our flat roof. It is several decades old now and has a finite lifetime.

The chain link gate by the C container in the back has not worked properly for a couple of years now. We had quotes on full replacement but found a reputable company that elected instead to reconfigure the hinge post and hinges for it. The results are very satisfying. The area can once again be locked securely, yet the door can be trusted to open from the inside, using the panic bar, so the two fire escape doors in that corner of the building are also trustworthy. All at a much better price.

In April someone threw a large piece of cement through a window at the back of the church, into the office. We found the best solution to be a glass company who replaced the broken glass. We did not attempt to find glass of a matching gold colour, from an earlier era, but we did have the outside panes on that one window replaced with a flexible clear product. If another rock is thrown sometime in the future, the glass should not shatter the same way. The second window is still the original glass. We decided to leave it as is.

In the wee morning hours of October 3 we had a fire on the back deck which unfortunately damaged the back wall and caused smoke damage into the entry, kitchenette and bathroom. The cause would have been someone starting a small fire on the wood deck. The police did not believe it was meant to cause damage, more likely a person preparing their illicit drugs, and the fire got out of control. Fortunately our insurance has covered the remediation and repairs.

We thank you all for your prayers and support. Please remember that there are many duties required in our church family, and any help you give is greatly appreciated!

Submitted by the Deacons: Theryn Mills, George Bódy & John King

2021 Sunday School Report

Sunday School has been much the same in this past year as before the pandemic. With exception of mask wearing we tried to go back to a regular structure for our Sunday School classes as we have had in the past.

We currently have 3 classes. Heidi Idema is back teaching our youngest class (preschool/kindergarten/grade 1). I, Doris Walton, am teaching our middle class (grade 2/3) and Kirstin Idema has our oldest kids teaching grade 4-6. Our number of kids holds pretty steady at around 10 (unless we have visiting families).

Our focus since September has been an in depth look at Creation. Starting with how God created the earth and what happened on each day. We discussed the existence of dinosaurs and dragons and ended with sin entering the garden and the world. We are currently learning about the first animal sacrifice and what that means for us today.

Our next series will be focusing on God's faithfulness. We will begin examining the effects of sin entering the world and taking a closer look at some well known bible stories to illustrate these points.

We have reintroduced singing to our weekly Sunday school time which make me very happy. I have continued on with the bible verse incentive program which seems to be working well and our kids are learning lots of new verses.

I was also excited that we were able to do a little play at Christmas this year to help us remember why we celebrate the season.

I am thankful for the continued faithfulness of Kirstin and Heidi as they teach God's word to our children each week. I would also like to thank Dianne for teaching Sunday School one Sunday a month which allows our teachers to have one Sunday each month to hear God's word. It is a great blessing to be faithful in this task. We also had some wonderful volunteers over the summer who helped out. Thank you Sarah, Anna, Elisa and Steve.

As we look to the coming year I am once again thankful that we have been able to continue to meet in person and enjoy fellowship together. Please continue to pray for our teachers and all our children.

Doris Walton

2021 Social Committee Report

Another year of restricted social activities at Bethel!

The year 2021 saw some lessening of the COVID restrictions, which allowed us to broaden the scope of what we serve for coffee break on Sunday mornings.

In May, we hosted a Picnic Lunch at Meadowlodge Bible Camp. About 30 people attended and enjoyed the time of relaxed, outdoor fellowship.

We continued to give out food packets and other necessities as required.

Recently, we planned out different events for the rest of the 2022 calendar year and we are really looking forward to getting social again!

We look forward to when we as a Committee will be busy planning and executing social activities again soon at the Chapel. In the meantime, we value your prayers as we maintain social connections, relationships and to support our family at Bethel.

Sarah Tremblay & Sonja Idema

2021 Bethel Pantry Report

If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. Isaiah 58:10

We are now into our second year operating the Bethel Pantry – and things have only become busier! We are usually serving well over 100 people every week, most of whom also have families at home. So there is an obvious need in the community.

In addition to non-perishable food from the Edmonton Food Bank, we get fresh bread weekly from both Cobb's and Bon Ton bakeries. Occasionally we get donations from individuals, as well as from local businesses and agencies. We are thankful for the donations of a new freezer, and recently, a new fridge. Donations of gently used (& clean!) clothing, small household items, and toys are also welcome. Finally, we seek to provide 'food for the soul' – Bibles, tracts and other wholesome literature.

The back door fire in October forced us to move the ministry into the basement, which, ironically made for a more efficient operation. Currently we use the Sunday School area and the large open space beside the kitchen, as well as south-west and north-west stair cases. During cold or inclement weather, the main auditorium is used as a waiting area. It all adds up to additional wear and tear on the building (including the plumbing system!).

It takes at least 17 people for the Pantry to operate efficiently each week, and we are grateful for the volunteers that we have. It's encouraging that most are from area churches and assemblies. Bethel volunteers have included: Barbara Congo, George Idema, Kirstin Idema, Frank & Dianne Parker, Lily, Gabriel & Emma Tremblay. George Bódy, Tim Chen, and Theryn Mills have been able to help with the heavy work of unloading the Food Bank truck, and Earl Krechuniak has looked after receiving the weekly bread delivery. The Edmonton Police try to help out every week, as well as the occasional social worker.

While the provision of food to those in need has been a physical blessing to the community, our deeper desire is to also provide spiritual good news. Pray for good Gospel conversations with both volunteers and shoppers.

Respectfully submitted by,

Frank Parker, on behalf of the volunteers

Meadowlodge Camp Report (60th year of ministry)

With the exception of the Seniors' Camp and the Councillor Training Program (CTP), we were able to run seven of the usual camps during the 2021 season. While adjustments had to be made to fit in with Covid restrictions, but we were able to accept hundreds of grateful campers and offer opportunities for volunteers to share their lives and the Good News with children and youth. All the camps, except for the Family Camp were 4 day- day camps. The upside of running day camps was that staff realized that they could connect and build community among themselves in a way overnight camps don't allow for. On the other hand, it was harder to connect with campers without having the extra programming. That said, we once again, saw the Lord work in the provision of directors and staff, as well as the salvation of souls.

Even though camps started on Monday mornings, Meadowlodge hosted a series of Sunday evening fire-side meetings. These were great times of fellowship, prayer, and sharing in the Word.

The last 'official' program of the summer was the celebration of our 60th year of camping operations. It was a fun day, filled with great times of fellowship, as well as plenty of opportunities to reflect on the Lord's goodness over six decades of ministry. Many thanks to Sarah Tremblay and Anna Specht who headed up the organizing committee!

Financially, Meadowlodge ended the year with all bills paid, and some extra to give to a couple volunteers who spent a lot of their time at camp last year. As always, we thank the Lord for His provision in this area. If anyone would like to review the camp financial report, please talk to Frank Parker.

Last year we struck an ad hoc Capital Projects Committee to propose a five-year capital plan for the camp. The Committee presented its proposal at the end of April. The plan was accepted in principle, and we have already completed most of the first year projects. Many thanks to George Bódy who was the Bethel rep on the Committee.

One of the more challenging projects was the installation of the new cistern – and having it operational before camp started. Other projects were completed over the spring, summer and fall which all add to the camp's upgrading and future longevity. One larger project now in process, is the renovation to the pool building and construction of an adjacent dry play area. Please pray for success with development and building permits, easements and plans for this project. May the Lord also provide funds for this and other future infrastructure projects.

We continue to rely on the Lord for His provision and are encouraged to see how He will lead and reach campers and staff in 2022. We have a wonderful opportunity in a great setting to both share the Good News with the lost, and to disciple believers. Thank you for your prayers and support of this ministry.

Respectfully submitted by,

Frank Parker

Meadowlodge Board Representative

Financial Report - Bethel Gospel Chapel of Edmonton

From January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021

SUMMARY	2021	2020	2019	2018
Total Income:	117,265.63	104,142.97	116,952.88	111,443.20
Total Expenses:	106,805.83	106,180.62	103,336.35	109,231.46
Surplus (Deficit):	10,459.80	<i>(2,037.65)</i>	13,616.53	2,211.74
INCOME				
Offerings	116,840.57	103,125.56	115,532.56	110,495.85
Bank Interest	425.06	1,017.41	1,420.32	947.35
Total Income:	117,265.63	104,142.97	116,952.88	111,443.20
EXPENSES				
Miscellaneous Expenses				
GST				393.02
Total Miscellaneous Expenses				393.02
Ministry Expenses				
Advertising	1,575.00	1,575.50	180.00	
Bethel Social Events		-		200.00
Flowers, Cards etc	563.47	240.31	543.17	250.00
Membership & Licensing Fees	592.20	411.00	407.00	387.00
Publications	273.43	103.17	194.94	180.00
Visitation	60.00	60.00	590.00	60.00
TOTAL Ministry Expenses	3,064.10	814.48	1,915.11	1,077.00
Operating Expenses				
Caretaking Services & Supplies	10,780.95	8,200.00	8,764.89	7,246.66
Equipment, Renovation	200.50	1,272.90	157.98	1,555.71
Insurance, Taxes	9,077.20	8,154.00	7,345.46	6,804.25
Kitchen Supplies & Food	712.85	377.34	nil	259.12
Maintenance	15,781.65	8,012.44	578.90	586.50
Office Supplies (incl. photocopier, paper)	1,167.67	1,069.47	373.41	595.82
Photocopying				70.36
Other Supplies			327.56	305.83
Utilities				
Direct Energy Reg Serv				4,500.61
Epcor- Power, Water & Sewer				2,834.82
Shaw Cable				1,441.76
TOTAL Utilities	9,027.71	7,459.91	8,423.04	8,777.19
TOTAL Operating Expenses	46,748.53	34,546.06	25,971.24	26,201.44

Workers & Organizations

		2020	2019	2018
Designated Funds: O.M. Samuel	2,400.00	1,950.00	2,550.00	2,550.00
Designated Funds: Lowrie Project	-	300.00		
Guest Speakers	2,000.00	2,100.00	3,700.00	3,800.00
Organizations				
Hope Mission				300.00
Meadowlodge	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,200.00	7,500.00
Mount Carmel	10,000.00	10,000.00	5,000.00	10,000.00
MSC Can. - Admin.	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,560.00
MSC Can - Biblical Elder Resources				500.00
Congo Container Project (outstanding liability)	5,593.20			
Donation - Edmonton Womens' Outreach				750.00
Subtotal: Organizations	27,393.20	21,800.00	17,000.00	20,610.00
Workers				
Andrew & Latetia Russell	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00
Barbara Congo	21,600.00	22,500.00	24,000.00	24,000.00
Janet MacDougall			4,800.00	7,200.00
Frank Parker		13,200.00	19,800.00	19,800.00
Subtotal: Workers	25,200.00	39,300.00	52,200.00	54,600.00
TOTAL Workers & Organizations	56,993.20	65,450.00	75,450.00	81,560.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:	106,805.83	100,810.54	103,336.35	109,231.46