

BETHEL GOSPEL CHAPEL

We Preach Christ

Crucified † Risen † Coming Again

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

March 19, 2023



2022 Elders Report

Psalm 89

1 I will sing of the Lord's great love for ever; with my mouth I will make Your faithfulness known through all generations. 2 I will declare that Your love stands firm for ever, that You have established Your faithfulness in heaven itself.

5 The heavens praise Your wonders, Lord, Your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.

6 For who in the skies above can compare with the Lord? Who is like the Lord among the heavenly beings? 7 In the council of the holy ones God is greatly feared; He is more awesome than all who surround Him. 8 Who is like You, Lord God Almighty? You, Lord, are mighty, and Your faithfulness surrounds you.

14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; love and faithfulness go before You. 15 Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim You, who walk in the light of Your presence, Lord. 16 They rejoice in Your name all day long; they celebrate Your righteousness.

We can read just a few highlights of Psalm 89, and recall the Lord's faithfulness. It's a wonderful Psalm, with Messianic phrases and reminders of how faithful and good God has been to the line of David. Beyond David's experiences (as observed by Ethan the Ezrahite), we are called "Blessed" for we have learned of Him, we can rejoice that God has been faithful in the past to us and we can trust Him with our future.

The faithfulness of the Lord has been displayed to us as an assembly. During the past year as we have tried to climb out of the morose and apathy that the pandemic infused on so many gatherings; the fellowship of the believers, the joy and encouragement of meeting together, the faithfulness of God has truly brightened our days.

During the past year we have mourned the passing of Dan Fletcher. Although the Fletchers as a couple were not in fellowship with us for very long, their impact on our assembly was substantial. We are thankful that George Gustafson went home to be with our Lord after having a very real struggle for the past few years; many of us will remember being serenaded by him over the telephone! Our sister, Ruth Russell also went to be with the Lord after Christmas, and will be missed for her sharp mind, her interest in people, and her prayer life.

For several years the chairman at Bethel have been tasked with allotting time to present a Children's Story. For a few years now, we have tried to have these presentations follow a consistent progression through books of the Bible. Some reasons for this Children's time, that even many adults enjoy, is to acknowledge that the children in our assembly are important to us, that we enjoy learning and growing in God's Word together, and to use every opportunity to build upon the work that the parents are doing at home, and the Sunday School is doing each Sunday morning.

Similar to the consecutive approach of the Children's Story Time, our preaching ministry at Bethel has been trying to follow a chronological approach to ministry. Perhaps during our studies in the Book of Acts, this approach has become most obvious. Last winter we spent time in Galatians & James, then we took a break from the New Testament and in the spring considered Genesis, from creation to the Tower of Babel. In the summer we spent just a few weeks in Acts and then stayed with Paul in Thessalonica before returning to Genesis and studying the life of Abraham, Isaac and just a glimpse of the life of Jacob.

The elders and our speakers hope that this chronological approach might help each hearer of the Word to better understand the times and conditions that made it so necessary for these books to be written, that each of us would grow in our appreciation of the Word of God and love and trust God more. This approach to considering each book of the Bible, means that we shouldn't pass over difficult passages, or even passages that seem less relevant. Please commit to praying for those who speak, that they would have boldness when the passage challenges our society's permissive (or indulgent) world view. That each speaker would find the time to study and consider what each assigned passage says to those who originally heard it and to us today.

We appreciate your prayers for all the work that occurs within Bethel Gospel Chapel

The elders: David Walton, Frank Parker & George Idema

Deacon's Report 2022

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.

During the early months of 2022 the insurance company completed the repairs to the building from the fire of October 2021. Painting the replacement door and the back wall finished in May.

Sometime in the spring someone decided to throw a rock into the front display outside the main door, breaking the glass. That gave us the opportunity to clean up that sign, replacing letters that had deteriorated with high sun damage, and add our web page. We finished up by replacing the glass with a clear plastic sheet which should bounce back any future projectile rocks, rather than breaking.

Our landscaping project continued with the maintenance of the shrubbery and grasses across the back and front of the building. These plants were chosen for their prickliness, to dissuade people from camping out on the property, leaving dangerous trash and needles. The hedge and grasses will also hopefully be esthetically pleasing as they mature over the years.

This year we had some security cameras installed around the building, just to help monitor the premises.

In November we had the furnaces checked, and discovered that two of them (we have five) had cracked heat exchangers. These are so expensive to repair that it made better sense to replace the furnaces with new 2 stage machines with higher efficiency ratings. The remaining furnaces were also nearing the end of their expected life cycles, so we were able to secure further discounts by also replacing them. The two hot water tanks we have replaced with a hot water on demand system, so we won't be heating water all week long. Fortunately we and previous deacon's boards have been planning for this for a long time and we had the funds allotted.

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

Social Committee Report 2022

In 2022, we again had the privilege of serving at Bethel on the Social Committee. The number and type of activities increased over the previous year in large part due to the lifting of pandemic restrictions. We are very thankful for this!

Monthly Brown Bag Prayer meetings resumed, we were able to host several luncheons after the Family Bible Hour and we were able to gather as an assembly to begin a much needed church clean up mid-summer. We also were able to enjoy two Bethel family picnics at Meadowlodge Bible Camp.

All of these activities have been well received. It seems everyone is ready to be social again, PTL! We are also very appreciative of all those who participate in our church luncheons by pitching in to help make/bring food and to wash dishes/clean up afterwards.

We look forward to planning and serving at many more events this year at Bethel.

With grateful hearts;

Sonja Idema & Sarah Tremblay

Sunday School Report 2022/2023

This year of Sunday school has been a wonderful year so far. We have been able to add an additional class for teens to our Sunday school this year. Elisa King has been teaching a class for students who are in junior/senior high. Kirstin Idema is teaching our grade 4/5/6 class, Doris Walton is teaching our grade 2/3 class and Heidi Idema is teaching our pre K/K/1 class. Currently our Sunday school is at about 19 kids which is amazing.

Our focus since September has been to follow the story of Abraham and God's promises to him and his descendants. We are currently learning about Jacob and the challenges he faced as slave and prisoner and seeing God's faithfulness through all of the difficulties he faced.

We have started to include playing piano by the kids into our group singing time as a Sunday school. Our goal is to help the kids feel more comfortable playing in front of each other so that in time maybe they will feel comfortable playing/singing in front of the entire church congregation. With that goal in mind it was great to have 6 kids play some piano pieces for annual Christmas play this year.

I am so thankful for all the faithful teachers who tirelessly donate their time so our children can learn the word of God. Please continue to pray for us, the children and the teachers.

Doris Walton

Bethel Pantry - 2022

The Bethel pantry has now entered its third year of operation. We served an average of 158 clients a week in 2022. Although there are a number of 'regulars' whom we are getting to know, there are always a large number of new faces each week, including new immigrants and refugees (Syrian & Ukrainian).

Although the vast majority of our food comes from the Edmonton Food Bank, we also get weekly donations of fresh bread, as well as items from individuals and local businesses. In 2022, the Food Bank provided us with 77,767 kgs. of non-perishable food valued at \$549,813. Although these numbers seem impressive on paper, the fact that we have very little left over each week speaks to the great need that remains in the community.

In addition to non-perishable food, we also give out gently used clothing, small household items, and toys – not to mention pet food and other supplies. We also seek to provide 'food for the soul' through Bibles, tracts, and other wholesome literature, music and videos. Occasionally we've even been able to pray with individuals.

The Pantry continues to operate mainly out of the basement of the chapel, using the south-west and north-west stairways for access and egress. During cold or inclement weather, we have used the main auditorium as a waiting area. The Deacons have been active in dealing with the added wear and tear on the building.

It takes at least 17 people for the Pantry to operate efficiently each week, and we are grateful for each and every one of our volunteers. It is encouraging that most are from area churches and assemblies. Bethel volunteers include: Barbara Congo, George Idema, Kirstin Idema, Earl Krechuniak, Miriam Love, Frank & Dianne Parker, and Lily & Emma Tremblay. Others have also helped out as available. Unfortunately, the Edmonton Police Service has had to drop out of regular attendance.

While the Pantry continues to provide physical blessing to the community, our deeper desire is to also provide spiritual good news. Please pray for good Gospel conversations with both volunteers and shoppers.

Respectfully submitted by,

Frank Parker

On behalf of the volunteers.

Meadowlodge Bible Camp Report (61st year of ministry)

We again saw the faithful hand of the Lord provide for the needs of camp in 2022. Whether it was the helpers who got the camp ready for the summer or the staff for each week of camp, God brought in the necessary servants. We saw about 150 volunteers from various assemblies and churches help with the work. Eight individuals from Bethel worked during the summer season, including Sarah Tremblay who directed the Junior Girls Camp.

For the 2022 camp season we introduced a graduated camp length: Juniors - 4 days, Intermediates - 5 days, Teens - 6 days. This worked out quite well and there was good feedback from campers, staff and parents. We plan to repeat this schedule for the upcoming season. This being the first full summer of camps since the pandemic began, we saw some anxiety in the kids but not so much that we couldn't cope. Generally, the campers and staff were ready to get back to camping with overnight camps like pre-pandemic seasons.

All the usual camps ran in 2022, with 285 children & youth registered. The 55+ camp resumed with an exuberant group of about 70 seniors. We also had a successful Counsellor Training Program which ran parallel to Day Camp (9 youth attended). We pray that we will see more youth coming to training camp to prepare themselves to serve at Meadowlodge as junior and senior counsellors.

Regarding facilities, the manager's garage has now been replaced, allowing him to do camp related projects all year as well as for personal needs. The largest facility project continues to be the design and development of a new swimming pool with a covered recreation area next to it. After a year of design options, meetings, surveys and permits, we now have an approved development plan. Final design drawings, along with cost estimates are now available. This is an exciting project, and we pray for the Lord to provide all the funds/resources required.

Respectively submitted by,

Frank Parker

Bethel representative on the Meadowlodge Board

Financial Report - Bethel Gospel Chapel of Edmonton

From January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022

SUMMARY	2022	2021	2020	2019
Total Income:	121,909.25	117,265.63	104,142.97	116,952.88
Total Expenses:	160,293.58	106,805.83	106,180.62	103,336.35
Surplus (Deficit):	(38,384.33)	10,459.80	(2,037.65)	13,616.53

INCOME	2022	2021	2020	2019
Offerings	119,030.54	116,840.57	103,125.56	115,532.56
Bank Interest	2,878.71	425.06	1,017.41	1,420.32
Total Income:	121,909.25	117,265.63	104,142.97	116,952.88

EXPENSES	2022	2021	2020	2019
Ministry Expenses				
Advertising		1,575.00	1,575.50	180.00
Bethel Social Events			-	
Flowers, Cards etc	463.80	563.47	240.31	543.17
Membership & Licensing Fees	593.33	592.20	411.00	407.00
Publications	205.47	273.43	103.17	194.94
Visitation	60.00	60.00	60.00	590.00
TOTAL Ministry Expenses	1,322.60	3,064.10	814.48	1,915.11

Operating Expenses				
Caretaking Services & Supplies	11,808.08	10,780.95	8,200.00	8,764.89
Equipment, Renovation		200.50	1,272.90	157.98
Insurance, Taxes	10,410.42	9,077.20	8,154.00	7,345.46
Kitchen Supplies & Food	1,237.62	712.85	377.34	nil
Maintenance	41,895.36	15,781.65	8,012.44	578.90
Office Supplies (incl. photocopier, paper)	2,044.45	1,167.67	1,069.47	373.41
Other Supplies				327.56
Utilities (Direct energy, Epcor, Shaw)	11,675.05	9,027.71	7,459.91	8,423.04
TOTAL Operating Expenses	79,070.98	46,748.53	34,546.06	25,971.24

Workers & Organizations			2020	2019
Designated Funds: O.M. Samuel	900.00	2,400.00	1,950.00	2,550.00
Designated Funds: Lowrie Project	-	-	300.00	
Guest Speakers	5,000.00	2,000.00	2,100.00	3,700.00
Subtotal:	5,900.00	4,400.00	4,350.00	6,250.00
Organizations				
Meadowlodge	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,200.00
Mount Carmel	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	5,000.00
MSC Can. - Admin.	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00
Congo Container Project	22,000.00	5,593.20		
Subtotal: Organizations	43,800.00	27,393.20	21,800.00	17,000.00
Workers				
Andrew & Latetia Russell	8,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00
Barbara Congo	21,600.00	21,600.00	22,500.00	24,000.00
Janet MacDougall				4,800.00
Frank Parker			13,200.00	19,800.00
Subtotal: Workers	30,200.00	25,200.00	39,300.00	52,200.00
TOTAL Workers & Organizations	79,900.00	56,993.20	65,450.00	75,450.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:	160,293.58	106,805.83	100,810.54	103,336.35

Notes:

Extraordinary Maintenance Costs incurred were replacement of 5 furnaces and hot water heater (\$37,611) and purchase and installation of security camera system (\$6,119.30)

Furnace expense was paid from savings account

Support for Andrew & Letecia Russell increased by \$5,000 gift to support purchase of replacement vehicle.

Congo container project completed in 2022

Cash reserve	7-Jan-22	31-Dec-22
Operating Account	\$ 20,193.96	\$ 24,475.06
Savings/Reserve Account	206,330.64	215,891.45
Total cash in bank:	\$ 226,524.60	\$ 240,366.51

Prepared by George F. Body

7 March 2023