

BETHEL GOSPEL CHAPEL

We Preach Christ

Crucified + Risen + Coming Again



2012 ANNUAL REPORT

MARCH 17, 2013

Elder's Report (2012)

Ephesians 2:19-22: Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

When we think about ownership our minds often turn to possessions which we have acquired. Our minds may turn to the car which we recently bought, or the house which we own - and we need to be thankful to God for being able to own material possessions.

In many denominations around Canada, churches use the term "member" as a method of conveying the connection that their church has with those who are "members". Arguably, the use of the term "member" in our consumer driven culture, advances the notion that "I" should receive some benefit from those organizations of which "I" am a member. Members have rights, and can demand that their rights are honoured. Owners have responsibilities. If you own something, you will sacrifice for it, you will take responsibility for it. One author has written this about the church where he attends: *"we make a distinction between 'owners' and 'guests.' If you're not an owner, then you're technically a guest that remains to a certain extent separated from our church family, and separated from the maturity, protection, accountability, and care that comes with being an active part of the church. This may not make much difference for visitors and non-Christians, but Christians who consume rather than commit to a local church do a disservice to Jesus' body (the church) and themselves."*

Have you ever thought that you share ownership in Bethel Gospel Chapel? You should. Your ownership extends into both the operation of the physical building, as well, your ownership also reaches into the spiritual realm as we meet together as a small part of the global body of Christ.

How does our "ownership" manifest itself in the physical plant of this local assembly? Many of us were not attending Bethel when it was constructed through several phases, so our "ownership" is not related to having contributed "sweat equity" in our facility. But if you asked those who were here in those early days, those who sacrificially contributed financially and devoted great personal effort to the development of the facility, nothing would please them more than to see enthusiastic people who are willing to put effort into making this little assembly viable, as together we hope to advance the work of Christ in the Norwood area.

In this example, ownership may mean not waiting for someone else to fix something, or to do something... but "I, as an owner", can help and fix and do things too. Although we are blessed to have a Deacons Board & a Social Ministry, both of these groups frequently desire those who fellowship with us, to take ownership of some practical aspect of our work (or even to volunteer regularly to do some task). Within the Body of Christ there should not be any outsiders nor onlookers.

In the spiritual sense we think that our ownership may be best expressed in those passages that refer to believers as being priests (verses such as 1 Peter 2:5 *"you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ"* were a hallmark of the early brethren movement). This does not call for a special caste system of Christian life - the Bible teaches that every Christian should exercise their position as Priests to God.

This priesthood (spiritual ownership) manifests itself in many areas of assembly life such as participating in the Lord's Supper, helping out at (or attending) various activities and Bible Studies, using our God - given gifts in areas such as the Lord's Supper, the Sunday School, Family Bible Hour, Administration, Camp, Evangelism - to name but a few. We should always be looking for opportunities to offer spiritual and practical help, encouragement, visitation and be ready to care for & pray for our family members.

An owner cares about the things that he or she owns. An owner takes responsibility for the success and continued development of the things that are placed within their care. Ownership brings with it - a sense of having invested personally in something. As elders we wish to encourage each person who regularly meets at Bethel, to consider how, as an owner, they can use their gifts and abilities to strengthen and encourage this body of believers.

Deacon's Report 2012

Budgeting is always important, and as stewards of limited resources at Bethel, the deacons have focused on small renovation projects.

The kitchen plumbing was upgraded to include a larger, deeper sink and new faucets.

One of the men's bathrooms in the basement has been an ongoing project that has required extensive work, breaking up the concrete floor and replacing corroded drains. That work is not yet completed, but it continues to progress at a careful pace.

Everyone will likely be aware that we replaced the sanctuary computer projector with a much more powerful unit, which we were very fortunate to purchase at an excellent price.

We also arranged for repairs to the sound booth platform.

Each of these projects, and countless others throughout the year, represent a significant investment of time for those involved. We extend our thanks to every person who gave up a day here or a weekend there to accomplish these tasks.

This year we also had a change in the board as Jeff Fletcher stepped down from the deacons. Jeff performed his responsibilities with his customary conscientiousness and good humour. He is missed.

In happier news, we successfully "poached" John King from the elders board, to round out the deacons. Their loss is our gain! John brings with him years of experience on the deacons board and his usual willingness to help out wherever needed.

Ongoing financial trends continue to challenge our duties, so we ask for your continued prayers and support, that we may perform our duties in conformance to the Lord's will for Bethel in the next year.

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

Bethel Social Ministry Committee – Annual Report – 2012

Always as we reflect on the past year, we are fully aware of God's guidance and blessings. The Social Committee had the pleasure on behalf of Bethel Chapel of hosting a variety of celebrations – big and small.

Some highlights of 2012 were:

Winter:

Farewell cake for Tasha & Matt Stoodley

Toboggan party at Rundle Park

Chili luncheon at the Annual Meeting

Spring:

Joint Mount Carmel and Easter luncheon

Evening baby shower for Jonna Pitre in anticipation of the birth of Aubretia Hope

Mother's Day free-will donation to Pregnancy Care Centre

Father's Day free-will donation to Hope Mission

Summer:

General Clean Up Day

Simard's from Quebec

Fall:

General Clean Up Day

Harvest Luncheon

Christmas Luncheon

Sunday Coffee and Brown Bag Luncheons:

Each week we enjoy a time of fellowship between Sunday services. This is a wonderful opportunity for all to enjoy a cup of coffee or juice and a cookie among friends. Around the tables we often become aware of practical and prayer

needs, receive warm hugs and words of encouragement, plus enjoy the antics of the children in our church family.....

..... So a very special thanks to the folks who prepare and serve coffee each Sunday. Some months the coffee sign-up sheet seems quite blank, but it seems the coffee is percolating each week. Sandwiches and soup for the brown bag lunches are also the work of a faithful group. These meaningful activities build our community and strength together.

Upgrades:

The deacons have installed new faucets in the kitchen sinks making clean up easier especially for washing out those big pots and pans.

Thanks:

Whether you buy cream for the coffee, set-up chairs and tables, decorate walls and tables, bring a little extra to a luncheon or cook up a big pot of chili to share, your contribution makes a difference. We trust you find a blessing in these activities just as we do.

Your suggestions for future direction and activities of our Committee are welcome.

On Behalf of the Social Committee: Cathy Greenaway, Elisa King, Marg McKay, Marg Ralstin, Miriam Love, Sarah Tremblay