

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, OSHAWA

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2017

ANNUAL REPORT

PASTOR'S REPORT - 2017

Although I have been your pastor for only one month since December of 2017, I nevertheless rejoice with each of you in the goodness and glory of God as we celebrated Advent and Christmas.

Dorothy and I are once again glad to be sharing in the fellowship of First Baptist Church and to continue the friendship of our five years from 2007 to 2012.

It is likewise a delight to be working once again with Cory Kuipers as the Director of Music. Special kudos to the Board of Deacons and others for their support and directions as we begin our ministry.

Along with the preparation and preaching for Sunday worship services, we are beginning to contact and to visit those we have not seen for some time.

It is with regret that we had to say goodbye to Ron Wetherup and Bud Houston as they past from our midst, and to wish both families God's peace and comfort in their loss.

Our desire and commitment while we are among you is to "stay the course" by providing spiritual direction through counsel and the ministry of the Word of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Finally, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit the apostle Paul encourages:

In light of all this, here's what I want you to do...I want you to get out there and walk – better yet, run! – on the road God called you to travel. I don't want any of you sitting around on your hands. I don't want anyone strolling off, down some path that goes nowhere. And mark that you do this with humility and discipline – not in fits and starts, but steadily, pouring yourselves out for each other in acts of love. Alert at noticing differences and quick at mending fences. (Ephesians 4: 1-3 Msg.)

Pastor Charles

BOARD OF DEACONS REPORT 2017

As the New Year began the BOD set out to follow the Salt & Light Action Plan that was agreed upon by the congregation in the Fall of 2016. We endeavoured to build on the strengths of the church as we readied for renewal and “the plans that God had made for us” (Jeremiah 29:11 – “For I know the plans I have for you” declares the Lord, “Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”). I would like to thank all the board members for their hard work and dedication to leading the congregation into those future plans and for staying on the course set out in 2016 did you hear the Lord saying to each our you “well done good and faithful servants!” ...? I hope so. I also hope you were able to enter into the joy of the Lords while during his work (Matthew 25:21).

The following is a summary of the work of the Board in 2017.

January –

- We had a number of guest preachers and the board members took turns to leading the services
- Board meeting Jan 10th two new initiatives were endorsed for the Queen Elizabeth School:
 - Reading buddies to help improve the children’s reading skills. A group was formed by Wendy Moss-Newman to help a child read for an hour per week.
 - Arts and crafts noon hour program
- Meeting with Dallas Friesen on January 26th. A copy of part of the meeting is included in the report.

February –

- Feedback cards that we received were reviewed and the Board unanimously agreed to call Rev. Bruce Burgess to be the Interim Minister. Rev. Bruce agreed to be the Interim minister with 3 month contacts and this was accepted by the Board. He served the church on a part time basis and the Board is very grateful for his work, guidance and prayers during his time with FBC.
- Arrangements were made for the joint Good Friday Service with Northminster and Columbus United Church the FBC will host this year and arrangement were made for the service opportunities to host other events included the Trent Valley Association Spring Rally and the Mennonite Church Canada Pilgrimage to Ottawa one night in FBC were agreed upon by the board in keeping with the Salt & Light action plan to utilize our building.
- Lenten study groups planned

March -

- The Board met on March 21.
- Pamela Fitkin was asked to lead the Easter services and she accepted.

- Ken Bowen and Wendy Moss-Newman met with Howard Thornton. Howard was recommended to the congregation based on this meeting for membership to FBC Oshawa.
- Duties and responsibilities for the TVA reviewed and plans made
- Mennonite pilgrimage plans and responsibilities made
- Choir concert invitations to be handed out to neighbourhood

April -

- The Board met on April 4th
- The Easter Concert on April 9th was well attended. 50 invitations were distributed around the neighbourhood
- The concert provided us with beautiful music, good narration and was spiritually moving experience
- The Good Friday Service was held on “April 14th. Northminster and Columbus United Church joined us for a role playing message by Rev. Sandra Janson from Northminster. Her message was meaningful and well received. Hot cross buns, cheese, tea, coffee, refreshments were provided by the Women’s Association.
- Easter services with Rev. Pamela Fitkin were well attended, inspiring and thoughtful.
- TVA Spring Rally was held on April 22nd – Approximately 75 people were hosted by FBCD. The three workshops were held twice during the day and they were well attended. The lunch was a great time to connect and network. With our TVA brothers and sisters.
- The Mennonite pilgrimage on April 29th was a humbling and moving experience. 30 “pilgrims” stayed overnight and we were able to provide showers, supper, fellowship in the form of games, conversation and prayers, breakfast and as we said good-bye we marvelled at their strength and conviction to this noble cause. Please, see the report by Wendy Moss-Newman included in the Annual Report.
- April was a very busy time and we would like to thank all those involved who made these events possible. God Bless You! Well done Church!!!

May -

- The Board met on May 9th. We had a light agenda as we were just a tiny bit tired from the previous months’ activities. Highlights were:
- discussing ways in which we could support the call for indigenous rights
- opportunities to have a community garden
- we took a look at the Salt & Light progress plans
- congregational list for the deacons given out to facilitate communication, contact with members and adherents

June / July -

- The board met on June 12th.
- Highlights were:
- Lemonade on the Lawn was resumed and the schedule was handed out for July and August
- Rev. Pamela Fitkin preached during Bruce's vacation, including July 1st – Canada's 150th Birthday Celebration

August -

- The Board met on August 29th.
- Feedback from the summer services
- We were blessed with a cool, rainy summer therefore summer services were all held in the sanctuary. Our plan to move the service downstairs on hot days thankfully was not required. Henri Vanderkooi, our guest organist again this year did an excellent job and enhanced our worship services tremendously.
- In keeping with the Salt & Light plan the Search Committee was formed. The Board unanimously agreed to put forth the names to the congregation to vote on. Bruce informed the Board he would be leaving at the end of December.

September -

- The Board met on September 12th. On September 10th the congregation voted on the members of the Search Committee and on September 17th we held a combined meeting of the Board of Deacons and the Search Committee. Thank you to Dianne Allen, Glenna Cann, Wendy Moss-Newman, Rick Norman and Antoinette Sealy for accepting this very important assignment. May God Bless "You and guide you through the process of calling 2nd pastor to move forward with the Salt &" Light plan to plant a church with in the existing church to further to call on our lives to be disciples.
- The Quarterly Business Meeting was held on September 20th with refreshments provided by the Board.

October -

- The Board met on October 25th.
- The Anniversary Sunday fell on October 15th. Rev. Bruce preached and we celebrated our Past, Present, and future with a potluck lunch. We had an excellent attendance with two full tables for lunch. They must have heard we were having cake for dessert!
- Brenda met with Mary Drummond, a community garden organizer and agreed that we have room for up to 10 plots.
- Bruce met with a community kitchen organizer who expressed interest in partnering with FBC. They would provide the food, clean-up and running of the program. FBC would provide the kitchen. The organization already runs a successful program and is looking for a second kitchen. The sessions run for 6

weeks for 10 people with 1 leader. The group prepares a meal, eats together and divides up the leftovers to take home.

- Bruce's last Sunday at FBC was announced and Rev. Charles Jackson was invited back to FBC Charles accepted this invitation to the delight of the Board.
- Plans were underway to say good-bye to Bruce and welcome back Charles and Dorothy Jackson who had maintained their membership during their ministry in other areas of Ontario.

November -

- The board met on the 22nd.
- We said good-bye to Bruce and Audrey on Nov. 26th with a potluck lunch followed by the Quarterly Meeting.
- Bruce and Audrey were very touched by the many people who came out to say good-bye and they were very surprised and pleased with their gifts. In the end there are three things that last: faith, hope and love, and the greatest of these is LOVE (1 Cor 13:13). FBC shared all of these with the Burgess'. Again, well done church!
- Christmas plans were reviewed and the Board prepared for the advent season.
- The Nominating Committee informed the Board that 5 deacons were continuing in 2018.

December -

- The Board met at the home of Linda Piurko and ended the year on a hopeful note. Thank you very much Linda for opening your home and heart to our party meeting.
- The choir concert on December 10th and the new beginning with Rev. Charles were discussed along with the communion schedule for January 3rd.
- The Board is very pleased to have the Jacksons back and are looking forward to working together in 2018.

Respectfully,

Brenda Dewell, B.O.D. Chair

This is the word of the Lord:

"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts our fear; because fear hath torments. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." (1 John 4:18 – KJV)

"I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:13)

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OSHAWA
NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT
SLATE OF OFFICERS 2018**

Below is the Nominating Committee Slate of Officers for 2018. You will note that there are three blank spaces in the report. This is a crucial time in the life of our church. It is time to "seek to Lord" in personal, soul-searching prayer; it is time to "seek to Lord" together in united, honest, persistent, Spirit-led prayer, if we are to discern the will of God for our future.

The Nominating Committee

BOARD OF DEACONS:	Brenda Dewell Ken Bowen Wendy Moss-Newman Joyce Beauchamp Linda Piurko
NOMINATING COMMITTEE:	Ken Bowen Barbara Pitcher Lois Van Driel
TRUSTEES:	Trevor Sealy, John Van Driel
TREASURER:	Terry Yoshiki
FINANCE TEAM:	Trevor Sealy, John Van Driel
ENVELOPE STEWARD:	Dora Krizmanic — Administrative Assistant
MODERATOR:	Wendy Moss-Newman
CHURCH CLERK:	Brenda Dewell, Dora Krizmanic (Admin.Asst.)

VISITATION CARE TEAM:	Lois Van Driel Jean Prosser, Mary Boomer, Barbara Pitcher, Glenna Miller, Twila Hudson, John Van Driel
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:	Lynne Johnstone, Holly Johnstone , Joyce Beauchamp
OUTREACH / HOSPITALITY TEAM:	Dianne Allen, Ruth Golloher, Brenda Dewell
PROPERTY TEAM:	Buddy Beauchamp, Rick Norman
TVA REPRESENTATIVE:	Glenn Wyper

CHOIR REPORT - 2017

2017 saw Cory Kuipers as our Choir Director and Organist and sharing his gift of music every Sunday for us to enjoy.

On Saturday, April 8th and Palm Sunday, April 9th saw Maranatha and First Baptist choirs present their annual Easter Concert to appreciative audiences.

Good Friday, April 14th service was held at First Baptist with Northminster United church and choir joining us.

During the summer months, we welcomed back Henri Vanderkooi as guest organist and pianist while Cory was on vacation.

To close off the year, the choirs of Maranatha and First Baptist performed their Christmas Concert. Due to prior commitments of our guest pianist, Charles Gerard, the concert in Bowmanville was held on Sunday, December 3rd and the following Sunday, December 10th in our church. At the end of the concert, at both churches, an invitation was extended to former choir members and anyone else who wished to join us in singing Handel's Hallelujah Chorus. It was wonderful to see the number of people who accepted the invitation. Both nights were well attended and put everyone in the Christmas spirit.

Glenna Cann,
President

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT - 2017

The property team has spent much of the year familiarizing ourselves with the responsibilities of the committee. Thanks to Rick Newman for performing the monthly inspection of the fire extinguishers during winter and spring months. Since the summer the property team has taken on that responsibility culminating with the annual inspection of the extinguishers by the people from Kawartha fire which took place in December. The extinguishers must be replenished in 2018.

In late June after a day-long downpour of almost Biblical proportions, we experienced a flood of the lower auditorium as the rain overwhelmed the foundation of the west wall and water seeped in underneath the stage and out into the auditorium floor. Thanks to the tireless work of Buddy Beauchamp, Linda Piurko, Bev and Michelle Boileau and Art Cann, the flood water was mopped up and the basement dried out in a timely fashion such that the insurance adjuster determined that there had been no damage to the building.

A large crack in one of the windows in the south east entrance to the narthex was discovered. An estimate of \$2000 was received. We hope to be able to proceed with this repair in the spring time.

The floor maintenance procedure was performed by Task-Co and the cost of \$1627.20 was paid for by the WA. Thanks very much to the women of the WA for their generosity and dedication.

The team would like to thank Alice and Ron Gould for the time they have taken to teach the new property committee the responsibilities of the committee.

Buddy Beauchamp and
Rick Norman

KATE MCLAURIN MISSION CIRCLE REPORT

On average 10-12 ladies met regularly on the second Tuesday of the month of January and March as the weather did not co-operate with our meeting schedule and for safety we had to cancel those meetings and the summer months, July and August.

In February we met at the home of our president, Yvonne Wetherup.

The topic this month was the Great Canadian Bible Study prepared by the Canadian Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec and presented by Brenda Dewell. The Study was on Tamar, a twice widowed woman whom God had mercy on and eventually lifted her out of her pit of despair to become the woman he intended her to be. Her story can be found in Genesis 38. A special offering is collected and forwarded on to the CBM in support of literacy programs for women in Rwanda. As we closed in prayer we remembered the women who do not always have the same choices that many of us with a Christian upbringing have had. We remembered the women caught in the cycle of abuse, poverty, drug use and prostitution. We asked God that we be more aware of those on the margins and be open with grace and mercy. We concluded the meeting with a delicious lunch provided by Yvonne and a time of catching up with each other.

On April 11th ladies were welcomed to the home of Glenna Miller for a delicious lunch prepared and served by Glenna. We were all treated like queens for the day. Many thanks to Glenna for her kind and “royal” hospitality. God Bless You!!

The second half of the meeting we gathered in a circle around the living room. Joyce led the devotional “The Crowd Pleaser” taken from the devotional book entitled *Jesus and Mary* and the Gospel of Matthew in which Jesus commands us to love one another. In lieu of a topic we passed around the prayer cards and read them out to one another. We also collected food and along with some monetary gifts these were delivered to Simcoe Hall (Settlement House). These were gratefully received by the organization.

May – Ten ladies were welcomed to the May meeting which was hosted by Lillian Sewell. The meeting was held in the party room of her condo building. A very comfortable home like space. Eileen Taylor lead the devotional taken from *Streams in the Desert* and the Scriptures: Isaiah 58:11 and Proverbs 4:12. Joyce presented the topic a look at the covenant between Abraham and God.

June – Fifteen ladies were welcomed to our potluck luncheon / swap party by our president, Yvonne Wetherup. The meeting was held at the church. After lunch we all took turns swapping our treasures for a small donation. It was a lot of fun. Next on the agenda we had our circle meeting with Glenna Miller leading the devotional “Lessons from our parents” and a look at Nehemiah 2:17, the Nehemiah Project.

A motion was made to take the money raised from the swap party and add from the pennies to make a \$100 donation to the Big Yellow bus program which takes kids to camp programs run by the Simcoe Hall / Settlement House. The motion was carried by the circle and Joyce Beauchamp, our treasurer delivered the cheque.

July / August – Summer break

September – Twelve ladies were out to the home of Susan Gaultieri. Susan read a beautiful devotion: “A True Friend”, for Jesus is our own True Friend. The topic this month was to share our summer highlights and we all took turns sharing our adventures. We were all very pleased to have Mary Nelson out to the meeting as her adventure was spent in the hospital and we thanked God for her recovery and for bringing her back to us.

October – we met at the home of Glenna Miller. Joyce led the devotional on Harvest and Thanksgiving. She told us about God’s provision for us with seed and harvest around the world. The topic was presented by Glenna: “The Karl and Glenna Story”. She told us a wonderful love story and how her faith in Jesus sustained her through the stormy seas of love and loss. We were all moved and touched by how faithful God had been through her journey. We collected food for the Thanksgiving food drive and took it to the Simcoe Hall / settlement House along with some monetary

donations. The new director of the Good Bank was there and gratefully accepted the donations.

November – Ten ladies were welcomed to the home of Yvonne Wetherup. We began the meeting with prayer and we then watched a video on the history of the Baptist Women’s World Alliance and the Baptist Women’s World Day of Prayer. A special thanks to Michael and Noah Golloher for their technical assistance.

Brenda presented the Baptist Women’s World Day of Prayer Program which was prepared by the Union of Africa. We joined our sisters from around the world as we prayed through the 2017 prayer request from the 7 continents. We also heard stories of faith and triumph from Botswana, Malawi, and Liberia. Each person was given a prayer request handout (Thank you to Dora our FBC Admin. Asst. for preparing the handouts.) to continue to pray for the projects and the needs of women around the world. Our special offering of toonies goes towards the projects that help meet the needs of women in Liberia, to help the girls stay in school and learn skills in home care, agriculture and in Malawi, projects against child labour to name a few.

December – The circle was welcomed to the home of Norma Bruce for our annual Christmas Party. We were all very excited to be together again at Norma’s beautifully decorated home filled with warm hospitality from our “hostess with the mostess”. We sang songs, played games, ate ‘pailfulls’ of goodies, I mean platefuls. We even had Dorothy Jackson with her handy dandy pocket Bible to verify facts in the Trivia Mania game. Good job ladies! Noreen Trewin, Mary Boomer and Ruth Golloher played Santa and presented us all with lovely gift bags on Norma’s behalf. Included in the bags were angel-ornaments for the Christmas tree, but we know who the real angel is, don’t we? We ended the afternoon holding hands in our circle of love and friendship and singing “We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2018” to each other.

As you can see by the report the Kate McLaurin Mission Circle is supporting the CBWOQ through our offerings and special projects, our communities and each other. All ladies are welcome to attend and be part of the circle or just for a visit.

Becoming a member of our Mission Circle not only will enrich your life, it will also benefit our sisters around the world through our greater circle, the Canadian Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec and the North American Baptist Union.

Respectfully,
Brenda Dewell

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION REPORT

1. The Women's Association held meetings in April, May, September, October, and December. All meetings were held at the homes of members.
2. Cards were sent to members of the church who were ill.
3. Hot Cross Buns were served at the Good Friday joint service of first Baptist and the United Church.
4. We provided tea and coffee for Kay Crowell's 90th birthday party. We provided meals for a group of people who were walking to Ottawa.
5. We held a yard and bake sale on May 27, 2017.
6. Refreshments were served after the celebration of life for Carl Miller.
7. A group meeting was held October 11, 2017 to make crafts for the Craft & Bake Sale and Luncheon which was held on November 18, 2017.
8. The W.A. also donated the funds for cleaning the floors.
9. We Served cookies and squares at the Christmas concert held on December 10, 2017.
10. Our final meeting was a turkey lunch served at the home of Alice Gould on December 14, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Pauline Carter - Secretary

VISITATION CARE TEAM REPORT

Through cards of encouragement, phone calls, and visits, the visitation teams continually keep in touch with our congregation who are perhaps laid up for a time.

Monthly visits are carried out to our friends in nursing homes as well as those in hospital. This Christmas we were pleased to visit twelve of our shut-ins with each a plate of Christmas cooking. A thank you to our Christmas Cantata for supplying the baking.

We wish to thank all volunteers who contribute to this very important ministry.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Visitation Care Team

OUTREACH ANNUAL REPORT

Queen Elizabeth School Outreach

1. Knitting Club

The Club ran during the colder months of the year: January – April and October – December. Parties were held in April and December with each student receiving a knitting bag with knitting needles and yarn to take home.

Over the winter, the club had approximately 20 knitters. In the fall, there were 15 knitters, with many returning from previous years.

In response to requests from the students, the principal expanded Knitting Club to a second day during the week. It is run by the school. We supplied needles and yarn.

Volunteers: Dianne Allen, Sharon Wynter-Bowen, Brenda Dewell, Ruth Golloher, Liz Maybury, Wendy Moss-Newman

2. Reading Buddies

Reading Buddies began in March, 2017 in response to a need identified by the school librarian, to improve the literacy of the overall school population. Between March and June five adult volunteers worked with 19 younger students to improve or develop their reading skills. Reading Buddies started up again in October. Five volunteers are each working with three Grade one students. Generally, the students can read, although a few find reading a challenge.

Volunteers have had to be creative in working with some of the students, bringing in a driver's manual or a comic book or using cards with phonetic sounds. The students love taking turns reading with the adults and talking about their life experiences related to the subject matter of the stories. E.g. tropical fish, frogs, dinosaurs, Disney characters. They especially liked listening to Ken's oral stories.

Over the weeks of reading together, volunteers report progress in their students' reading abilities and the development of a warm relationship.

Volunteers: Bev Boileau, Ken Bowen, Liz Brasier, Holly Johnstone, Liz Maybury, Wendy Moss-Newman

3. Donate a Book Nourish a Mind

With the approximately \$500 left over from 2016 fund raising, we bought books to give to each of the 481 students at Christmas. Alice Gould and her daughter, Shelley purchased and solicited donations of new or essentially new books. Liz Maybury and Wendy Moss-Newman spent a day in December going from class to class setting out a selection of books and guiding the students in their choices of a book. The younger students, especially, were happy to receive a book.

4. Gift wrapping and gift of giving

We were in the school for two days, December 18 and 19 assisting students with gift selection and wrapping. As in previous years, several teachers, staff and the principal stopped to express their appreciation for the initiative. A few parents/grandparents also stopped to engage in conversation with us, expressing interest in joining us at some time for service and Sunday School on Sunday morning. Thanks to all who donated gifts, wrapping supplies and funds to support this work.

Volunteers: Dianne Allen, Bev Boileau, Sharon Wynter-Bowen, Brenda Dewell, Ruth Golloher, Alice Gould, Twila Hudson, Liz Maybury, Glenna Miller, Wendy Moss-Newman, Linda Piurko, Lois VanDriel.

5. School Initiated Events

Healthy Approaches to Dealing With Stress Workshop. The SCC, the school and its public health nurse held the workshop on Thursday, November 30. It was an evening for students and families to participate in a fun workshop to explore healthy ways to deal with stress. The principal and librarian asked us to assist as we know a number of the students and had the opportunity to meet their families.

June 7 the school held a Volunteer Tea. The volunteers who attended passed along the sincere appreciation expressed by the principal for the contributions by volunteers from across the city to improve the lives of the students.

Respectfully submitted by
Wendy Moss-Newman

PASTORAL SEARCH TEAM ANNUAL REPORT

This search is unlike any our congregation has embarked upon in recent memory. We are looking for a second minister to bring primarily young people and families, who do not attend traditional churches, to know/know more fully, the love of God. This pastor will report to the Board of Deacons.

Team members: Dianne Allen, Glenna Cann, Rick Norman, Antoinette Sealy, Wendy Moss-Newman

The team met every two weeks between September and December. As there is no proven road map to follow to find a pastor to plant this new “church”, we are designing the road map first and then following it. We are making good progress.

We have connected with CBOQ. Our contacts have provided some helpful advice, and reference materials including web site interviews from new and creative church plants.

Background information has been compiled and written for potential candidates including:

- FBC overview, past, present, future
- Oshawa geographical profile
- Neighbourhood/community summary

We have discussed and come to consensus on core qualifications of potential candidates including:

- Theology

- Philosophy
- Practical and personal matters, as can legally be asked
- Skills
- Vision and plan for planting a new style church

At present we are working on drafting the job posting and interview materials.

Please continue to pray for the team and the work we are doing in preparation for meeting and calling a pastor to share the Good News with young people and families not currently attending traditional churches.

Submitted by
Wendy Moss-Newman,
Chair

PILGRIMAGE to Support Rights of Indigenous Peoples

First Baptist Church hosted 30 pilgrims, aged 6 months to 87 on April 29 and 30. The pilgrims walked 600 km over three weeks, April 23 through May 14, starting in Kitchener and ending in Ottawa. While some pilgrims chose to enter and exit at different points along the route, both Junia, the youngest member, and Henry, the senior elder, travelled the entire way.

After walking over 35 km on Saturday, April 29, the walkers, feet sore, but still upbeat were happy to board a Durhamway Bus to travel to the YMCA for refreshing showers before returning for supper, an evening of games and conversation, and then a night of restorative sleep. Both Durhamway Bus Lines and the YMCA donated their services.

On Sunday morning, after a hearty breakfast, most of the group set off early for Orono, while a few stayed to share their story during the morning service. An especially meaningful part of the service was when Henry, who lived with the Ojibwe for many years, sang a hymn in both English and Ojibwe, while drumming.

The pilgrimage was *organized by [Mennonite Church Canada & Christian Peacemaker Teams: Indigenous Peoples Solidarity](#)*. The Pilgrimage for Indigenous Rights is in support of the

adoption and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The organizers left Winnipeg, Manitoba on April 20, and drove to Kitchener to meet up with the rest of the initial group of pilgrims to start out on the 600 km walk on Sunday, April 24.

Along the way, the pilgrims engaged churches and interested people in a series of conversations about the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), exploring why it matters, the hope it offers, and how we can collectively live into it.

Once they arrived in Ottawa, they called upon the government to fulfill its promise to implement the *Declaration* by embracing the legislative framework outlined in [Bill C-262](#).

You can read more about the pilgrimage by going to the website <http://pfir.ca>

Submitted by
Wendy Moss-Newman

DEACONS REPORT – September 20, 2017

The Summer went by very quickly and we were blessed to have Henry Vanderkooi filling the church with music both to honor our Lord and praise but also to nourish and encourage our spirits.

Lemonade on the Lawn went well and I want to thank the BOD members for doing their part in continuing in this important ministry.

We were pleased to have Pamela Fitkin with us in July including the 150th Canada Day Celebration. I want to thank Linda Piurko for her service and with servers of the other Board members away she had most of the responsibility on her capable shoulders.

The Pastoral Search Committee has been formed and the Board would like to thank those who accepted the call to serve the FBC in this way.

Rev. Bruce Burgess will continue with us until December 24th after which we have asked Charles Jackson to the pulpit and he has accepted. He will serve 2 days a week for now until the 2nd minister is found....

QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOOL UPDATE - November 26, 2017

1. Reading Buddies we have been in the school for the past 3 weeks working with grade one students. Five adult volunteers, each working with 3 students. Some can read many words and sound out new words. A few cannot read at all. Already we are building good rapport with the students and teachers. This past week, the teacher of the students Ken and I are working with asked how we came to be reading buddies. We were able to talk about our church's work in the school for the past more than ten years and our desire to help the students where we can.
2. Knitting — registration was three weeks ago. We have been knitting for two weeks with students from grades 4 and above. Many of the approximately 15+ are return knitters, but several are new. Some of the return knitters have spoken with the principal and asked to have knitting club more frequently than once a week. The principal has agreed and asked us for needles and yarn. She is going to work with the students on a second day each week.
3. Donate a Book, Nourish a Mind — last year we raised over \$800. After last year, we had \$500 to buy books for this year. Thanks to Alice and her daughter Shelly again this year for working over several months to buy good books at very low prices on the internet. We will be providing the books, one to each student, in December.
4. SCC Thursday, November 30 — the school and its public health nurse are holding an evening for students and families to participate in a fun workshop to explore healthy ways to deal with stress. The principal and librarian have asked us to assist as we know a number of the students and will have an opportunity to meet their families.
5. Gift wrapping — we are hoping to be in the school December 18 and 19. Over the next couple of weeks, please bring in gifts suitable for a child to give a family member. There is a box wrapped in Christmas paper in the narthex for you to use. As soon as we know the dates we will be in the school, I will let you know and we will call for volunteers for each day.

This year we have additional support. Through Alice, a group of ten woman from Toronto, who regularly support good causes, will be donating gifts and coming to Queen Elizabeth school to assist with the gift wrapping on one day.

