

# QUARTERLY UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2020

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
Tillsonburg

*“Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.” - Galatians 6:9,10*

Greetings Church Family,

I wonder what you feel when you read the above verse. I know that over the last six months many of us have been dealing with an increasing sense of weariness. Thankfully we can take heart when we read verse like this because God backs up every command He gives with divine strength to live it out. I want to thank all of you for your patience and perseverance over the Summer season. I continue to be blessed in seeing how our congregation has been seizing opportunities to do good and extend the love of Jesus to others. Keep it up!

I want to thank you also for your encouragement as our leadership has been working hard to continue providing care to our congregation, complete our building project, prepare online services and reach out to the families of our community. While many things have been put on hold, God continues to give us fresh opportunities to step outside of the box and extend His kingdom. We even held an outdoor baptism this past weekend and have another on the way!

In early August we experienced the joy of gathering together to mark a special milestone in our journey as a church family. As we laid our cornerstone is was great to see all the generations of our church mark this special moment. It is exciting to see that the finish line is in sight. As I write this message to you our building project is now about 80% complete and on track to open in November. Glory to God!



After a time of individual prayer and reflection, our Pastoral Staff, Deacons, and Directors gathered to pray and envision the Fall season ahead of us. We decided that with no word from the Community Centre and only a few months until opening we will continue to prepare weekly online services, but also step forward in opening up new opportunities to gather as a congregation. We are pleased to announce that this Fall we will be holding a monthly “Service at the Site” until our official opening. We look forward to worshipping together at our site on Sunday September 13<sup>th</sup> and October 4<sup>th</sup> at 10am. With our parking lot complete, we will have ample space to gather together.

I hope that this newsletter will not only inform, but encourage you. I ask that you continue to lift our church family and especially our leadership as there are many key decisions before us this Fall. Blessings as you continue to do good empowered by God's strength!

Pastor Steve Amorin



**:: DEACONS - Judy Kingsbury**

In these last few months we have had many trials, unknown territories and many uncertainties in the days ahead. Our normal isn't normal anymore. We have had to let go of many ways – like gathering together for fellowship and worship, prayer gatherings and life groups. We are learning to adapt in the unknown future, as phase 3 has allowed us to join together in larger groups we have been able to meet together at various places for prayer and discussion, and the celebration for the corner stone ceremony in August. As new opportunities arise and we use our God given gifts - whatever they maybe, live a life for God by our actions. Continue to express our love and compassion and make others aware of the needs we may know in the community. May we stay connected and move forward in a way that pleases God. May He continue to work in our lives by giving us hope and guidance in these uncertain times.

**:: COMMUNICATION TEAM - Bryan McBride**

As of August 26th. the parking lot has been paved and the drywall is nearing completion to allow painting. This week the HVAC Systems (3) Are being installed and vented through out the building. We are pushing to get the rear lot line fencing installed within the next two weeks so we can move ahead with the in-ground sprinkler system and landscaping contract. We will be looking for volunteer work committees in the coming weeks so don't be surprised when you get a call. We have been receiving a number of complimentary remarks on the building. All is going well at this point and we are excited about the move into our new home around the middle of November. God is good!

**:: NEXT GENERATION MINISTRIES - Dave Shields**

What a crazy summer it ended up being for us all, and a really really long March Break too. It was back in March that COVID-19 effectively shut everything down, and put a halt to all of our children's and youth ministries. Despite the fact that nothing was normal we were able to continue these ministries after a short break. For ARK we started doing our weekly meetings over ZOOM, which was a great way to still connect and grow, but once the weather became a lot nicer, and some of the restrictions started to lift, I started having campfires on Monday nights. Those were a great time of hanging out, playing some games, and doing devotions. Our children's ministry took an unexpected turn when, along with Bethel, North Broadway, St Paul's, and St Andrew's, we were able to put together a VBS program. We weren't sure what to expect when we started working together to put this program on, and God definitely surprised us all. We ended up having over 230 children over a 5 week program with lots of help from various volunteers. God blessed this ministry in an incredible way, and we are excited for the future and being able to work together towards similar goals.



For the fall season there is still a fair bit of uncertainty, but we are excited to see how God can work despite it. For Sunday mornings while we are still on YouTube, there is going to be a new children's lesson each week for them to watch. And much like VBS we are going to drop off small kits for children each week with different activities that relate to lesson for that Sunday. For kidsROCK and Impact we have booked the school where we would normally run those programs, but we aren't allowed in just yet. We have 2 outdoor mornings planned for these groups, 1 in each of September and October. Once we are in our new building we will move inside there and have game nights on Wednesday evenings again. For ARK we are going to be meeting at the Upper Deck on Monday evenings like we were last year. We don't have a huge group, so we should be able to keep our distance, but continue to meet and fellowship and learn from God's word. These are definitely uncertain times when it comes to youth and children's ministry, but we know that God is in control and will be faithful. Please pray for all of children that will be attending the various programs this fall, and as they head back to school.

**:: FINANCIAL UPDATE - Board of Directors**

Year to Date 2020: (To the end of July 2020)

General Income = \$113,362	Missions Income = \$15,995
General Expense = \$115,879	Missions Expense = \$ 8,986
General Balance = (-\$ 2,517)	Missions Balance = \$ 7,009
Benevolence Income = \$6,448	Memorial Income = \$3,492
Benevolence Expense = \$3,460	
Benevolence Balance = \$2,988	Building Fund + Contingency Fund + Interest Income = \$115,769