



"We will never change the world by going to church. We will only change the world by being the church."

# Leadership Connect

# Winter Newsletter

## LEADERSHIP INITIATIVES

The new leadership team (Elders) has now met several times and though there is always a lot to discuss and do, the dynamic is great and there is excitement building about what God would like to do through Springhill Baptist Church.

There is agreement that for our church to step into its vision and meet the needs of today, we need to take steps to being missional while also being hospitable. Churches that are growing expect and plan for guests. We have begun identifying changes that should create more warmth and/or security in our building. Here is what you were to watch for from the fall newsletter and how it is progressing:

- ☑ *New Care Groups to promote meaningful connections...*
  - Care Groups initiated; Care Group potluck event planned for January; Many Christmas cards given out
- ☑ *Updates to the front entrance to prepare for pre-service fellowship...*
  - A team working on simple designs to transform the front space
- ☑ *A new way to connect with newcomers...*
  - New "Connect Cards" being drafted as well as a "Connect Centre" initiative
- ☑ *Opportunities to practically serve and love on our neighbours and a greater emphasis on our community...*
  - 18 turkeys and 3 hams were donated for us to offer to the Salvation Army Christmas hampers; A wonderful evening of caroling planned by Pam; Unfortunately a community service project day had to be cancelled due to conflicting schedules; Financial support for a community family in crisis
- ☑ *Invitations to use your gifts in all sorts of ministries around the church...*
  - Bulletin updates on opportunities to serve
- ☑ *More leadership training and development...*
  - 3 from Elders Team attended "Mission Edge" in November, a conference put on by CBAC

for leaders seeking to expand God's Kingdom; Leah attending "The Summit" on January 14 + 15, a conference for paid youth and children's workers; Several teens invited to join a discipleship class

- ☑ *Updates to our facility rental policies and facility procedures...*
  - Updated agreements and connections with long-time renters; A "Facility Audit" being given out to a few members; "Spring" cleaning happening in certain spaces

If one of these initiatives intrigues you, inspires you or even concerns you, don't hesitate to contact one of the Leadership Team members.

We aspire to LIGHT UP SPRINGHILL WITH THE LIGHT AND LOVE OF CHRIST.

## OTHER HIGHLIGHTS + PRAISES

God is good all the time and He is at work:

- We have a new pastor coming! We have been blessed to have Pastor Greg AND Candice
- The Remembrance Day potluck and service were very well attended
- The monthly ministry at High-Crest is a blessing to many
- Willing Workers were able to give the kitchen downstairs a good scrubbing and support 4 families through their bereavement by serving food
- Continued record numbers at KD lunch as well as a great pre-Christmas party with a formal introduction to Jesus \*some KD attenders have also started going to Blaze Youth
- Encouragement for our university students offered through the WMS group.
- A new Alpha group in Rodney (hosted by some SBC members) is seeing a regular attendance of around 12, most of whom have no church affiliation. The harvest is plentiful.

(continued on back)

- Delicious homemade fudge was served after the Christmas Eve service!
- Many people serving behind the scenes in this wintery weather: shoveling the walkway, helping those with mobility issues to and from their vehicles, extending a helping hand
- A defibrillator has been added to our first aid station

## VISION INTO ACTION: Suggested Strategy Plan for 2019

Our \*new\* Vision at Springhill Baptist Church is "to allow Christ to transform us so we extend His Redeeming Love into the community, offer a Refuge and Home in our church and outgrow our building with each new generation." This vision supports what we do and who we are. We hope this vision leads us in two significant ways:

- Bringing Christ to the community
- Caring for one another

*We will reflect Christ's teaching and love by intentionally implementing strategies that bring Christ to others as we care for one another.*

Back in June, the late Christian Education Board identified 3 key expressions and the action steps and plans to fulfill them in 2019, in keeping with our vision and addressing 3 significant needs in our community – loneliness, family stability and lack of identity:

### Join God in our Neighbourhoods...

- Align with CBAC's 3k43k {baptisms}
- Welcome new families to the community
- Practice hospitality
- Prepare for at least 7 new families to join our church family
- Enter into established community programs with a mission mindset
- Connect with the community college
- Explore transporting shut-ins and seniors to our services and to Amherst for periodic errands

### Engage Families with children, youth and young adults...

- Create space for next generations in serving and worship
- Support, in word and deed, the staff and volunteers that work with next generations

- Surround children, youth and their families in prayer {partnerships}
- Establish a faith-enriching program for young and middle aged adults
- Host Life Seminars that promote: finances, marriage, parenting, nutrition and more
- Coordinate family friendly, intergenerational events and outings
- Host a youth event that works in conjunction with KD lunch

### Create a Community of grace and belonging...

- Extend a warm welcome to all who walk through the doors and develop a plan to connect afterwards
- Offer life changing teaching and engaging worship {five senses}
- Initiate Care Groups for friendship and faith building
- Explore the gifts given to each believer {spiritual gifts testing} and assist all to engage in meaningful service
- Equip believers to minister fully {topical training}
- Create space for new ministry initiatives
- Extend our online reach and influence

This strategy plan is ambitious and will require the work of many. Ephesians 3:20 says God is "able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us." And, even more so as a collective. If you feel led to be a part of any of these intended strategies, let us hear from you. God calls us into His work and has a ministry shaped to each of us. Together we will lift Jesus higher!

**"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure."**  
Philippians 2:12-13