

FORWARD
BAPTIST CHURCH
~ Established 1919 ~

**ANNUAL REPORT
2021**

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Forward Baptist Church 2021 Annual Report

1891 Gerrard Street East, Toronto, Ontario M4L 2B9

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STATEMENT OF FAITH

Bible: We believe the Bible to be the complete Word of God; that the sixty-six books, as originally written, comprising the Old and New Testaments were God-breathed and were entirely free from error; we believe that God, in His providence, ensured the preservation of His Word so that that the Bible is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice and the true basis of Christian union.

God: We believe in One God, Creator of all, holy, sovereign, eternal, existing in three equal Persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit who have enjoyed perfect love and community for all of eternity.

God the Father: We believe in one God, the Father almighty who is over all and who sovereignly works through all and in all according to His purpose. He shares the same divine essence as His Son and the Holy Spirit so that they are each fully God. We believe that He sent the Son to redeem the church, whom He chose and adopted to make them co-heirs with the Son and true children of the Father, blessing them with every blessing, and disciplining them, as a loving Father.

God the Son: We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He shares the same divine essence as His Father and the Holy Spirit and is fully God. We believe in His eternal existence with the Father and Holy Spirit in preincarnate glory. We believe that He took on full humanity when He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. He lived a sinless life, died a substitutionary death, was resurrected bodily, and ascended triumphantly. He is the head of the church and now sits at the right hand of the Father, mediating for His people until the day He returns to reign.

God the Holy Spirit: We believe in one Holy Spirit of God, who shares the same divine essence as the Father and the Son and is fully God. We believe He is a person and not merely a force. The Spirit spoke through the prophets and apostles so the Scriptures are the very words of God. He actively convinces of sin, of righteousness, and of judgement. He regenerates, indwells, and sanctifies those who put their faith in Jesus Christ. He also illuminates, comforts, unifies, and gives gifts to those who believe in Jesus Christ.

Satan: We believe that Satan is a spirit being who is an evil personality, the originator of sin, the archenemy of God and humankind, whose eternal destiny in hell is certain.

Humanity: We believe that God created humanity in His own image to glorify and enjoy Him forever.

We believe that because we were created in the image of God, we were created to work, to be creative, to care for and cultivate the earth.

We also believe that because we were made in the image of God, the value, dignity and personhood of human life comes from God; He knits us together in our mothers' wombs and numbers our days according to His will.

Furthermore, we believe that because we were created in the image of our Triune God, we were created for community. Friendship and family reflect this reality, as does the unity and diversity of the local church. This is also reflected in gender differences between male and female and in the covenant relationship of marriage, where one man and one woman are joined together as husband and wife. God created sexual activity to be practiced and enjoyed by a husband and wife in marriage to celebrate and deepen that union and for procreation. Therefore, sexual activity practiced outside of marriage is forbidden by God.

Sin: Sin was introduced into the world when Adam disobeyed God. The result of this first sin is that all humanity is alienated from God; every aspect of their total being is depraved. Humanity thereby incurred the condemnation of God, resulting in physical, spiritual and eternal death.

Salvation: We believe that salvation is by the sovereign, electing grace of God; that Christ voluntarily suffered a substitutionary death for sinners that completely satisfied God's righteous demands; that

justification is by faith alone in the all-sufficient sacrifice and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and that those whom God has saved shall be divinely preserved and finally perfected in the image of the Lord.

Future Things: We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ; in the resurrection of the just and unjust; in the eternal blessedness in heaven of the redeemed and in the judgement and conscious, eternal punishment in hell of the wicked.

The Local Church: We believe that the church is a company of immersed believers, voluntarily associated for worship, instruction, fellowship, edification, evangelism and the observance of the ordinances. We believe it is an autonomous, independent body, under the Lordship of Christ, the Great Head of the church. Its Pastors and Board members are elected by the membership.

Ordinances: We believe there are only two ordinances for the church regularly observed in the New Testament and commanded by Christ:

Baptism which is the immersion in water, whereby a person publicly identifies with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection.

The Lord's Supper which is the memorial wherein the believer partakes of the two elements, the bread and the cup, which symbolize the Lord's body and shed blood, proclaiming His death until He comes.

The Church And State: We believe in the entire separation of church and state.

Religious Liberty: We believe in religious liberty; that every person has the right to practice and propagate his beliefs.

The Lord's Day: We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day and that it is the biblically normal day for corporate worship and spiritual exercise.

Civil Government: We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honoured and obeyed, except only in the things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and Prince of the kings of the earth.



Forward Baptist Church

Our Mission



glorify God



grow in Christ



go with the gospel

Our Vision

Loving God

with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength, ready to serve Him in the Church — the Body of Christ, under the guidance of our Leaders

Loving Others

as we love ourselves with Christ-like love for all

Share the Truth

by communicating redemption in Christ; personally by word and action; corporately through our Church in local and worldwide missions

MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Since I have placed my faith in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour and repented from my sins, and since I have professed this through baptism, and since I am in agreement with Forward Baptist Church's statement of faith,

Therefore, by God's grace, with His help, and for His glory, I make the following covenant commitments with my brothers and sisters in Christ at Forward Baptist Church:

- I will seek to cultivate my faith and love for God, by regularly spending time with Him on my own through Bible reading and prayer. (Colossians 1:9-12, Philippians 1:9-11, 1 Peter 2:2-3, John 15:4-5)
- I will submit my life to the authority of Jesus Christ by believing and obeying God's Word and by following the leading of the Holy Spirit in my life. (James 4:7-10, Romans 12:1-2, Hebrews 3:12-15)
- I will seek the spiritual growth of my family by reading God's Word and praying with them. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Ephesians 6:4, 1 Peter 3:1-2)
- I will actively seek to put sin to death in my life, fighting hard to live a holy life through the Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:13, Matthew 5:29-30, Galatians 5:16)
- I will let the gospel shape each of my relationships, loving others as God has loved me in Christ and doing all things for His glory. (Ephesians 5:21-6:9, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12, Matthew 5:43-48)
- I will seek to share the good news of Jesus with those whom God has placed in my life. (Hebrews 13:15-16, Matthew 28:19-20)
- I will gather with the members of Forward regularly for worship, fellowship, learning, prayer, and participating in the Lord's Supper. (Acts 2:42, Hebrews 10:23-25, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, 1 Timothy 2:1-4)
- I will use the gifts God has given to me to serve my church. (Ephesians 4:11-13, 1 Peter 4:10)
- I will seek to maintain unity with my brothers and sisters in Christ at Forward. I will pray for them and seek to build relationships with them. I will avoid gossip, divisiveness, and unloving speech. I will pursue reconciliation when relationships break down. (Philippians 2:2-3, 1 Peter 4:8-10, John 17:20-21, 1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- I will engage in mutual accountability with my brothers and sisters in Christ, both accepting and providing loving correction as needed. I understand that if I refuse this correction, I will be subject to biblical discipline which seeks my restoration. (1 Corinthians 5:11-12, Matthew 18:15-20, Ephesians 4:15-16)
- I will engage in the outreach efforts of Forward by welcoming visitors and by praying for and participating in outreach events throughout the year. (Colossians 4:2-6, Hebrews 13:15-16)
- I will follow the leadership of Forward as they follow Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, Hebrews 13:17)
- I will support the ministries of Forward by giving financially and by attending members meetings, prayerfully voting as the opportunity arises. (1 Corinthians 16:1-2, 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, Matthew 18:17-20, Acts 6:1-6)
- If I move away and am no longer able to attend Forward, I will make it a priority to seek another gospel-centred church to join as soon as possible. (Hebrews 10:23-25, Ephesians 4:11-16 John 13:34-35)

Forward Baptist Church has once again stood firmly on the promises of our Lord through yet another year of Covid-19 and its associated challenges. Your Elders, like the Apostle Paul, thank God because of you. Paul says in Philippians 1:3-6 (NIV):

³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

We as Elders continue to lift the congregational needs to the Lord in prayer, as you continue the challenge of bringing the gospel to Toronto through your acts of service and love, speaking the words of truth that bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. We see this as God working through his people to further his kingdom. We thank you for your partnership in bringing the gospel to the lost in the areas that each of you have been called to.

We know that this has been a challenging season of life and at times we have been unable to meet in person. Yet we praise God for the sense of community that he has instilled in you. Even though you have been prevented from gathering together on occasion, you have been able to care and minister to one another. God's Word reminds us that the testing of our faith develops perseverance.

Paul encourages the Corinthian believers with respect to the various trials he had faced for them. He says in 2 Corinthians 4:

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

We, as God's people, can look past the uncertainty that surrounds us and fix our eyes on Christ who is our surety. We as a church continue to **Glorify God** in our obedience to him which is in turn demonstrated through our acts of service. We continue to **Grow in Christ** as we study his Word and are transformed by it. We each reach out to a hurting world by **Going with the Gospel** and proclaiming the good news to the lost.

On behalf of the Elders, I'd like to once again thank you for faithfully upholding our church in your prayers. Thank you for being faithful in your giving and your acts of service. Thank you for encouraging and caring for each other. It's in serving others that we serve our Lord.

The Elders and Deacons boards continued to meet together for discussion and prayer during our joint digital or physical meetings. We, as your church leadership, entreated God to be the focal point of our ministry here at Forward. We sought his direction as we led the church.

The Elders also continued to meet online regularly as an independent group. We used our time to encourage and develop one another as we shared what God had been doing in each of our lives. As a group, we prayed through the prayer requests submitted to us, as well as for any known needs from the church body.

The Elders spent a good portion of our time together last year in discussion of church vision and the direction of various church ministries. We continue to seek God's guidance and blessing as we determine how to reach the lost and develop disciples for him.

As Elders, we have tried to be sensitive to societal shifts as we continued to hold high the message of the gospel, calling fellow sinners to repent and to yield to the healing message of the gospel.

Thank you for the continued support demonstrated towards both your church and your leadership. It has been so very appreciated.

Our prayer for 2022 is that you would **stand firm** in your convictions. We pray that you would be like the apostle Paul who proclaimed in Romans 1:16 &17 (NIV):

... I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

In Him,

Shawn Freer
Chairman, Elders Board

Elders: Pastor Stephen Lambert, Pastor Aaron Woodhouse, Brian Taylor
Active Participants: John Deinum - Chairman, Deacons Board, Mark Memije – Pastor of Student Ministries,
Brennan Little - Pastoral Intern



DEACONS BOARD REPORT – John Deinum

This past year, as part of our regular Deacon's Board meetings we have been studying through the book, Deacons, from the 9 Marks series of books about building a healthy church. In doing so, we are evaluating how our Deacon's Board functions and how we can better align our role with Biblical principles of the church office of Deacon.

The Deacon's Board also continued to work on governance issues during 2021 and completed an operational policy regarding Child Protection guidelines for ministry. There remain a few outstanding policies that we hope to complete in 2022 which are important to complete to support the church constitution.

During 2021, a significant amount of time was given to developing and implementing the protocols necessary to continue ministry and we are grateful to our staff who shouldered much of the burden of reading, monitoring, and implementing procedures so that we could comply with the many rules concerning church operations issued by our local and provincial governments.

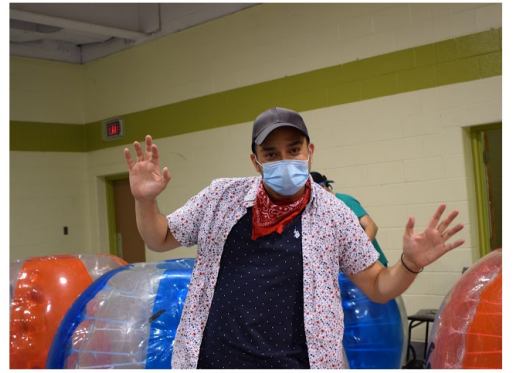
Despite 2021 being another year of unusual and difficult times due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Forward Baptist Church continued to minister to our congregation and community. In my opinion 2021 was a year of maintaining core ministries and encouraging one another to continue to rely on God to meet all our needs. I wish to thank everyone who continued to pray, serve, give financially, and make a concerted effort to attend services in person, as they were able. Your time and presence was an encouragement to all.

As a Deacon's Board, we appreciate your prayers, and ask that you continue to pray that God would give us wisdom, direction, and unity as we lead His church through these difficult days.

In 2021, we welcomed Mark Duiker to our board and saw Allister Walsh's term expire. We wish to thank Allister for his contribution to the Deacon's Board and his continuous service as a church trustee. Our regular monthly meetings include Elders and Staff, for a total of 13 individuals when all are in attendance.

In closing, I encourage you to participate with us together to be encouraged by the fellowship we enjoy in Christ.

John Deinum,
Chairman, Deacons Board



On the final Sunday of 2020 as we concluded what was undoubtedly the hardest year in most of our lives, we were looking forward to 2021 with hope and anticipation. That Sunday we looked into God's word together to hear what He had to say to us from the first of Isaiah's servant songs (Isaiah 42:1-9). On that Sunday we were challenged by God's Word which reminded us that our hope shouldn't be in the changing of the year, but it should be in Christ. Only He is worthy of our worship and only He can give us a hope that won't disappoint. Anything else we put our hope in is an idol and will disappoint us:

"I am the LORD; that is my name!
I will not yield my glory to another
or my praise to idols.
See, the former things have taken place,
and new things I declare;
before they spring into being
I announce them to you."
Isaiah 42:8-9 (NIV).

That challenge from God's Word set the tone for our year. I'm thankful that I can honestly say that 2021 was an easier year than 2020 was, but it certainly didn't live up to the hope of things going back to normal for us.

As this pandemic has stretched on, God has given us some really incredible opportunities to see His powerful hand at work doing good to His people even in the midst of real hardship. As God told His people through Isaiah, He is the only one who knows the future. And whatever that future holds, He will continue to do great things for us, even if those great things are what we were looking for. We've seen that reality play out time and time again in the past year, and it will continue to do so. We just have to be expecting it and looking for it. We need to put our hope in Christ and anticipate what He's going to do. If we learn anything from this pandemic, let it be that.

Preaching Ministry

The majority of the year was spent finishing our two-year series on Luke. It was such a privilege to look into these familiar stories and teachings of Jesus and discovering anew the depth of their wisdom and relevance. God spoke to us deeply through Luke's account of the gospel of Jesus as we listened to what our Lord had to teach us about prayer, money, suffering, and many other topics. But more than just the topics Jesus taught us about, we enjoyed peering at our Saviour Himself so we could be awed by His glory as God, encouraged by His weakness as a human, humbled by His sacrifice for us on the cross, rejoice at His resurrection, and worship Him at His ascension back to His Father's side.

During the Easter and Advent seasons we spent some more time in Isaiah. We looked at two more of Isaiah's servant songs (Isaiah 49:1-13 and Isaiah 52:13-53:12) on Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday and considered how they pointed forward to the sacrifice of Jesus, God's Servant, God's chosen Messiah, God's Son. During Advent we looked at the prophecies of Jesus (Immanuel, the Rock, a great light to those in darkness, the root of Jesse) from Isaiah 7-11. These passages in Isaiah were difficult but spoke powerfully to us about who Jesus is and how we His people should live differently than the world around us.

We also had the privilege of having Pastor Dominic Jacobs and Pastor Daniel Ford speak to us during our fall missions conference. Dominic Jacobs does amazing work reaching out to Muslim people and others in East Toronto and has helped us with our initiative to reach out to Little India (see Pastor Aaron's report for more

details). He challenged us to fulfill the great commission and make disciples of the people from all nations around us in our city. Daniel Ford is one of our missionaries who pastors a church in Moldova in Europe. He wasn't able to be with us in person but sent us a video sermon where he challenged us to consider the great spiritual need of the unsaved, looking at the stories of Nicodemus and the woman at the well in John 3 & 4.

We also heard a one-off sermon on Jonah 4 from Pastor Mark just before Advent, and started off our series on the Psalms of Ascent on the last Sunday of 2021. I am thankful for our missionary guest speakers, Pastor Mark, Pastor Aaron, and Brennan Little who joined me in feeding our people from God's word this year.

Small Groups

As Covid-19 restrictions eased in 2021, we were able to launch our small group Bible studies again this year. The journey of these groups was a bit bumpy at times as restrictions tightened and loosened a few times, but over all, we were very glad to be able to have these points of connection for fellowship, Bible study, prayer, and accountability. The leaders of the various groups have submitted these brief updates:

Tuesday Afternoon Men's Bible Study (submitted by Pastor Don Webster)

This year has been a real challenge for the Men's Bible Study led by Pastor Webster. Meeting at the church excluded some who were sensitive to Covid-19 catching. Trying zoom meetings excluded a few who have no access to the internet, plus difficulty with some members getting their computers to "cooperate." Overall, the zoom attempt was disappointing.

The study was on the Epistle to the Hebrews. One encouraging comment: "As usual lesson 14 was a blessing. Thanks once again for steering me into the Word which is so richly satisfying." We trust that 2022 will be an easier year for getting together in fellowship around the Word.

Tuesday Evening Small Group (submitted by myself)

It has been a great pleasure to be able to have our small group meet again this year. For as long as weather allowed, we met in our back yard with a mixed group of men and women, couples and singles, older and younger. We went through sermon discussion questions together to dig deeper into what we had learned the previous Sunday. After our study, we spent significant time sharing what's going on in our lives and praying for one another. This time of sharing and prayer has deepened our relationships and love for one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Wednesday Evening Women's Bible Study (submitted by Debbie Michaud and Carol Bain)

Every other Wednesday evening at 7pm women of all ages meet to study God's word together online. Fall 2020 until February 2021 we used a book by Nancy Guthrie called The Promised One: Seeing Jesus in Genesis. In March we started the book Habits of Grace: Enjoying Jesus through the Spiritual Disciplines by David Mathis. Fall 2021 we studied the book of Ephesians using a reading program and commentary available through You Version by Paul Mallard, gathering together to discuss what God was saying to us through those readings. Studying online allowed many women to join together that would normally not be able to get together because of distance or other constraints; this was a great encouragement to us all.

Wednesday Evening Men's Bible Study (submitted by Aaron Woodhouse and John Deinum)

The Men's study had a great year meeting together for fellowship, prayer and studying God's word on a weekly basis. We met together in person and on zoom at various times throughout the year. We spent ¼ of our year doing a high-level overview of the entire Bible which was very encouraging and helpful for the group. We used a study called "Foundations: A 260 Day Study". We finished the year by doing an in-depth 12-week study on the book of Ephesians. It was encouraging to connect with 19 men throughout the year. We had between 7 and 10 men at each study who prepared and participated significantly each week.

Wednesday Evening Prayer Meeting (submitted by myself)

This was a hard year for our prayer meeting. Some of our key members who have faithfully attended for years were unable to meet with us as their life situations changed. We likewise mourned as two of the faithful men from our group - Charles Chaffey and Dick Rawlins - went home to be with the Lord. But in the midst of the difficulties this year presented, we rejoiced to meet together each week to sing, study God's word (using sermon discussion questions) and

then pray for our church and our world. I am so thankful for the faithful core group who pray so consistently, as well as for the handful of visitors who joined us throughout the year. I am also thankful for Brennan Little who co-led the group with me during the summer.



Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study (submitted by Beth Lambert and Christine Woodhouse)

Our women's Bible study met at the church on Thursdays starting in September and finishing in December. We read through the book of Galatians in 12 weeks and saw many women of all ages come together to study God's word and pray for each other. It was encouraging to see how quickly relationships were built. Even though a few were unable to continue with our study, they were continuously prayed for and asked about. We also had several babies and younger kids join us which was an encouragement and a blessing to get to know them and see them grow and change over the weeks.

Thursday Noon Hour Women's Bible Study (submitted by Eunice Chaffey and Patricia Overholt)

The Thursday Noon Hour Women's Bible Study brings women together to study the Bible and benefit from group interaction and accountability. The study is facilitated by the two group leaders. All women are welcome to meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month (September to June). During 2021, we were permitted to meet in person at the church, sitting 6 ft apart at long tables and wearing masks. We completed The Fruit of the Spirit study and in September started a study on the Names of God. This new study has the goal of knowing and understanding the significance of God's names in order to know and understand God better. We have been encouraged by three Forward women joining us and adding to our numbers. Please pray that we will be blessed by new glimpses of God.

"Therefore my people will know my name, therefore in that day they will know that it is I who foretold it. Yes, it is I." (Isaiah 52:6)

Women's Missions Fellowship (submitted by Eunice Chaffey and Patricia Overholt)

The activities of this group have been curtailed due to the pandemic. Prayer for the missionaries is very important and we have met on the last Thursday of every month on-line using Zoom. Easter cards and Christmas cards have been mailed to all our missionaries and some have replied that they love receiving these cards. Many thanks to Patricia Overholt for buying and mailing the cards.

Simeon Trust Men's Group (submitted by myself)

I was delighted to take five guys through the First Principles online workshop put out by the Simeon Trust. This was a workshop designed to teach men how to study and teach/preach God's word. It was

amazing to watch these guys grow in their ability to interpret and communicate God's Word over the course of our time together. And I have been so excited to see how they are serving the church now and putting these skills to good use.

*** Look for reports on youth and young adult related Bible studies in Pastor Mark's report. ***

Discipleship

It was such a blessing to see discipleship ministries continue to grow in 2021, not only through small groups, which we've already discussed, but also through individuals walking with one or two people to help them grow in their love for Christ. I was blessed to disciple Brennan Little who was our summer pastoral intern and also served in many ways at Forward throughout the year. Brennan in turn also discipled two other young men. I know that among the staff, Pastor Aaron, Pastor Mark and Sarah have made this a priority and I hear stories all the time of members of the congregation taking time to walk in discipleship with one another, in formal and informal relationships. Sometimes through intentional Bible study, sometimes just through going for walks and talking about life and God. My prayer is that this continues to grow in our church and becomes ingrained in who we are.

Salvation, Baptism, and Membership

Each year we pray together as a church for God to save ten people through our evangelism and through the ministries of our church. We pray this because we know God delights to save sinners and because He has called us to be His witnesses. Each year we've seen God bring the miracle of salvation to people's lives and we have been able to celebrate God's mercy. We don't always know what God is doing in people's lives and so it's hard to know exactly how God is answering this prayer. I'm not aware of anyone who professed faith in Christ for the first time in 2021 through our church, though I did learn of a few more who did so in 2020!

God is the one who is sovereign over salvation. He's proven that to us over and over, even as He has brought people to us who He saved without any input from us and then graciously allowed them to join our church family so we could disciple them and they could likewise be a blessing to us. God doesn't need us to fulfill His plans for salvation and He's not required to meet our request for ten people each year. But He has called us to share the gospel with the unsaved people in our lives and He is able to do so much more than we could ask or imagine when it comes to saving the lost. So let's continue to pray for ten salvations this year, but let's also pray that each of us would be faithful to share the gospel this year. Maybe it would be appropriate to pray that each of us would share the gospel with five people in 2022. That's about one person every two months if you're reading this in March. Pray for God to work and pray for boldness and faithfulness to fulfill our calling as Christ's ambassadors.

After not being able to baptize anyone in 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions, it was wonderful to baptize six brothers and sisters in 2021. We celebrated these men and women following Christ's call to baptism and public profession of faith. It was also wonderful to bring fourteen new members into our church family. We praise God for each of those who joined our church this year.

See the Membership and Baptism Report for more details.

Weddings & Funerals

It was a wonderful blessing that our church was able to celebrate seven weddings in 2021. I had the privilege of performing or being involved in most of them. Becky and I were glad to walk with many of these couples through premarital counselling over the summer and we are still catching up on that with a few couples for

whom we couldn't get it all done beforehand. It has been wonderful to see these couples seek the Lord in their relationships and honour Him in their marriages.

While we celebrated together over all of the many weddings, we also mourned together throughout the year as the Lord saw fit to take home quite a few of our brothers and sisters in Christ to be with Him. It was particularly difficult when Covid-19 restrictions or other circumstances prevented us from having a full funeral as we would normally do. Regardless, we are so grateful for these faithful men and women who loved Christ and His church and are now with Jesus in heaven.

Conclusion

I hope that as you read through my report and the rest of the reports presented here, you can see God's hand at work in 2021 and you are encouraged to continue to put your hope in Him for 2022. He is the LORD, that is His name. He will not give His glory to another. So let's remember that and continue to give glory to Him.

Yours in Christ,
Steve Lambert
Pastor of Teaching & Discipleship



The analogy of the Christian life as a race is spoken of often in the New Testament which encourages us in: self-control, finishing well, faithfulness, looking toward the goal of heaven, overcoming sin, perseverance in everyday life, carrying on in trials and other comparisons. This past year the analogy has been fitting. Perseverance and faithfulness in what God is calling me and our church to this past year has regularly been in my prayers and on my mind. With the ever-changing restrictions from Covid-19 it has been clear that ensuring we are able to gather together for worship and together in small groups for prayer, encouragement and discipleship is vital. Hebrews 12:1-3 has been an encouraging verse this past year:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, **fixing** our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

As we gathered together weekly as the church, we saw great testimonies of faithful Christians following after Jesus or running the race. I have been encouraged by so many as I observe your lives and as I see you faithfully following Jesus. This past year was also hard as we mourned the death of 12 brothers and sisters in Christ from our congregation or contacts from the community. Many of these people impacted my life and were part of the “faithful cloud of witnesses” who encourage me as I continue to persevere in the Christian life.

This past year we spent 19 weeks as a Church engaged in online-only worship services together. The constant switching between online and in-person worship services became familiar and routine. I preferred to meet in person by far, being reminded that from the OT God has constantly called His people together in person to worship Him. I have been encouraged to see so many familiar faces, new faces that have become part of our Church community in 2021 and many visitors. It is encouraging to report that after reviewing our contact tracing for worship services we have had 383 people attend at least one of our worship services (Sunday Services, Easter, Good Friday or Christmas Eve Services).

Pastoral Ministry

This year I had the opportunity to lead my first wedding (Technically I tag-teamed the wedding as I needed Pastor Steve Lambert to make things official in Ontario, thanks Steve) which was exciting. During the year I also had the opportunity to participate in one-on-one discipleship with various men in the church. I had the ongoing joy of Pastoral visitation by connecting with people in-person, on zoom or the phone. I had the opportunity to teach the Bible regularly in our Men’s Bible study and through Monthly Preaching during Sunday Worship services. I also had the blessing of regularly praying for people and our Church. I had many opportunities to minister to families and individuals through funeral planning and services. I also spent time this year in the administration of the Church. I participated by contributing to the creation and implementation of various Covid-19 policies. I also contributed to various other church-related policies.

Children’s Ministry

Since the start of the pandemic, we have put children’s ministry programs on hold. During the 2021 year children stayed in the worship services with their families. There have been some challenges with this and some great benefits. I think it has been a blessing to model and expose children to “grown-up” church. It is a blessing to regularly see parents, other adults, and kids worshipping God together. Worshipping together as a

family unit (and as a larger church family) is a blessing and also a challenge as we teach kids to participate in our weekly worship services. Sometimes it has been loud and distracting with extra patience needed from all and sometimes it has been “boring for kids I’m sure” but it has also been encouraging to have the whole church family together worshipping God. I do look forward to 2022 and starting up many of the children’s programs that have been on hold. It will be great to have Kidzone, nursery, PA day camps, Jr Youth, Above the Beach and summer camps start again in 2022.

Community Engagement and Outreach

In the Fall of 2021 we started a “Little India Outreach initiative” in which we met together with 8-15 people from Forward to learn about four world religions. Dominic Jacobs led these sessions for us and his wealth of knowledge and experience as a missionary for many years to Muslims in various places around the world was so helpful. We also spent time praying for Little India, and we went to Little India to do prayer walks and share the gospel. It was a very encouraging start as we seek to share the gospel with our neighbours in Little India. We plan to continue this outreach effort in Little India in 2022 with continued prayer walks, learning together and through going and sharing our faith in Little India.

This past Halloween we had the opportunity to run our Halloween outreach that we have participated in for many years. Again, the church contributed a generous amount of candy that we got to hand out to kids. It was great to have many of our young adults helping set up and hand out candy for this community outreach event.

Our foodbank was also a vital outreach this past year. We have seen a 50% increase in monthly foodbank use throughout the pandemic. We are now handing out 60+ bags of food each month. I’m thankful to our church for contributing to the benevolent fund regularly (see benevolent fund report for additional details). It is a joy to be able to bless people in the name of Jesus every month. I cannot express how many people are so thankful to our church for this ministry. It continues to impact participants but is also a great example to the Beach Hill community that Forward loves people and is being the hands and feet of Jesus.

Liebenzell missionaries and Summer Interns

This past year Forward had the opportunity to intentionally invest in many young adult interns. We have interns that serve for 11 months via the Liebenzell Mission Impact program and some who serve for 4 months via our summer internship program. It was a blessing this past year to disciple, train and minister with the following interns: Franca Haas, Gloria Deuter, Katie Nunn, Cat Ryckman-Barwell, Brennan Little, Emely Muller, and Aurélie Wolf. Working with our Interns is such a blessing and I’m so thankful that our congregation intentionally budgets for this ministry. For more information on the interns’ work please see Sarah Quartel’s report.

Anniversary Offering

It has been our tradition to take up an anniversary offering each year in May. In many previous years, the money has been used for various capital improvements (new elevator, windows, etc.) or ministry initiatives. This year it was decided by the Deacons Board that we would use the anniversary offering money (\$35,000 was the goal, which God exceeded) to bless various churches, missionaries and Christian organizations that needed some additional financial assistance during Covid-19. As the money was dispersed to the various designated places it was so encouraging to be able to assist others as they share the gospel during this challenging time. It was also so encouraging how the congregation supported this generous initiative financially and with many words of encouragement.

As I reflect on this past year, I'm again so thankful that God has provided excellent Deacons and Elders at Forward that we're able to make many difficult decisions this past year, I'm thankful for the ability they had to keep Jesus as the main focus and seek unity. It has been a privilege to minister together this year. I'm also so thankful for each of you as our church congregation. I'm thankful for your love for God and His word, for your devotion to prayer and sharing the gospel. I'm thankful for your willingness this past year to shift back and forth in the types of services we offered. I'm thankful that we did not give up meeting together.

It is my prayer for our Church that in this upcoming year we will continue to "run with perseverance the race marked out for us, **fixing** our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith"

Yours in Christ,

Aaron Woodhouse
Pastor of Community Engagement



PASTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES – Mark Memije

In 2021, it was firmly established, Covid-19 culture was here to stay. The challenge of this year was clear. How could we continue to do ministry in socially restricted protocols? How could we continue to invest in people? Gone for the foreseeable future were many staple programs, like P.A Day Camps and Jr. Youth. We had to do something new. Moreover, we couldn't be certain whatever program we had in place, would continue to look the same in the next month, week or day. Despite feeling at times like we were at the whims of Covid-19, truth be told, we were firmly placed in the hand of God. And from this muddled situation, God continued to work in quiet, certain, and beautiful ways.

Youth Group

Once during our young small group session, I asked the youth around what kind of animal they would want to be. The response around the circle was telling. Among the answers were, "A rock, an oak tree, and a sea sponge." The answers were humorous, but then I realized they did not answer what animal they wanted to be, but rather, what animal they currently felt like. Covid-19 has been a very difficult time for the youth. It's supposed to be the time when the youth



thrive, go out, make friends, learn more about themselves and the world around them. But instead, they are stuck at home, isolated and more prone to depression. More now than ever, they are looking for truth and deeper connections, but society does not avail them of that opportunity. I remain staunch that, in whatever capacity I am allowed, despite it being a shadow of its former self, it is imperative we run the youth program, so youth will have a chance to learn about the hope and joy that is found in Christ Jesus.

Programs for the youth greatly fluctuated during this time. Depending on restrictions, we ran standard youth groups, youth "services", youth small groups and youth on zoom. All these programs were out of the box ways to retain programs while adhering to Covid-19 protocols.

During the summer, we had smaller numbers, but our numbers grew considerably at the start of September, with an average attendance of 14-16. We managed to hold a few events, including a Cheesy Movie Night and a Christmas "Secret Santa" Event. I would like to put out my thanks to David & Katie Nunn, Cat Ryckman, Franca Haas, Gloria Deuter, Emely Muller, and Aurelie Wolf for helping lead in this program.

Young Adults

For the bulk of our year, we went through 1&2 Corinthians. During the summer, we discussed pertinent issues going on in the world, including BLM, Islam, Environmentalism, the Charismatic movement, etc. Part of our vision this year was incorporating the young adults into the wider church picture. I'm pleased to say this has been the case this year with many stepping up in roles of ushering, worship, teaching, etc. Though many of our young adults have stopped attending the young adult group (namely the ones who got married), I'm happy to report they moved on to other ministries in the wider church picture. We also held a worship night.

Summer Camps

At God's providential time, cases were low during the time of summer, and we were allowed to run camps. We ran two weeks of Youth Camp in the months of July. Perhaps the highlight of this event was seeing a regular attendee at the youth group give their life to Christ. He is firm in his belief of God, and is taking strides in his growth, while actively inviting his friends.



Street Evangelism

Starting in the spring, as part of an extracurricular activity, I began doing street evangelism from April to November. I partnered with two street evangelists at Victoria Park and Danforth whom I had met there by chance. We began handing out tracts, street preaching, and having conversations every Saturday. This was a blessing for me because of the restrictions indoors at the time, but I still felt compelled to share about Christ in some format. There has been some fruit through this ministry. A mother now attends Wednesday prayer meetings. Three youth have connected with our youth programs.

Little India (Our Big India)

For the past two years, dear to my heart has been Little India. It is in close proximity to our church, and yet it is unreached. Finally with Pastor Aaron Woodhouse and freelance missionary Dominic Jacob, we began preliminary engagement with the area. For four weeks, Dominic held training sessions, educating us on the main religions of that region, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, and Buddhism. And then we went out several times. We had average attendance of 7-14 on a Thursday evening, making connections and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. When the weather got colder, it was put on a hiatus, but we are excited to begin again in 2022.



Pew Pew Puppets

2021 saw Pew Pew Puppets really expand in its production value. Previously, I was the sole script writer, actor, and producer. Late 2020, we added Conor and Sandina as puppeteers. And in 2021, we added Don Webster as a bi-weekly script writer. The previous and current German interns, and summer interns took an active role in helping produce the videos. The production of the puppet shows became more elaborate and creative. We purchased new puppets, created a small film studio, including lights, green screen, and recording equipment. It's been a real labour of love to produce weekly episodes, which was discontinued once we finished Luke. The purpose was to engage the younger demographic, but we've heard feedback from the whole age spectrum how it was a helpful primer before the sermon.

Young Men's Small Group

At the start of September, we began a men's group that met at my house every Thursday. In November, I handed the leadership to Justine Cudao and William Snieder, and now the men's Bible study meets every other Saturday, with me and Shawn Freer in supporting roles.



Other Events

I was involved in various other events like a young adults pumpkin patch, young adults summer retreat, a Halloween outreach, funerals, gift packages to children from our church etc. I've also taken time to meet/connect/and or disciple various people associated with our church.



Conclusion

Every story, every timeline and era, faces its own set of challenges. Instead of us waiting until the timeline reverts back to its previous iteration, we must go and minister with the marbles we've been given. Moses ministered during slavery and wilderness, Daniel in captivity, Paul in all manner of difficulties. And for Christians today... We minister through Covid-19. And just as God has equipped Moses, Daniel and Paul for every good work, today, He still equips us powerfully.

Submitted by
Mark Memije
Pastor of Student Ministries

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

His love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of gods.

His love endures forever.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords:

His love endures forever.

Psalm 136:1-3 NIV

Repetition is important! Words or actions that are repeated should cause us to pause and notice what they teach us about ourselves and the world we live in. In Psalm 136, “His love endures forever” is repeated 26 times as the psalmist praises God for who he is and what he has done. As you finish reading or singing this Psalm, you are supposed to leave with that truth implanted in your heart. His love endures forever! It has been true in the past and it will be true in the future. Whatever change may happen in your life or world, God is unchanging. His love endures forever.

Repetition is an important part of how we worship together too. Each week as we gather, we sing, pray, read, and preach God’s Word. We invite each other to remember who God is and who we are. We remind each other of the gospel. We hear each others’ voices singing new and old songs over and over until the words begin to stick in our minds. We read scripture and hear it preached so we understand it more and can learn to respond to it in growing ways. We confess our sins to God and pray for each other and our world, praising God. As we continue to worship together, I encourage you to take note of things that are repeated and seek to understand why they are important and what they teach us.

Worship Services

I continue to be deeply grateful for each of you who serve the church family on our music, tech, scripture reading, prayer, and host teams! This year has seen a number of people transition out of their roles, but also many who have learned new skills and joined our teams. Most Sundays there are 20+ people scheduled to serve. Even on the weeks we have been online only, it takes 8-10 people to stream the service. At this moment, there are 57 people actively serving in these roles! (And that is only Sunday morning roles!) To each of you who have served Sunday after Sunday or have put in long hours from home to make our times of worship together this year both possible and purposeful, thank you.

In April, 16 members of our music/tech/host teams took part in an online conference together. We displayed the stream in the Fellowship Hall so that those who were able could join us in person. Others watched the stream from home. It was a refreshing time of learning, discussion, and prayer together.

Part of my planning each year involves choosing new songs for us to learn as a church. The process of choosing the songs typically includes a number of people from the music teams who are happy to help screen songs. We look for songs that don’t just sound nice - they need to have lyrics that are true and help us to sing our theology and they also need to be songs that are accessible for us all to sing! This year we learned 7 new songs. One of them was introduced by the kids/families at the church who learned the song and sent in videos of them singing it to help us learn - *Son of Heaven!*

During the season of Advent this year, we had the joy of seeing an art project come together as we worshiped. Over 80 people from our church family made this project come to life by painting small squares based on the themes for each of the weeks of Advent. As we enjoy the mosaic that was created (it’s in the church foyer), we remember that God has told us not to fear because he is with us, that God is our Rock, that

Jesus conquered sin and death, and that the light of God is with us through the resurrection of Jesus, and we look forward to his return!

Discipleship

Meeting with women in our community for discipleship is one of the joys of my life! Throughout the year I meet with quite a few different people for encouragement or a safe place to talk about the joys and challenges of life and faith. These meetings range from one-time “teas” to regular, planned times to meet for one-on-one conversations. For those who intern at the church, they also include small group book studies as we seek to grow in our knowledge together and ask honest questions.

Interns

Internships continue to be an important part of ministry here at Forward. They allow us to disciple young men and women as they actively participate in the ministry of the church for a time. In 2021 I had the joy of working with Franca, Gloria, Katie, Cat, Brennan, Emely, and Aurélie.

The work the interns do covers most of the range of church life - event planning and execution, admin work, summer camps, cleaning projects, music, tech, teaching, filming and editing content, social media, discipling others, assisting with Food Bank...you get the point. The nature of changing ministry and Covid-19 regulations over the past year has meant that I am much more hands-on with the interns than in past years. I am deeply grateful for all the ways they have served our ministry team and this church family in the past year - they have been patient with tasks they would prefer not to do, cheerfully complete jobs they didn't “sign up” for, and learned new skills that allowed them to care for this church family and community in growing ways. It's a joy to know and be a part of each of their lives!

FEB Central

I continue to serve as a board member for FEB Central. We meet in person or online approx. 4 times a year.

Congregational Care

Each season is unique, but here is a taste of some of the ways I participated in congregational care:

- Following up with people who visited the church and requested more information.
- Time spent with congregation members in need of conversation, prayer, or encouragement.
- Time spent with community members who are lonely, in need of prayer, etc.
- Shut-ins - sending prayer updates, sermons, etc. on a regular basis. (I oversee this task)
- Assisting with funerals as needed

Communications/Publications/Admin.

There is a wide range of tasks included here that I either do myself or oversee. One I wanted to highlight this year is our Online Church Directory! Many of you had your photo taken this year as we worked on updating our directory to include photos. If you are a regular part of this church family and do not yet have access to the online directory, please let me know and I can help you connect with it. It is a great way to pray through our church family, get in touch with people, remember what people's names are, etc. (Privacy note: participation in the online directory is voluntary and only accessible to others in our church family who have chosen to participate in it - your information will not be displayed without your permission, and is only accessible to others in the directory.)

Here are some of the other ongoing tasks that I complete/oversee throughout the year:

- New church signage! (Installed January 2021)
- Church emails
- Graphic design for posters/slides/etc. as needed (Katie now designs most of our graphics!)
- Church Calendar
- Website
- Church Database
- Church Directory
- Policy writing/updates



Food Bank

Before the pandemic began, I was not actively involved in the Food Bank. When the pandemic began in 2020, I began assisting with the Food Bank as we had to reimagine how it ran and limit the people involved in preparing and serving. While I did enjoy being a part of this ministry for a time, I'm happy to report that I am no longer needed and stepped back from it mid-year so I could focus that time on other parts of my job. A special thanks to Carol and her team of shoppers for keeping it stocked with the increased demand for food. You are greatly appreciated!

With love,
Sarah Quartel
Director of Worship & Communications



MISSIONS COMMITTEE

What is “missions”? What is the role of a missionary? These are important questions for Christians to consider and answer. There is never a shortage of missionaries seeking financial support from churches and we can't support all of them. What then are the criteria for evaluating missions work? What should our priorities be as a church when considering new missionaries to support? At the beginning of 2021, the elders approved a missions philosophy designed to answer these questions. In its own words, its purpose is to “guide the missions committee and the church as we think about, speak about, engage with, pray for, send, and go in missions.” The philosophy is as follows:

Biblical Definition of Missions: *Missions refers to the mission of the church, which is to be witnesses of the good news of the death and resurrection of Jesus and to make disciples of all the nations.* (Luke 24:45-49, Matthew 28:18-20)

Biblical Emphases for Missions:

Missions is for the glory of God. (Revelation 7:9-10)

Missions is accomplished by the proclamation of the gospel. (Romans 10:11-15)

Missions is primarily the work of the local church. (Ephesians 3:7-11)

Forward's Priorities for Missions:

When considering and evaluating missionaries, Forward will prioritize missionaries who:

- Are sent out by and accountable to their local church
 - Especially members of Forward
- See their purpose as proclaiming the gospel and making disciples
- Are working to plant or strengthen local churches
 - Or are working closely alongside local churches to proclaim the gospel in a specialized context
- Are people of character with a passion for the glory of God
- Have shown fruitfulness and faithfulness in ministry
- Have strong biblical and theological understanding
- Align with Forward's Statement of Faith and Mission Statement

Missions Organizations will be evaluated based on the same priorities as appropriate

As you know, through the generosity of God's people and the extraordinary provision of God through other means, our church found itself with an abundance of funds this year that we desired to invest in God's kingdom. As our missions committee considered how to use some of these funds to support missionaries and missions organizations, our philosophy provided much needed guidance.

Similarly, our philosophy guided our selection of speakers for our fall missions conference as we heard from Pastor Dominic Jacobs, an evangelist to Muslim people and others in East Toronto, and Pastor Daniel Ford, our missionary to Moldova in Europe, who pastors a church that he planted a number of years ago. We were blessed to hear from these men and be challenged from God's word to consider the call to evangelism and missions that each of us has.

In 2021, our missions committee consisted of Ray Repo, Gerry Britton, Patricia Overholt, and the elders in ex-officio roles. Ray chaired the committee for many years before stepping down from that role this year. He continues to serve on the committee. I am thankful for his many years of service and am grateful for his continuing ministry. Also, Gerry stepped down from the committee when he and Denise moved out of Toronto. I am grateful for his many years of service as well and know that we all miss the Brittons very much.

I am grateful for the continuing service of Patricia and our elders, as well as those who have agreed to join us on the committee for 2022!

Yours in Christ,
Steve Lambert
Pastor of Teaching & Discipleship
On behalf of the Missions Committee

Forward Missionaries

- Ray and Sandra Alary - Ray serves as Executive Director of Through The Bible Canada
- Louis and Denise Bourque- Louis serves as Regional Director of AEBEQ (Association d'Églises Baptistes Évangéliques au Québec)
- Aaron & Annegret Bowes - Church Planters, Halle-Neustadt, Germany; Missions3DThreshold
- Daniel & Emily Ford - Church Planters in Hincesti, Moldova; Baptist Missions to Forgotten People
- Bechara & Roula Karkafi - Leading in missions to Islamic people across the Middle East, North Africa, and Canada; FEB International
- Don & Erin Longworth - Managing the missionary guesthouse & serving in digital media ministries in Parakou, Benin; SIM
- Paul & Georgie McDonald - Training pastors & strengthening churches in Belgrade, Serbia; SEND International
- Martha Oates - Working with shopkeeper churches in Taiwan; OMF International Canada
- Valera & Laura Strugov - MoveIn Team & Malkutha Church Plant in Toronto, Ontario

Churches

- Liberty Grace Church - a church plant in the Liberty Village neighbourhood of Toronto. (Pastor Darryl Dash)

Organizations

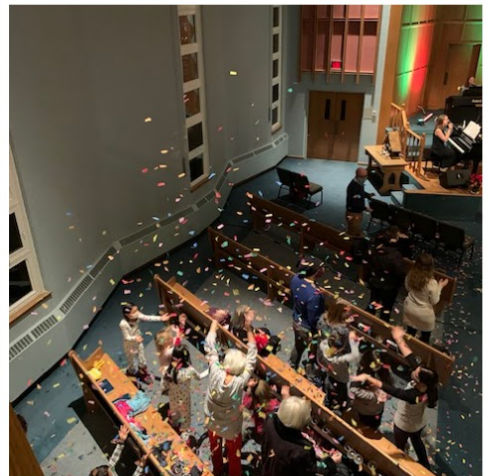
- Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches of Canada
 - General Fund
 - Fellowship Aid & International Relief (working to alleviate human suffering and social injustice around the world in the name of Christ)
 - LeadersFormation (training church leaders around the world)
- FEB Central
 - General Fund
 - Church Planting
- Toronto City Mission
- SAT-7 Canada (A satellite broadcast ministry to the Middle East)

Seminaries

- Heritage College & Seminary - Cambridge, ON
- Toronto Baptist Seminary - Toronto, ON

Our Retired Missionaries

- Jessica Breski Newcastle, ON
- Hugh & Jean Gordon Burlington, ON
- Jo Grimshaw Scarborough, ON
- Hugh & Carol Hamp Carstairs, AB
- Paul & Diane Kerr Barrie, ON
- Jim & Barb Longworth New Brunswick
- Vi McKie Meaford, ON
- Bob & Nancy Sheffield Colorado, USA
- Brian & Elsabet Taylor Goodwood, ON (Goode Beach, Australia)
- Donald Whiteside Barrie, ON



PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The role and responsibility of the property committee is to maintain and improve the amazing facilities and physical properties that God has entrusted to us as a Church community. We are also entrusted with ensuring that the facilities are used to further God's Kingdom and bring glory to Him. We have so much to be thankful for when it comes to our facilities.

We thank our Custodian Team that worked hard in 2021 to maintain and clean our facilities. We are thankful for all the following people that have helped with custodian work in 2021 at various times and in different ways:

Full-time custodians: Nathan Sutanto (October 2021 - ongoing), Sam Wilton (June - August 2021), Jamie Cudao (Oct 2020 - June 2021)

Occasional custodians: Beth Lambert and Paul Bowles

Volunteers: Jim Sleep

A special thanks to Jamie Cudao who was our full-time custodian from October 2020 until June 2021. Jamie Cudao was enthusiastic, hardworking, and was dedicated to learning new skills. Jamie's love for the people of Forward and the neighbourhood was greatly appreciated. We thank Jamie for serving the Lord at Forward with the ministry team. Jamie Cudao left to pursue summer training with the Canadian Military and then started welding school full-time in Sept 2021.

Sam Wilton was our full-time summer custodian, and we were thankful to have him join our ministry team for 3 months to maintain the facilities and contribute to the ministry at Forward. Sam Wilton finished in September 2021 and started school at Tyndale. During the month of September Beth Lambert, Emely Muller and Aurelie Wolf helped maintain the facilities while we were in between custodians. Nathan Sutanto started working as a full-time custodian in October 2021. Nathan has a very strong work ethic, previous experience in cleaning and a strong desire to serve and learn new things. We are so thankful for Nathan joining the team.

Highlights from 2021:

- New wall at CE entrance - A wooden separation wall was built at the CE entrance of the building. This was built to hide all the garbage cans and provide security for various property items (snow blowers, tools, etc) that are outside.
- Pew removal - With attendance increase for much of 2021 and with Covid-19 protocols and physical distancing ongoing it was decided to rearrange pews and remove pews to best utilize the space for maximum seating capacity. In Dec 2021 - Justine Cudao, Shawn Freer, Jamie Cudao and Nathan Sutanto implemented the changes. It looks great and the extra leg room is awesome.
- New windows - This past year we installed 43 new vinyl windows, replacing the old single pane windows in various places throughout the church. Windows were replaced in the nursery, Above the Beach room, Kid Zone room, upstairs in the old Jr. Hall, downstairs Youth Room and staff offices.
- New asphalt paving and repairs - October 2021 we had the following locations at the church paved: the West gravel parking lot, repairs to the parking lot on north side of Gerrard St East, South fire exit from the CE building near the kitchen, and the parking lot on South side of the church off Glenmore Rd.
- 2-year lease agreement with Metrolinx started February 2021- We are currently renting out ⅓ of the upper Wildwood parking lot to Metrolinx.

- Church signs project completed. All signs were installed in Jan 2021 and one sticker sign in May 2021. We also replaced many of the sign boxes and the internal lights of the four boxes are now all LED lighting.

Looking forward to the year ahead:

- Purchase safety mats for the walls of the gym
- Replace stairs in baptismal tank
- Metrolinx funds - Identify, prioritize and implement property projects that will be undertaken with a portion of the Metrolinx funds.
- 10-year plan - The property committee will also make a priority list for future years. looking at needed repairs, updates and renovations that will help us to continue to best use our facility to the glory of God and that will enable us to best utilize our church facility for ministry purposes.
- Identify and implement ways to reduce utility costs in the church - Finish replacing faucets on sinks, weather stripping on outside doors, replace some exterior doors, automatic light switches, etc, replacing lights with LED fixtures.

Library Resource Center

The church library is located on the main floor by the sanctuary. With the pandemic continuing in 2021 the library was not utilized very much. Hopefully later in 2022 the library will again be accessible to all people on Sundays and throughout the week. At that time, I would encourage you to take advantage of the books and resources available inside. In addition to the many great physical books in the library, we also have a great digital video library offered through RightNow Media which has 1000s of video resources available for streaming online. You can request access by contacting the church office or by following this link: <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/ForwardBaptist>

May we continue to be good stewards of what God has entrusted us with in 2022 and may we make bold plans for how our facility and material possessions can be used to further God's kingdom and proclaim the gospel in the Beach Hill neighbourhood, East York, and Toronto.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron Woodhouse
Property Committee

Property Committee members: Justine Cudao, David Power, Aaron Woodhouse

BENEVOLENT FUND REPORT

During the 2nd year of Covid-19 Forward Baptist Church continued to respond with over-the-top generosity to the benevolent fund to meet the increased needs of the Forward Church Family and wider Beach Hill community needs. Gifts to the Benevolent Fund in 2021, not including the Food Bank specifically, were \$7,915.00 which is down from the 2020 amount of \$11,000. Cash donations to the Food Bank itself were up significantly to \$28,436 which is a 395% increase from 2020 (\$5750) and a 3000% increase from 2019 (\$865). As well, the Benevolent Fund GIC earned \$22 in interest for the year, bringing the total revenue for the Fund for 2021 to \$36,373.

The primary use of the Benevolent Fund in recent years has been to stock the Food Bank. In 2021, we saw a rise in the number of people who used the Food Bank, from an average of 50 people, to, on average, 60 people each month. Each month there were usually several new people who had never used our Food Bank before. This increase in numbers meant the expenses for stocking the Food Bank increased as well: up 33% from \$12,250 to \$16,334. Over the last 2 years, we have increased our foodbank expenses by 88% from \$8675 to \$16,334. The Daily Bread Food Bank has noticed an unprecedented increase this year of 47%. In the past, it typically went up 5-10%. We anticipate that during 2022 the foodbank usage will continue to increase.

We are thankful to our group of shoppers who are great at finding those deals and so this helped to keep our costs lower than they otherwise might have been. The pandemic made it necessary to stop our monthly devotional time with those who visit the Food Bank, but there has still been good opportunities for our staff to connect with & talk with those who come by for bags of food.

Other ways the Benevolent Fund was used to bless our neighbourhood were as follows:

- TTC and other travel expenses for people to get to rehab, hospital, doctors, or other important meetings
- Money for food that wasn't available through the Food Bank
- Permanent Residence application and legal fees
- Clothing bought for people in need
- Laundry expenses, Prescription costs
- Thanksgiving meals cooked at Church and distributed at the foodbank
- Paint for home items for a community member
- 18 Poinsettias for our shut ins at Christmas
- \$750 in Grocery Gift Cards given to a local missionary to distribute to their outreach contacts in need
- Grocery cards worth \$5,850 to encourage those both in our congregation and in the neighbourhood who are struggling this year.

The Benevolent Fund in 2021 had a net loss of \$1,831, bringing the closing balance in 2021 to \$14,498.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

We saw God work in our church in many ways during 2021. I trust that God will continue to show each of us His will and fill us with the Spirit. May we be successful in seeking ways to glorify our Lord.

I pray that we continue to put God first and we are grateful to be part of a church where it is evident from our givings that we often do place God first. Please continue to pray that as a congregation, together we would discern how God would direct us to use the resources He has given.

God continues to provide for our Church. The total income for the year was \$505,597, compared to the budget of \$545,700. This includes \$33,533 received for the anniversary offering. Total expenditure for the year was \$629,835, compared to the budget of \$614,339. The expenditure in 2021 was higher than budget as it was decided to use the anniversary offering this year to provide further support to our missionaries. The increase was offset with lower than planned expenditures in other areas that were mainly due to the pandemic continuing through 2021. We also received the Wildwood parking lot easement funds ("Wildwood Funds") totaling \$325,809 during the year. The Elders and Deacons have been praying about the use of the funds and a plan will be presented to the congregation in due course. We ask that everyone makes this a prayer item as we seek God's will for these funds. Excluding the Wildwood Funds, expenditure in 2021 exceeded income with \$124,238. The available funds at the end of 2021, including the Wildwood funds, totalled \$466,211.

This balance of available funds is clear evidence that God is looking after our church. Healthy finances are a blessing that our church has enjoyed over the last many years. This comes with the risk that we become complacent. The Elders and Deacons believe God is telling us to do more rather than to give less and each of us needs to pray and understand what God wants us to do and how He is challenging us in our faith. I ask that we go on our knees and ask God for its intended purpose, and that we not lose sight of the fact that we have a faith budget that we need to support with prayer and by listening closely to God's direction and guidance.

I would like to thank Carol Bain our bookkeeper for her unfailing diligence and care in maintaining the books and records of Forward. I also want to thank Allister Walsh and John Deinum who faithfully assist in counting the offering.

We are once again thankful for the way God's people have supported the work at Forward. May God bless you as you give cheerfully to the work of our Lord.

Respectfully submitted,

Maarten Theunissen
Finance Committee

FORWARD BAPTIST CHURCH
 STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
 FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

	2021	2020	2019	2021 Budget
INCOME				
Envelopes	14,977	11,905	13,821	15,000
Where Most Needed	151,840	158,604	161,822	191,200
Pre-Authorized Gifts	107,170	119,410	113,020	130,000
Loose offerings	1,124	910	4,322	3,800
Anniversary offering	33,533	37,682	68,037	30,000
United Way	118,000	117,000	111,004	110,000
Other donations, incl. Roof Fund	50	3,220	6,214	-
TOTAL INCOME	426,694	448,731	478,240	480,000
MISSIONS INCOME				
Envelopes	13,185	16,959	11,627	15,000
Special Mission Offering	26,555	23,802	25,231	25,000
Other Missions Donations	-	25	603	-
TOTAL MISSIONS INCOME	39,740	40,786	37,461	40,000
OTHER INCOME				
Rent - Glenmore	10,200	10,200	9,350	10,200
Rent - Korean Bible Baptist Church	-	6,668	10,000	-
Facility Rentals	14,100	18,990	9,315	9,500
Government Grants	10,624	2,356	5,224	-
Recoveries & Fees (mainly camp)	3,250	4,700	21,810	5,000
Interest Earned	989	1,197	2,059	1,000
TOTAL INCOME	39,163	44,111	57,758	25,700
TOTAL INCOME	505,597	533,628	573,459	545,700

FORWARD BAPTIST CHURCH
 STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE (Continued)
 FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

	2021	2020	2019	2021 Budget
LOCAL EXPENDITURE				
Staff and pastoral costs	366,954	320,570	365,898	374,800
Christian education	9,194	11,285	19,681	20,000
Worship	3,193	3,917	3,123	4,150
Communications and fellowship	5,888	3,442	6,453	7,420
Office and general	14,236	15,196	21,054	21,325
Building	84,563	87,086	83,928	95,800
Bus ministry	20	332	1,776	530
Legal	2,830	-	-	-
Capital Items and special projects	48,884	48,142	7,423	29,374
100 Year Anniversary	-	-	15,569	-
TOTAL LOCAL EXPENDITURE	535,762	489,970	524,905	553,399
MISSIONS EXPENDITURE				
Individuals	47,300	30,600	29,800	31,800
Mission Organizations	27,673	14,640	15,360	18,140
Other	19,100	6,200	5,734	11,000
TOTAL MISSIONS EXPENDITURE	94,073	51,440	50,894	60,940
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	629,835	541,410	575,799	614,339
INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE BEFORE SPECIAL ITEMS				
	(124,238)	(7,782)	(2,334)	(68,639)
Wildwood funds received	325,809	-	-	-
Bequest	1,000	59,668	80,519	-
BALANCE, Beginning of year	263,640	211,756	133,577	263,640
BALANCE, End of period	466,211	263,642	211,756	195,001

FORWARD BAPTIST CHURCH
 SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURE - LOCAL MINISTRY FUND
 FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

	2021	2020	2019	2021 Budget
STAFF AND PASTORAL COSTS				
Salaries	240,173	226,615	226,301	208,600
Employee benefits	49,075	38,116	45,057	62,900
Temporary help	34,080	43,188	42,097	47,000
Summer Career Placement	28,790	3,647	35,494	35,500
Book allowance (pastoral staff)	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Staff Education & development	3,771	2,319	4,230	6,000
Travel	223	250	1,667	1,900
Pastoral costs	1,354	1,951	1,932	2,400
Long term interns	6,300	2,424	2,339	6,000
Conferences	1,188	60	4,781	2,500
	366,954	320,570	365,898	374,800
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION				
Department supplies	497	1,160	1,925	2,500
Bible school curriculum	3,371	4,357	1,338	1,500
Library/resource centre	39	-	19	100
Day camp	2,581	1,580	10,339	10,500
Developing Ministries	-	242	2,203	2,500
Men's Ministry	217	518	169	250
Family Ministry	70	2,326	367	500
Youth Ministry	2,360	841	2,713	2,000
Women's Ministry	59	261	608	150
	9,194	11,285	19,681	20,000
WORSHIP				
Organ & piano maintenance	835	2,222	676	1,300
Worship expenses	1,359	867	1,156	1,300
Special speakers	0	-	384	500
Song License	692	682	804	900
Ordinance	307	146	103	150
	3,193	3,917	3,123	4,150
COMMUNICATIONS AND FELLOWSHIP				
Communications inc Advertising	3,985	1,349	1,796	2,400
Community Outreach	75	-	633	900
Church fellowship and funerals	374	1,856	3,687	3,940
Flowers and auditorium decorations	1,454	237	433	180
	5,888	3,442	6,453	7,420

FORWARD BAPTIST CHURCH
 SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURE - LOCAL MINISTRY FUND (CONTINUED)
 FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

	2021	2020	2019	2021 Budget
OFFICE AND GENERAL				
Bank charges & interest	2,315	2,017	1,883	1,850
Cell Phones	2,208	2,208	2,202	2,400
Postage	1,118	1,426	1,564	2,200
Printing, stationery & office supplies	5,798	6,425	12,559	12,000
Telephone	2,797	3,120	2,846	2,875
	14,236	15,196	21,054	21,325
BUILDING				
Building maintenance, repairs and supplies	28,546	21,418	18,226	22,000
Gas	15,391	19,767	16,332	18,000
Hydro & Water	23,050	27,151	30,861	38,000
Insurance	7,591	7,265	6,906	6,300
P.A./ A.V. maintenance & supplies	4,959	2,883	3,964	4,000
Glenmore property	5,026	8,602	7,639	7,500
	84,563	87,086	83,928	95,800
BUS MINISTRY				
Bus insurance	-	120	1,326	-
Bus operating costs	-	80	356	400
Bus repairs & maintenance	20	132	94	130
	20	332	1,776	530
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES				
New signage	9,361	-	-	-
Windows	39,523	-	-	-
Elevator retrofit	-	32,020	-	-
Parking Lot Study	-	12,954	-	-
Other	-	3,168	7,423	29,374
	48,884	48,142	7,423	29,374
100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY				
Book	-	-	4,254	-
Video	-	-	314	-
Community Event	-	-	8,928	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	2,073	-
	-	-	15,569	-

FORWARD BAPTIST CHURCH
 SCHEDULE OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE – MISSIONS
 FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

	2021	2020	2019	2021 Budget
REVENUE				
Envelopes	13,185	16,959	11,627	15,000
Missions Offering	26,555	23,802	25,231	25,000
Other income	-	25	603	-
TOTAL REVENUE	39,740	40,786	37,461	40,000
INDIVIDUALS				
Missions 3D Threshold: Aaron and Anna Bowes	19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000
SIM: Don and Erin Longworth	5,000	2,000	1,200	2,000
Through The Bible (TRW): Ray and Sandra Alary	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
BMFP: Daniel and Emily Ford	9,500	2,000	2,000	2,000
AEBEQ: Louis Bourque	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
OMF Canada - Martha Oates	4,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
MOVEIN, Toronto - Valera and Laura Strugov	3,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
FEB Int'l Arab Missions: Bechara and Roula Karkafi	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
SEND int: Paul & Georgie McDonald	1,200	-	-	1,200
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	47,300	30,600	29,800	31,800

FORWARD BAPTIST CHURCH
 SCHEDULE OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE – MISSIONS FUND (CONTINUED)
 FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

	2021	2020	2019	2021 Budget
MISSION ORGANIZATIONS				
FAIR (FBC Int)	2,720	720	720	720
FEB INT – Leaders formation	1,200	1,200	-	1,200
FEBC: General fund	7,000	4,000	4,000	7,000
Fellowship Network Project (Feb Int)	720	720	720	720
FEB Central Church Planting Program	1,200	1,200	720	1,200
Liberty Grace Church	6,733	1,200	800	1,200
Heritage College & Seminary	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400
Toronto Baptist Seminary	500			500
Toronto City Mission	1,200	1,200	2,000	1,200
SAT-7 Canada	4,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
MAARIFA - Pioneers	-	-	2,000	-
TOTAL MISSION ORGANIZATIONS	27,673	14,640	15,360	18,140
OTHER				
Conference & Special Speakers	1,000	1,200	1,404	3,500
Short Term Missions	-	500	-	4,000
Gifts to missionaries & retirees	-	3,900	3,500	3,500
Special Events (Anniv Offering distribution)	17,500	-	-	-
Women's Missionary Fellowship	600	600	830	-
TOTAL OTHER	19,100	6,200	5,734	11,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	94,073	51,440	50,894	60,940

Abbreviations:

BMFP - Baptist Mission to Forgotten Peoples
 AEBEQ – Evangelical Baptist Churches of Quebec
 FAIR – Fellowship Aid and International Relief
 FEB INT – The Fellowship International
 FEBC – Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches

FORWARD BAPTIST CHURCH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2021

	Dec. 31 2021	Dec. 31 2020	Dec. 31 2019
ASSETS			
Cash	123,474	158,315	46,462
Investments (savings acct/GIC)	425,769	108,273	162,958
Petty Cash	24	81	346
Gov't Rebates	13,749	11,167	27,524
Accounts Receivable	-	40	-
Prepaid Expenses	505	5,970	8,001
Capital assets	-	1	1
	563,521	283,846	245,292
LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable	5,382	2,705	2,114
Member loans payable	-	-	20,000
Deferred revenue	76,779	-	-
Benevolent Fund	14,498	16,329	10,075
David Barr Fund	652	1,172	1,346
	97,310	20,206	33,535
FUND BALANCES	466,211	263,640	211,756

FORWARD BAPTIST CHURCH
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2021

	Benevolent Fund	David Barr Fund	Total Fund Balances
Balance-Beginning of year	16,330	1,172	17,501
Receipts rec'd during year	36,372	100	36,472
Disbursements during year	38,204	620	38,824
Balance-end of year	14,498	652	15,149

MEMBERSHIP AND BAPTISM REPORT

Baptisms in 2021 - 6

Emily Little - April 4	Sandina Sutanto - April 4	Tony Quesada - Dec 5
Ron Wilkie - Dec 5	Amy Kirk - Dec 5	Felix Chau - Dec 5

New Members in 2021 - 14

Brennan Little - June 13	Emily Little - June 13	Sandina Sutanto - June 13
Nathan Sutanto - Dec 5	Ron Wilkie - Dec 5	Amy Kirk - Dec 5
Felix Chau - Dec 5	Gina Marcos - Dec 5	Cat Ryckman - Dec 5
John Henry - Dec 5	Tony Quesada - Dec 5	Beth Lambert - Dec 5
Anna Deinum - Dec 5	Victoria Lane - Dec 5	

Members Removed in 2021 - 24

<u>Deceased</u> - 7	<u>Removed (Moved/Transferred)</u> - 11	<u>Removed (Non-Attendance)</u> - 6
Lolita Penaranda - April 21	David Boonstra	Jean Briand
Robert Beattie - May 12	Julie Boonstra	Tasha Castagnier
Charles Chaffey - Oct 15	Sam Deinum	Joy Kanakaraj
Eunice Friesen - Nov 3	Katrina Hillier	Wayne Larabee
May King - Nov 25	John McNeill	Elizabeth Marshall
Dick Rawlins - Dec 1	Jeanette McNeill	Madeline Michaud
June Ferg - Dec 24	Arnold McNeill	
	Helen McNeill	
	Adrianna Koning	
	Stephanie Taylor	
	Josie Weir	

Membership by Category 2021

	2021	2020	2019	2018*
Active Members	103	109	111	112
Member Missionaries	2	2	2	2
Inactive Members	16	17	15	16
Shut in Members	12	15	15	13
Total Membership	133	143	143	143

* The numbers listed for 2018 do not match the 2018 report due to some miscalculations that were made in that report. We were able to determine the correct numbers for 2018 by looking at the membership list for that year.