

FORWARD

BAPTIST CHURCH

November 14, 2023

Dear Forward Family,

Are you ever just bowled over by God's goodness? This time last year, when I sat down to write a letter for our budget, it had been a lean year for giving. God had provided in an amazing way the previous year through the Metrolinx funds that we received. Those funds offset what would have otherwise been a crippling deficit. As we praised God for His provision, we also took a hard look at the numbers and realized that unless something changed, we would run out of money in a couple of years. In my letter, we looked to God's word to remember the command to worship God through our money and to gain assurance that when we give to the Lord, our gifts are like the sacrifices of the Old Testament, a "fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God." (Philippians 4:18). Not only that, but we receive blessing from God and the promise that He "will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." (v 19).

When we started 2023, we didn't know exactly what to expect. The economy got worse, inflation went up, and things were still tight all around. But God isn't constrained by human economics. And He blessed us abundantly this year. Not only did Metrolinx extend their rental of our parking lot on Wildwood Crescent, but God's people (that's you!) gave generously. Even without the Metrolinx funds, special offerings, bequests, or anything else, your regular givings were the highest they have ever been (at least in my memory) - higher than all the money that came in last year combined! And so we praise God for His goodness that He shows through you, His people!

And yet, as exciting as this news is, let's not forget that it's just money. God's goodness has been shown to us in much more significant ways - infinitely more significant ways! As we are taught in Jeremiah 9:23-24,

This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD.

What a great privilege to know God, the LORD who exercises kindness, justice, and righteousness on the earth! He has shown us that kindness through finances this year, but much more importantly, He has shown us that kindness by revealing Himself to us through His Son who “though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.” (2 Corinthians 8:9). Not rich financially, but spiritually. We have received mercy and grace. Our sins have been forgiven. We are loved by God! We are adopted into His family. He calls us His children. He has given us His Spirit to live in us and transform us to be like Jesus and to guarantee our inheritance and salvation. Praise God for His infinite goodness and mercy! And let us continue to give our lives to Him in worship. To present our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God (Romans 12:1). To live such good lives among the unbelievers around us that though they may look down on us, they will see our good deeds and be drawn to God (1 Peter 2:12). To give a portion of our material blessings back to God cheerfully and without reluctance (2 Corinthians 9:7). To “Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 5:19-20).

Truly, we have been blessed. Let’s not forget how much!

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Lambert". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and personal.

Steve Lambert

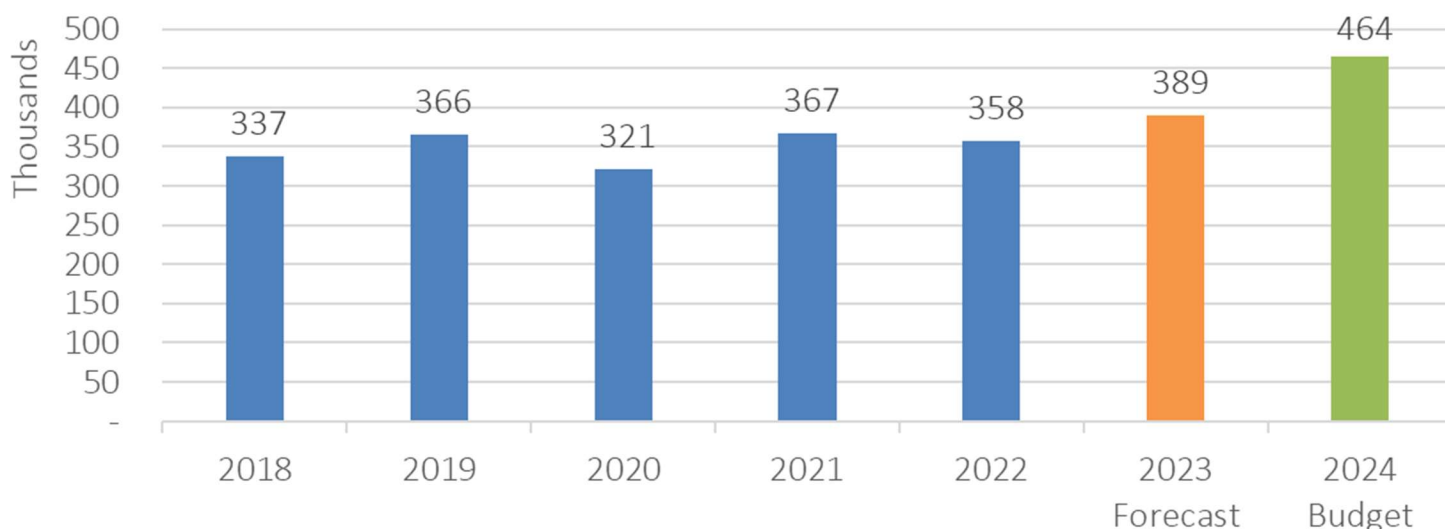
Pastor of Teaching & Discipleship

It is a privilege to present our budget to you for the coming year. I pray that it will be an encouragement to all of us. You will notice that many of the expenditures have returned to pre-pandemic levels, if not a little higher, due to inflation and increased costs. Some of these budgeted increases are also due to the desire to expand and grow as we see our church and as givings grow.

The analysis below compares the 2024 budget with prior years. The 2023 forecast includes the actual expenditure up to September 2023 plus the estimated income and expenditure for the last three months of 2023.

Staff and Pastoral costs:

We have amazing staff that do great work for our church and community. The increase in costs over the years shows our investment in people - a key part of God's plan for our church.



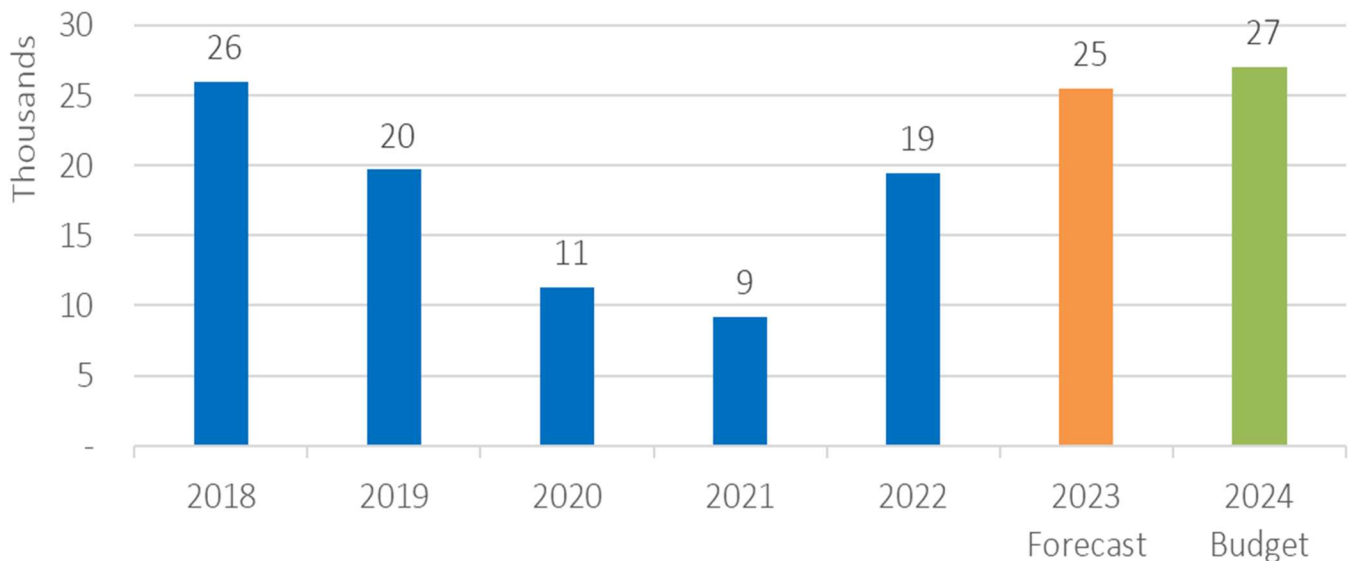
The budget includes the following for 2024:

- Steve Lambert – Pastor of Teaching and Discipleship
- Aaron Woodhouse – Pastor of Community Engagement
- Gary Hudson– Pastoral Intern
- Beth Alexander–Director of Children’s Ministries and Intern Mentor (Part-time)
- Carol Bain – Bookkeeper
- Paul Brason & Ron Wilkie– Custodian (Part-time)
- Interns (summer, Liebenzell, etc)
- Youth pastor (Vacant)
- Director of Worship (Vacant)

The 2024 budget assumes the filling of the youth pastor role and the director of worship position (part-time) and that all the programs will take place again and therefore also includes the cost of interns.

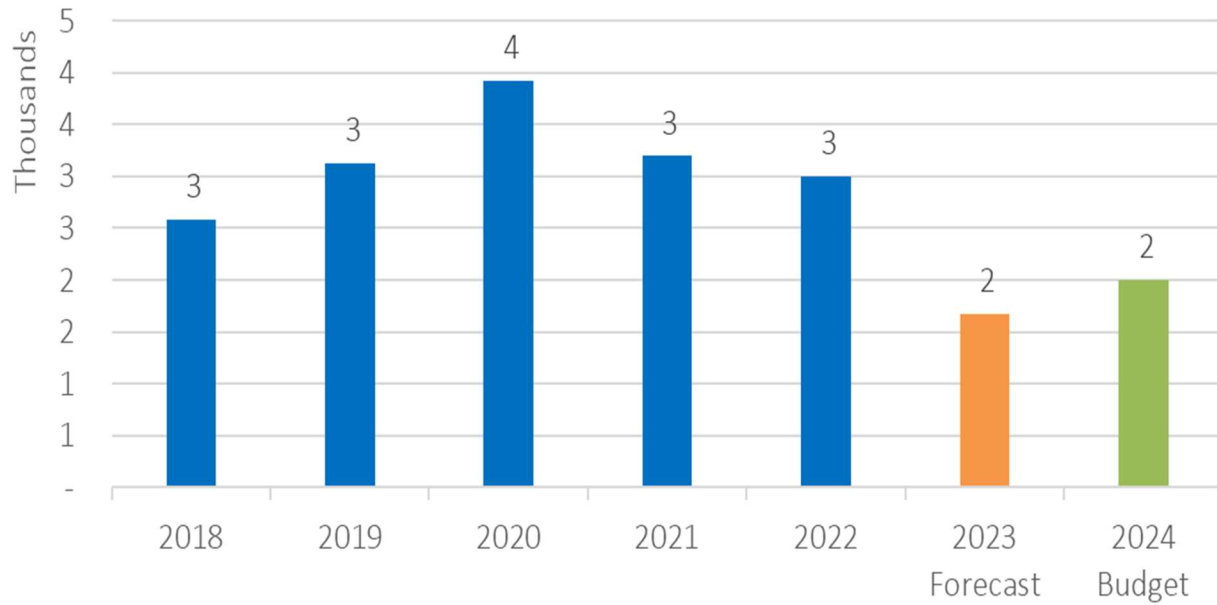
We are thankful that had the opportunity to take on Gary Hudson as a pastoral intern this past year. Gary came to our church desiring to serve and seeking to know if it was God’s will for him to serve Him in full-time pastoral ministry. One of the main points in our church’s vision is that we would be a church that equips people for ministry. We want this to be true for all of our members, but we also want to identify men who desire pastoral ministry and help equip them for that calling. We brought Gary on for 16 months (May 2022 - August 2023) to give him training and experience serving in a pastoral role. It ended up being perfect in God’s timing as Gary was able to help lead the youth group after Mark resigned as our youth pastor and moved to Germany in the summer. We are excited to see how God continues to develop Gary and where He leads him.

Christian education:



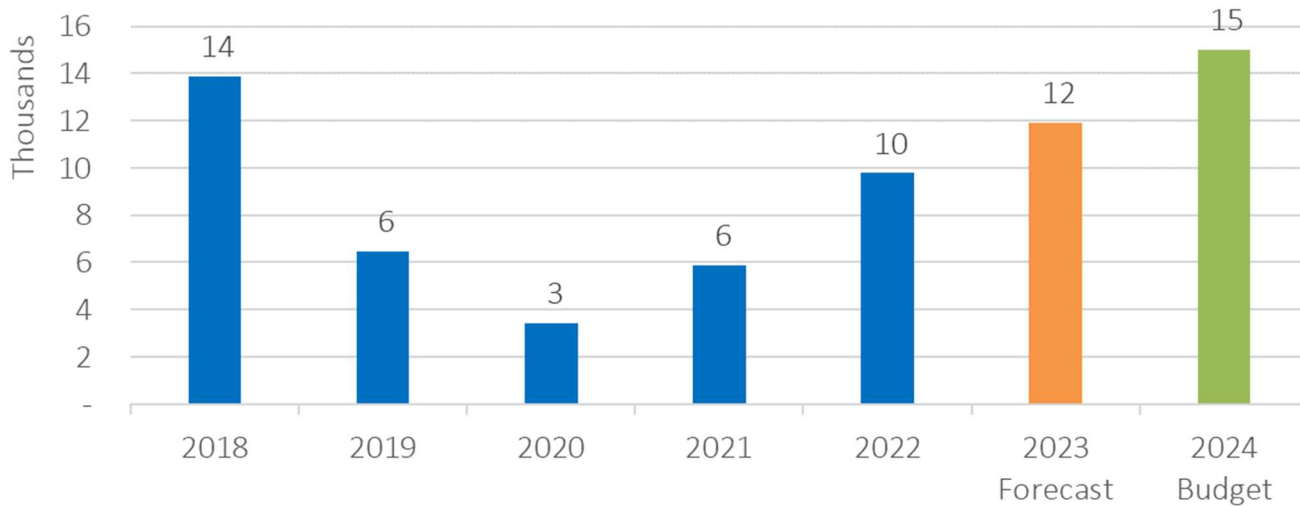
Christian education includes Bible school supplies, day camp costs, developing ministries including the small groups, Family, Youth and other ministry expenses. Costs have increased over the years due to the success of the various day camps and developing ministries. Costs in 2020 and 2021 were lower due to the cancelation of many programs as a result of the pandemic. Some of the programs have restarted and we expect to continue to ramp up the programs again in 2024 as Sunday school numbers continue to grow. It should be noted that most of the day camp costs are recovered and are included in the “Other” category of income reported above.

Worship:



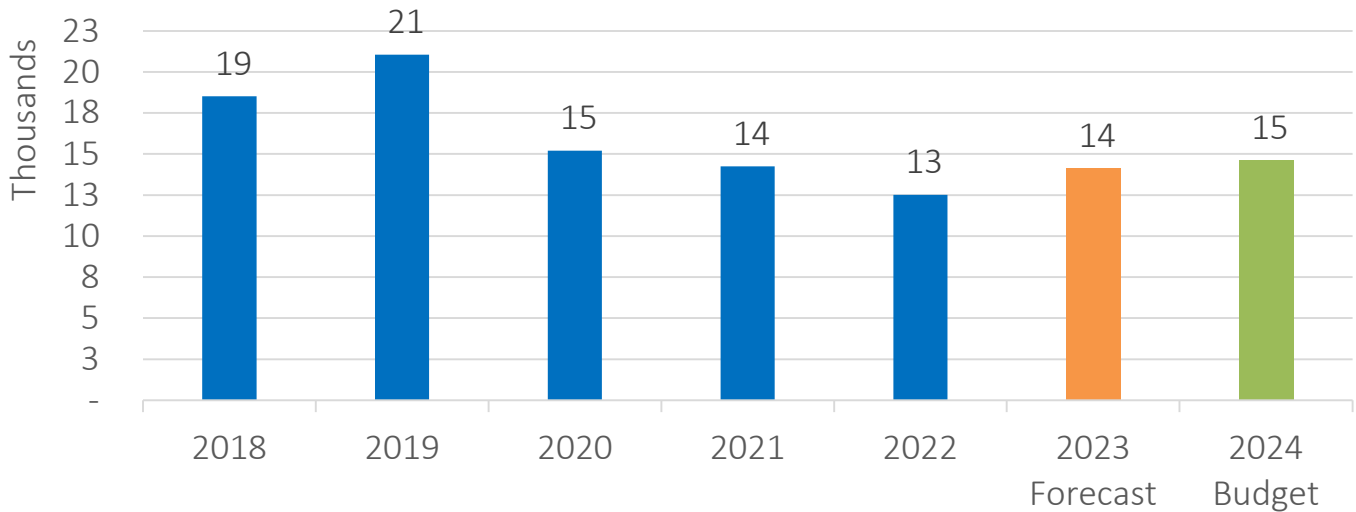
Costs include piano maintenance, payments for license fees to use and project music in the church and payments for special speakers.

Communications and fellowship:



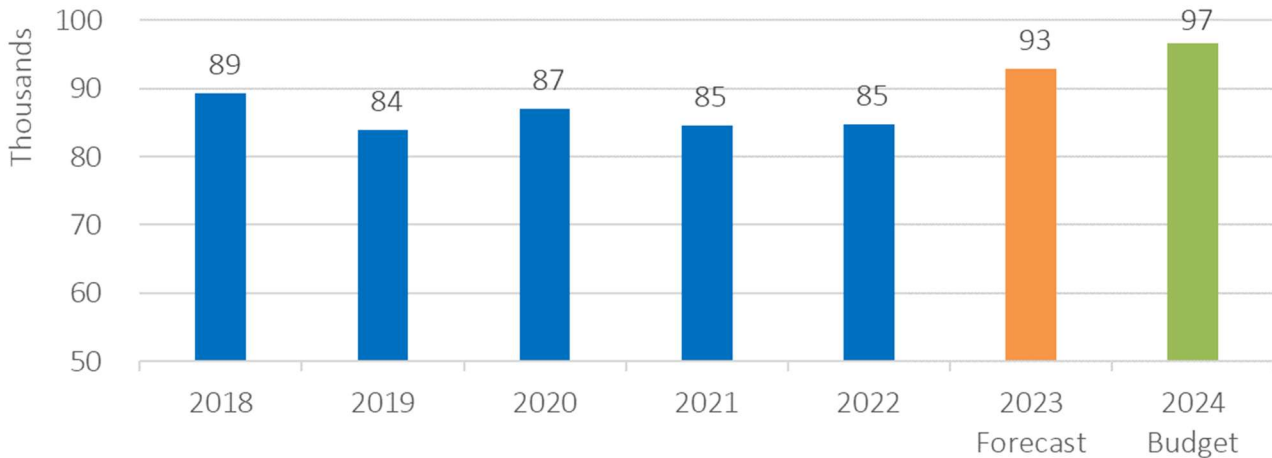
Costs include advertising, community outreach, flowers and costs associated with funerals and church gatherings. Advertising and funeral costs have increased over the last couple of years. As we increase programming, begin mailing, and print sermon notes we also see an increase in expenditure in these areas. Going into 2024 we will see the startup of fellowship meals and continued costs of coffee times after the service which are also being taken into consideration.

Office and general:



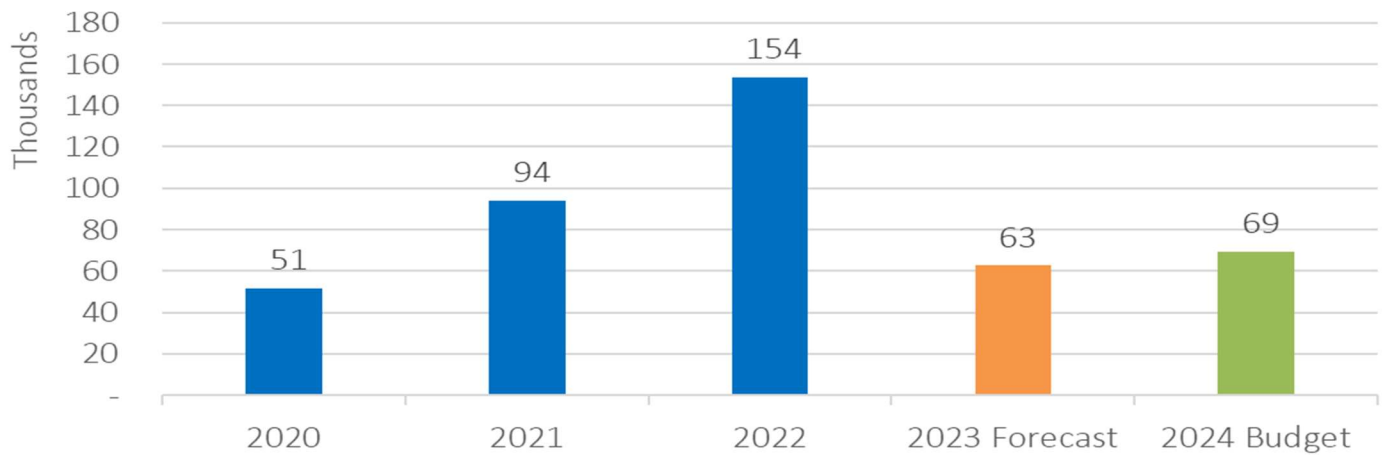
Office and general costs include bank charges, printing and communication charges. Printing costs are the largest component of this category. The 2020, 2021, and 2022 costs are lower due to lower spending during the pandemic. That will not be the case this year as we take to printing weekly sermon notes/ bulletins.

Building:



The building, parking lots and the Glenmore property are Forward’s largest earthly assets. It would be very difficult to obtain these buildings in the same location for a church of our size and we are fortunate to be in the position that we are in. It is expensive maintaining the buildings and it forms a large proportion of the budget. Utilities are also expensive, and costs vary based on how cold the winter season is. 2024 budget is taking into consideration inflation and price raises for utilities.

Missions:



The missions budget includes the money that Forward sends to missionaries and mission organizations. It has historically totaled approximately 10% of the total expenditure of the church. The 2024 budget continues this historical norm. In 2022 we see a jump as our church felt led to support the work with Ukraine refugees along with matching contributions from the Wildwood funds.

Capital items:

Capital expenditures for 2023 include the purchase of pew bibles, a water heater, and a few other items. Total capital for 2023 is estimated to be approximately \$10,000.

The Property Team has been putting together a list of projects for which we have allocated \$200,000 in 2024, contingent that we receive the funds from the Wildwood property. These projects include:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Children's Ministry Area: | 40-45K |
| Gym Renovations: | 35-40K |
| HVAC Updates and Automations: | 20-35K |
| Youth Room: | 4-7K |
| Electrical/ Lighting Upgrades to LED: | 20K |
| Fellowship Hall: | 40K |
| Projects total: | 159K-187K |

\$30,000 has also been included in the 2024 budget to cover smaller capital items. The Deacons Board will approve projects within the allocated budget as projects are identified during the year. Projects will mainly relate to maintaining and improving the church property.

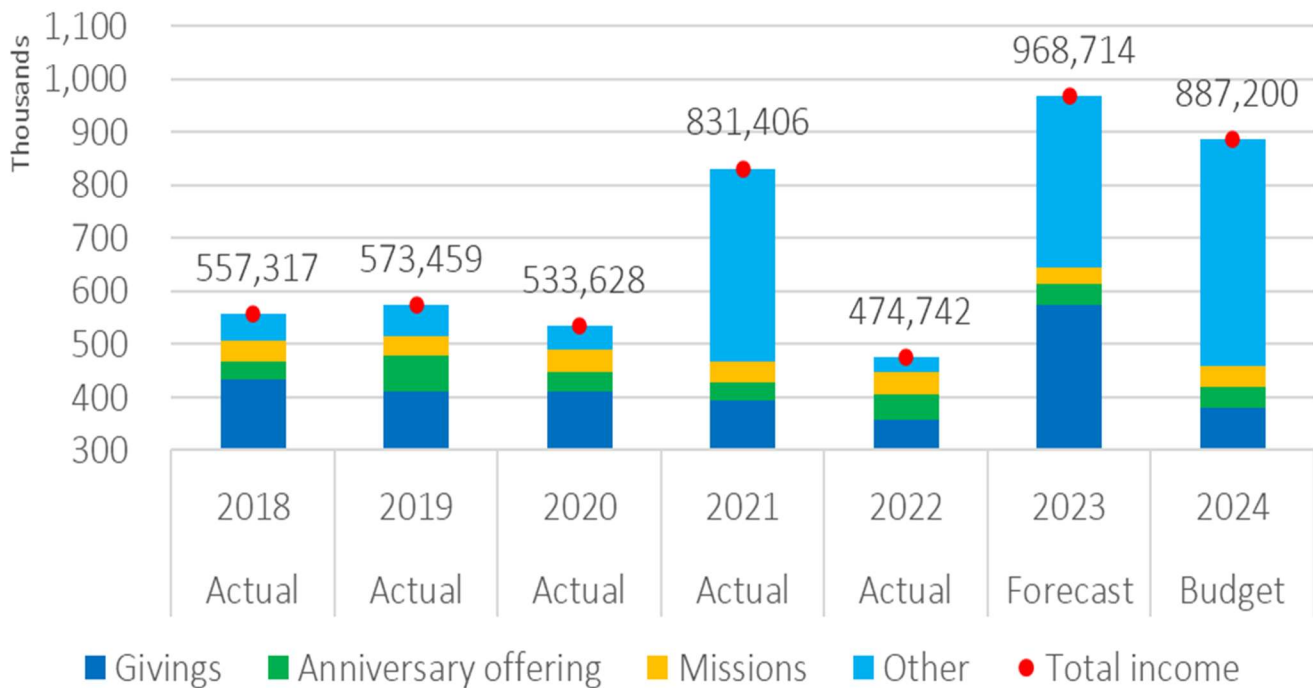
Wildwood Funds:

We received \$155,807 this year from Metrolinx, and they are wanting to extend the rental of the Wildwood parking lot for another two years which will come in to over \$400,000 for 2024 year budget. The Deacon Board, Church staff, and Property Team have worked on a plan to intentionally use the funds received from the rental of the Wildwood parking lot for God's glory. The Deacons board is proposing to allocate \$200,000 of the funds for the capital projects outlined below under Capital items and the remainder of the fund to be available for special missions initiatives as they arise.

The remainder is also available to be used to help balance the church's operational budget as mentioned in last year's report, however, due to our congregation's generosity that will not be the case this year, but will help in the years to come.

Income:

God, through the faithful giving of His followers at Forward, has continued to bless our church. The chart below illustrates how 2021 was an exceptional year for income because of the Wildwood funds. It also shows that income for 2022 is significantly lower than in previous years.



Once our church was made aware of this trend, we saw an outpouring of generosity in 2023

givings. \$142,000 that was received as a bequest, and \$155,807 from Metrolinx for the rental of the Wildwood property make up most of the 'other' category in 2023.

It is also very visible that the Givings are at an all-time high this year, with a lot of generous one-time gifts from members amounting to \$125,000. My heart is deeply moved, overwhelmed, and truly encouraged as I see this outpouring of generosity from our congregation.

God has continued to show himself faithful to our church and we are continually amazed how He continues to give us money faster than we are able to put it to good use. Thank you to all who continue to give generously and sacrificially, it is truly humbling to witness as treasurer.

Summary:

This year's income has surpassed our forecasted expenditure, which is historically rare. Due to this, the forecast income for 2024 is more in-line with the historical trends while our projected expenses are in line with how we want to see ministries continue to develop and grow, leading to a deficit budget for next year.

However, this is keeping in mind that we have a large amount of money in our account from the rental of the Wildwood property that God has blessed us to be able to run such a deficit budget and allow for us to continue to set new historical trends where we continue to match or surpass the deficit budget with our givings.

Due to another large lump sum from Metrolinx, for the rental of the Wildwood property, we are projected to end 2024 with a closing balance of \$806,336. As indicated above, \$200,000 will be earmarked for capital projects in 2024 and 2025, still leaving \$406,336 for future operating funds and missions and \$200,000 as the working balance.

God has been so faithful to our church. He continues to allow us to be generous and a blessing both locally and globally. I ask that we be careful to not grow complacent in our giving as we see our accounts full but instead, in proactive prayer, consider how we may join Him in giving. I pray that we may 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 especially as we seek how He desires us to use these funds that he continues to shower us with.

The attached schedules provide the detailed budget summarized above.

I would like to thank everyone who assisted with the preparation of the budget and who provided input and support during this process.

We serve the Almighty God, and it is an honour to serve among His followers.

Sincerely yours,

David Nunn

David Nunn (Deacon/Treasurer)

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

| | 2023 Forecast | 2023 Budget | 2024 Budget |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| INCOME | | | |
| Envelopes | 11,309 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Where Most Needed | 403,558 | 170,000 | 200,000 |
| Pre-Authorized Gifts | 78,231 | 85,000 | 90,000 |
| Anniversary offering | 40,755 | 40,000 | 40,000 |
| Gifts through Charities | 80,852 | 100,000 | 80,000 |
| Other donations | - | - | - |
| Total Givings | 614,705 | 405,000 | 420,000 |
| MISSIONS INCOME | | | |
| Envelopes | 6,040 | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| Special Mission Offering | 25,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| Other Mission Donations | - | - | - |
| | 31,040 | 40,000 | 40,000 |
| OTHER INCOME | | | |
| Rent -Glenmore | 10,200 | 10,200 | 10,200 |
| Recoveries & Fees | 11,349 | 6,600 | 10,000 |
| Facility Rentals | 3,600 | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| Government Grants | - | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| Interest Earned | 13 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| | 25,162 | 23,800 | 27,200 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 670,907 | 468,800 | 487,200 |

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

| | 2023 Forecast | 2023 Budget | 2024 Budget |
|--|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| EXPENDITURE | | | |
| Staff and pastoral costs | 389,203 | 378,760 | 464,220 |
| Christian education | 25,485 | 21,150 | 27,000 |
| Worship | 1,671 | 3,700 | 2,000 |
| Communications and fellowship | 11,916 | 13,900 | 15,000 |
| Office and general | 14,113 | 12,700 | 14,600 |
| Building | 92,851 | 90,600 | 96,600 |
| Legal | 3,000 | - | 10,000 |
| Capital Items | 10,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| | 548,239 | 550,810 | 659,420 |
| MISSIONS EXPENDITURE | | | |
| Individuals | 33,390 | 33,390 | 36,270 |
| Mission Organizations | 18,200 | 18,200 | 21,300 |
| Other | 11,000 | 11,000 | 11,500 |
| | 62,590 | 62,590 | 69,070 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 610,829 | 613,400 | 728,490 |
| NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE SPECIAL ITEMS | 60,078 | (144,600) | (241,290) |
| Metrolinx Rent | 155,807 | - | 400,000 |
| Bequest | 142,000 | - | - |
| BALANCE, Beginning of year | 289,741 | 289,741 | 647,626 |
| BALANCE, End of year | 647,626 | 145,141 | 806,336 |
| Less Working Balance | | | 200,000 |
| Excess | | | 606,336 |
| Future operating funds and missions | | | 406,336 |
| 2024 Projects | | | 200,000 |

FORWARD BAPTIST CHURCH
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURE
FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31

| | 2023 Forecast | 2023 Budget | 2024 Budget |
|--|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| STAFF REMUNERATION AND PASTORAL COSTS | | | |
| Salaries | 219,268 | 247,360 | 309,100 |
| Employee benefits | 49,287 | 41,100 | 54,900 |
| Temporary help | 86,401 | 47,500 | 57,420 |
| Summer Career Placement | 20,803 | 28,000 | 28,000 |
| Book allowance (pastoral staff) | 1,267 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Staff Education & development | 553 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Travel | 737 | 800 | 800 |
| Pastoral costs | 1,460 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Long term interns | 7,208 | 6,500 | 6,500 |
| Conferences - conventions | 2,219 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| | 389,203 | 378,760 | 464,220 |
| CHRISTIAN EDUCATION | | | |
| Department supplies | 1,857 | 600 | 2,000 |
| Bible school curriculum | 4,816 | 4,000 | 5,500 |
| Library/resource centre | - | 50 | 100 |
| Day camp | 8,561 | 8,500 | 8,500 |
| Developing Ministries | 1,112 | 2,500 | 2,100 |
| Men's Ministry | 296 | 250 | 600 |
| Family Ministry | 364 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Youth ministry | 8,164 | 4,000 | 6,000 |
| Women's ministry | 315 | 250 | 1,200 |
| | 25,485 | 21,150 | 27,000 |
| WORSHIP | | | |
| Organ & piano maintenance | 441 | 1,000 | 500 |
| Worship expenses | - | 1,000 | 0 |
| Special speakers | - | 700 | 0 |
| Song License | 1,230 | 800 | 1,300 |
| Ordinance | - | 200 | 200 |
| | 1,671 | 3,700 | 2,000 |
| COMMUNICATIONS AND FELLOWSHIP | | | |
| Communications inc Advertising | 2,080 | 5,500 | 5,500 |
| Community Outreach | 3,853 | 3,600 | 3,600 |
| Church Fellowships & Funerals | 5,856 | 4,000 | 5,000 |
| Flowers & Auditorium decorations | 127 | 800 | 900 |
| | 11,916 | 13,900 | 15,000 |

FORWARD BAPTIST CHURCH
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURE (CONTINUED)
FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31

| | 2023 Forecast | 2023 Budget | 2024 Budget |
|--|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| OFFICE AND GENERAL | | | |
| Bank charges & interest | 2,001 | 2,500 | 2,500 |
| Cell Phones | 1,165 | 2,200 | 2,200 |
| Postage | 1,289 | 100 | 1,000 |
| Print stationery & office supplies | 7,364 | 5,000 | 6,000 |
| Telephone | 2,293 | 2,900 | 2,900 |
| | 14,113 | 12,700 | 14,600 |
| BUILDING | | | |
| Building maintenance, repairs and supplies | 19,188 | 22,000 | 22,000 |
| Gas | 27,531 | 25,000 | 32,000 |
| Hydro & Water | 29,556 | 26,000 | 26,000 |
| Insurance | 7,600 | 7,600 | 7,600 |
| P.A./ A.V. maintenance & supplies | 2,618 | 4,000 | 3,000 |
| Glenmore property | 6,359 | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| | 92,851 | 90,600 | 96,600 |
| Legal | | | |
| lawyers | 3,000 | - | 10,000 |
| | 3,000 | - | 10,000 |
| CAPITAL EXPENDITURES | | | |
| Pew Bibles | 1,406 | - | - |
| Water Heater | 4,000 | | |
| Other Items | 4,594 | | |
| Capital Items | - | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| | 10,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 |

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

| | 2023 Forecast | 2023 Budget | 2024 Budget |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| INCOME | | | |
| Envelopes | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 |
| Missions Offering | 25,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| Total Income | 40,000 | 40,000 | 40,000 |
| INDIVIDUALS | | | |
| Aaron and Anna Bowes (Missions 3D Threshold) | 19,950 | 19,950 | 19,950 |
| Don and Erin Longworth (SIM) | 2,100 | 2,100 | 2,100 |
| Ray and Sandra Alary (TTB) | 2,100 | 2,100 | 2,100 |
| Daniel and Emily Ford (BMFP) | 2,100 | 2,100 | 2,100 |
| Louis Bourque (AEBEQ) | 2,100 | 2,100 | 2,100 |
| Martha Oates (OMF) | 1,260 | 1,260 | 1,800 |
| Valera & Laura Strugov (MoveIn) | 1,260 | 1,260 | 1,260 |
| Bechera & Roula Karkafi (FEB) | 1,260 | 1,260 | 1,800 |
| Paul & Georgie McDonald (SEND International) | 1,260 | 1,260 | 1,800 |
| Isaac & Nikki Medler (SIM) | 0 | 0 | 1,260 |
| Total Individuals | 33,390 | 33,390 | 36,270 |

Abbreviations:

AEBEQ - Association d'Églises Baptistes Évangéliques au Québec (FEB Quebec)
 BMFP - Baptist Mission to Forgotten Peoples
 FAIR - Fellowship Aid & International Relief
 FEB - Fellowship of Evangelical Baptists
 OMF - Overseas Mission Fellowship
 SIM - Sending in Mission
 TTB - Thru the Bible

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

| | 2023 Forecast | 2023 Budget | 2024 Budget |
|------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| MISSION ORGANIZATIONS | | | |
| FEB National | | | |
| FAIR | 720 | 720 | 720 |
| Leaders Formation | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,200 |
| FEB National General Fund | 720 | 720 | 720 |
| FEB Central | | | |
| FEB Central General fund | 7,000 | 7,000 | 7,000 |
| FEB Central Church Planting | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,200 |
| Liberty Grace Church | 1,260 | 1,260 | 1,260 |
| Heritage College & Seminary | 2,400 | 2,400 | 2,500 |
| Toronto Baptist Seminary | 500 | 500 | 2500 |
| Toronto City Mission | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,200 |
| SAT-7 Canada | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Pregnancy Care Centre | 0 | 0 | 1000 |
| Total Mission Organizations | 18,200 | 18,200 | 21,300 |
| OTHER | | | |
| Missions Speakers Honourariums | 1,500 | 1,500 | 2,000 |
| Missions Conference | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Short Term Missions | 4,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| Gifts to missionaries & retirees | 3,500 | 3,500 | 3,500 |
| Total Other | 11,000 | 11,000 | 11,500 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 62,590 | 62,590 | 69,070 |

Abbreviations:

AEBEQ - Association d'Églises Baptistes Évangéliques au Québec (FEB Quebec)
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OMF - Overseas Mission Fellowship
SIM - Sending in Mission
TTB - Thru the Bible

Property Team Project Detail:

| Project | Year | Cost | Overview Details |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|---|
| Children's Ministry Area | 2024 | 40-45 K | Project overview: Create a flexible Children's Ministry Area. Age 0 - Grade 5. |
| | | | Project highlights: Updated LED lighting in CMA: Hallways, and kids room. Update Flooring throughout. Ceiling room dividers, Update storage of toys. Age-appropriate tables and chairs. Explore HVAC options for some rooms. Repaint and theme the area. Update bathrooms in the Area. Relocate various rooms. Current Food Bank and Custodian Room to be relocated to CJ Fever Room. |
| Gym Renovations | 2024 | 35-40K | Project Overview: Update Gym to utilize for longtime ministry use |
| | | | Project Highlights: New flooring that provides better grip and long-time wear. Acoustic Panels to dampen sound. Repaint. Water fountain. New Lights. Flooring in the hallway leading to Gym. Explore HVAC options |
| HVAC Updates and Automations | 2024 | 20 - 35K | Project Overview: New building automation and controls for HVAC systems |
| | | | Project Highlights: Update 1960's HVAC controls, new switches, automations, and ability to control remotely. Updates will save money on utility expenses. |
| Youth Room | 2024 | 4-7 K | Project Overview: Portable Lighting (Similar to sanctuary stage floor) and lighting board and Soundboard and speakers as needed |
| Electrical/Lighting Upgrades to LED | 2024-2026 | 20K | Projects: Update lighting to LED Throughout the Building, and add motion and lighting automations. Replace lights controlled by breaker panels (3 locations). These updates will save utility and maintenance costs. |
| Capital Projects | 2024-2025 | \$30K | Project Overview: Smaller Capital projects that will be completed as time/talent allow |
| | | | Project Highlights: internal Fire doors replacement, installation of windows, External Door replacements, Update to Church Wifi, installation of Electric hot water tank on demand for ladies' library bathroom, removal of leaking hot water tank, Smaller upgrades, and repainting in Bathrooms. Painting various hallways, updates to Pastor John's old office, security camera updates, and door updates. Small outdoor landscape changes (ex, garden install, bike racks) |
| Fellowship Hall | 2025-2026 | 40K | Project Overview: |
| | | | Project Highlights: New Flooring, Update LED Ceiling Lights, Drop Ceiling repair, Paint walls, Kitchen door pushout, Window Coverings, sound system, remove stage, Explore updated A/C units and Air circulation options for the room. Smaller aspects may be completed earlier. |
| | Total | \$189K - \$217K | |