



ANNUAL
REPORTS
June 2020– May 2021

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**ONLINE ANNUAL MINISTRY MEETING
6:30 PM, SUNDAY, MAY 30, 2021
INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS**

Preamble:

The BC Solicitor General issued a Ministerial Order April 21, 2020, allowing societies in BC to hold virtual or hybrid meetings even if their bylaws do not normally permit them to do so.¹ In light of this, and given the current Public Health Restrictions on in-person gatherings, RRCC will once again be holding our Annual Ministry Meeting scheduled for May 30th online instead of in-person.

Format:

- The meeting will take place via Zoom and will also be livestreamed on YouTube on the RRCC Online YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeC8XUfhXIJN-soBt8fhEGQ>).
- If you have never used Zoom, please go to the following link and test your device: <http://zoom.us/test>.

Preregistration:

- **All members of RRCC are asked to preregister for the Zoom meeting.** Only members will be allowed into the Zoom meeting to preserve the integrity of the voting process. Non-members are encouraged to watch on the live YouTube stream.
- **Members, please visit the following link to register. Once you've done so, you will receive an email with the link to the meeting:**
<HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/MEETING/REGISTER/TZOUFUUQRJKPETIYKBR5QC2PWMHPQTXNIVKE>
- If there are multiple members in one household, please register separately if each member can use a separate device (e.g. Phone, tablet, laptop). This ensures each member can vote. If this is not possible, see voting procedure, below.

Meeting Notes:

- Please sign-in to the meeting a few minutes early so that you can ensure the technology is working and so that we can sign people in as they arrive. Arrive as early at 6:15 p.m., the meeting will start at 6:30 p.m.
- Upon entering the meeting your microphone will be muted, and you will have the option to turn on your video so that people can see you.
- Instructions on how the meeting will proceed will be given at the start of the meeting.

¹ See <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/business/not-for-profit-organizations/societies-agm-covid-19>

Voting Procedure:

- There are three motions that will require vote by a secret ballot for our three elder nominations.
- Voting for pre-registered members will be done via Zoom polls. A poll will show up on your screen and you simply enter your vote and press the submit button.
- It is important that members in the same household register separately and use separate devices if possible.
- If a member does not have access to Zoom or does not have a separate device to participate with, they can watch the meeting via the YouTube livestream (on the RRCC Online YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeC8XUfhXlJN-soBt8fhEGQ>) and phone or email the church office when prompted to register their vote verbally. Phone: 604 856 2024, email info@rossroadcc.ca. Please email if possible, to avoid tying up the phone lines.
- Voting that does not require a secret ballot will be done by a show of hands.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Craig or Pastor Bobby.

**Ross Road Community Church
Annual Ministry Meeting Agenda
May 30, 2021
6:30 pm**

1. Prayer Encounter
2. Introduction to online meeting
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of AGM Minutes
5. Motion to receive reports
6. Overview of Discernment and Affirmation Process
7. Affirmation of Elder candidates
 - a. Brian Degelder (2nd term)
 - b. Susan Dick (2nd term)
 - c. Dan Stark (1st term)
8. Financial Update
9. Extending Our Impact Update
10. Vote Result
11. Commissioning of Elder and Deacon Team Members
12. Motion to Destroy Ballots
13. Motion to Adjourn

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UNDERSTANDING OUR PROCESS

In 2017 at our Annual Ministry Meeting, we approved new Bylaws to govern how we function as a church family. It's important to realize how valuable it is for all members to participate as we make significant decisions together. Our new bylaws require that members vote on four main aspects of church life as follows:

1. To Affirm a Lead Pastor

2. To Affirm Elders

-individually affirmed usually at our Annual Ministry Meeting (AMM) before the end of May each year.

3. To Approve our Annual Budget

-at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) within the first 90 days of each year.

4. To Approve Capital Projects

-as needed.

5. To Approve Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws.

VOTING

To ensure that votes reflect the true discernment of members together it's valuable to review what options each person has when casting a vote. This will ensure there are no unintended or unexpected results after votes are complete. Key facts to remember are as follows:

1. Each member has 3 options when deciding how to vote. A member may vote YES, NO, or may choose to abstain from voting on the motion presented.
2. A motion passes or not based on the total number of votes cast, not the number of members present in a meeting. That means all YES and NO votes cast provide the total, and the number of YES votes must meet the required percentage of those total votes for a motion to succeed.
3. A member may abstain by simply not participating in the vote on a specific motion. That means the member either does not submit their ballot, or they leave both the YES and NO options blank for the specific motion on which they choose to abstain
4. Members may choose to abstain from voting for various reasons including matters of personal conscience, a preference to let others more affected by a specific decision be the ones deciding, or even a sincere realization that they would be prepared to support either result and are happy to defer to the decision of others.

As members we are all called to prayerfully make decisions together for the good of our church.

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**Ross Road Community Church
Annual General Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2021 at 6:30 pm via Zoom**

1) Prayer Encounter – Craig Thiessen

Rick welcomed us to this Zoom Meeting.

Craig shared that he has been reading through the Psalms and has identified a few as the 'COVID Psalms' 42 and 43 - these are parallel Psalms. David shares that he has been stopped somehow that he is not able to go to the house of God. We were encouraged to respond with praise, lament, and trust. Craig read through these two psalms. We responded in prayer through the Chat feature of Zoom.

We did a test for the voting process and then shared via a 'wave' our appreciation for Craig, Bobby, Sandy and Meagan.

Rick then shared his thoughts about this past year, the trials and difficulties. He commented on how well RRCC was able to switch to online ministry. Once the pandemic has subsided and we are able to again meet in person, we will probably need to have a hybrid approach to ministry (in person and online). He outlined the needs for our Church Project to continue.

2) Approval of the Agenda - Rick Thiessen

Motion moved by Vic Martens; Seconded by Steve Nickel; Carried

3) Approval of Minutes from Annual Ministry Meeting on May 31, 2020

Motion moved by Vic Martens; Seconded by Keri Nelson; Carried

4) Presentation of the 2020 Financial Statements - Jeff Friesen

a) Motion to accept 2020 Financial Statements

Motion moved by Jeff Thiessen; Seconded by Gina Johnson; Carried

b) Motion to engage Webster & Assoc. for 2021

Motion moved by Sandy Nelson; Seconded by Cheryl Cook; Carried

5) Presentation of the 2021 Ministry Budget - Jeff Friesen/Al Stobbe

a) Review of budget process

b) Review of proposed 2021 budget

c) Motion to accept 2021 budget

Motion moved by Jeff Friesen; Seconded by Dale Regier; Carried

6) Update on Extending Our Impact Project - Len Loewen

Work has been paused due to COVID. Renovations still need to be made. The Extending Our Impact Project will continue as soon as we are able, hopefully in the near future.

7) Other New business - none

8) Motion to Destroy Ballots

Motion moved by Al Stobbe; Seconded by Meagan Nelson; Carried

9) Motion to Adjourn

Motion moved by Gina Jonson; Seconded by Jenny Thiessen; Carried

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AMM REPORTS:	PAGE:
Moderator's Report	13
Lead Pastor	14
Community Life	17
Worship Ministry	18
Adult Ministries	18
Young Adults	18
Men's Ministry	19
Hospitality Ministry	20
Encore Ministry	20
Women's Ministry	21
Student Ministries	22
Middle School	22
High School	22
Kids Ministry	24
Connect Ministry	25
LEAD Team	26
Property Ministry	28
Building Committee	29
Satellite Food Bank	29
Library Ministry	30
GO Team	31
Starfish Packs	32
Tabor Home	32
Mennonite Disaster Service	33
MEI Board	34
McLure Road Mennonite Cemetery Society	35
Financials	37
Elder Nominations	38
Elder Testimonies	38-40
Deacon Affirmations	40-44

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MODERATOR'S REPORT

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

Doesn't it feel like we have been living in darkness for the past 18 months? We react to ever changing information that is bombarding our ears and wonder what is coming next. We also wonder when this will end and life will return to normal. As believers, we are not living in darkness, however. We have the "light of life" in our hearts and He illuminates our path at all times. What a privilege that is.

A year ago we anticipated a return to normalcy in a few months' time but in 2021 we have learned to hold things loosely. At the same time, Ross Road church has been incredibly blessed. We continue to be led by an amazing staff that has regularly pivoted to trying new ways of ministering and connecting with us as a congregation. God has protected them and us, both physically and spiritually, and I believe we will all emerge from this pandemic in a stronger position than before. Our weekly online services encourage and challenge us at the same time and God's word has been proclaimed boldly this year.

As an Elder team we have enjoyed a tremendous season of unity as we support the staff and each other. What a joy it is to serve alongside a group of dedicated volunteers whose main desire is to see God glorified through and in our church. I would like to personally thank Al Stobbe and Rose Brechin, whose terms are expiring, for their faithful work these past three years. Al has worked alongside me as co-moderator and it has been wonderful to feel like we are a team.

Finally, God has not stopped working these past twelve months as he continues to strengthen us and add people to His church. We will be adding 15 new members to RRCC this spring, many through baptism, as a testimony to God's faithfulness. The church is in an extremely healthy place financially as well as we anticipate moving forward with our Extending Our Impact project sometime soon.

One day soon, we hope, we will meet face to face. What a day of rejoicing that will be. In the meantime, I would ask you to continue to pray for unity for the congregation and for the staff and elders. Let's not lose sight of the promise to us contained in Ephesians 1:18. It is my prayer for you all.

"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people..."

On behalf of the Elder Team,

Rick Thiessen

LEAD PASTOR REPORT

*“Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever;
wisdom and power are his.
He changes times and seasons;
He deposes kings and raises up others,
He gives wisdom to the wise
and knowledge to the discerning.
He reveals deep and hidden things;
He knows what lies in darkness,
and light dwells with him.”*
Daniel 2:20-21

Pastor Craig Groeschel, in his recent book, *Winning the War in Your Mind*, observes that our lives move in the direction of our strongest thoughts. When we spend much of our time fixated on what’s wrong in the world we are easily trapped in anxiety and fear. When we regularly focus our minds on Christ we live with peace and joy at the center of our lives despite the chaos of the world. Easier said than done, right? However, this is a test we’ve all faced regularly over the past year. When I’m successful at this, I remember God’s sovereignty and the fact that He is in control and is worthy of the kind of praise that Daniel ascribes to Him. When I fail, I get anxious, tired, worried, and stressed.

With this in mind, I’m pleased to write to you and to reflect on the ways that God has been faithful to us while also being mindful of the challenges we’ve faced. God’s faithfulness has been evident in so many ways and He’s provided so bountifully for us. He has blessed us with “every spiritual blessing in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3) and “His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of Him who called us according to His own glory and goodness” (2 Peter 1:3). His faithfulness reaches “to the skies” (Psalm 36:5) and His love endures forever (Psalm 136). Jesus is building His church, and nothing will overcome it (Matthew 16:18). We are witnesses of all of this at Ross Road Community Church.

The pandemic forced us to move to online church services in the blink of an eye. While we had hoped to provide more online content in the future, we were thrust into it suddenly and it has been a positive experience for us. It is gratifying to hear stories of people discovering our church online and consistently viewing our services from both nearby and far away. Some have joined our church during the pandemic despite never setting their feet in the church building! We have all been reminded that the church is the people of God on mission, not an hour on Sunday morning in a physical building. May we remember that even when we start gathering again.

I’m very proud of our staff team who have worked incredibly hard over the past year to adapt, to be creative, to discern ministry direction, to evaluate Provincial Health guidelines in relation to ministry programs, and to lean into one another. Our team enjoys working together which is such a blessing. My thanks to Ellen Funk, Sandra Nelson, Meagan Nelson, Bobby Rau, Holly McLean, Graham Hofs, and Dave & Courteney Rodda. Thanks, too, to Abbey Lin who served as an intern last summer.

Our staff team grew during the pandemic, which is perhaps unusual compared to other organizations, yet this has been strategic and helpful. Courteney began by volunteering to help with online services, then began receiving a small honorarium for filming and editing services

before joining the staff team 28-hours per week in October. She now also helps with the kid's ministry videos as well as other special video projects. Graham joined our team in a 10-hour per week position in November taking care of the audio recording for our services and kids services. Having Graham on the team has freed Dave up to focus on his main responsibilities in worship and the arts. Both Courteney and Graham have integrated seamlessly into our team and do a great job in their roles, as do the rest of our staff team.

Similarly, the elders have been a joy to work with this past year. We've prayed together, wrestled with the pandemic together, and had important conversations about discipleship and mission. Part of their job is asking the right questions so that we can keep our attention on what's most important. Thanks to Rick Thiessen and Al Stobbe who have served as co-moderators. At the beginning of the pandemic, they began a weekly check-in with me, and I've valued their care and support. The rest of the team includes Len Loewen, Brian Degelder, Rose Brechin, Mike Rosborough, Susan Dick, and Shawn Coupland. Bobby and I join as ex-officio members. Thanks to each one of these folks for their dedication to the mission God has given us. I am (and we all are) blessed by their ministry.

It would be impossible for me to list and thank the many volunteers who serve so diligently and faithfully at RRCC. I'm privileged to serve with the GO Team, the Food Bank Team, and the Discernment Team in addition to elder and staff teams. There are so many people serving God so faithfully and I'm so grateful. We cannot accomplish our mission of helping people find and follow Jesus without you!

I could easily be guilty of writing too much here, so here are a few other observations and reflections in point form:

The ministry of preaching brings me joy. God's Word is authoritative to teach and guide us and, while we always need to cling to God and His Word, this past year has allowed God to speak to us in new and different ways. We've studied the Fruit of the Spirit, much of the Gospel of Mark, our Vision, Baptism & Membership, and the book of Daniel.

The last year has, of course, brought challenges when it comes to the church's interaction with and response to government and COVID-19 related restrictions. I have, like you, at times, felt like things didn't make sense or were unfair. That said, as we've stated at various points throughout the year, we have felt like submitting to government is the right response for our church right now, but we are always praying for the Spirit's guidance. I've appreciated the interaction I've had with many of you about what we should or shouldn't do. As you can imagine, opinions can be strong on the topic. I've heard from some who think we've done too much, from others who don't think we've done enough, and from others who feel we've found a good balance. Unfortunately, there are a few who have left because of their dissatisfaction with our response. We love and bless those folks while still acknowledging that it's painful when someone decides to move on from RRCC. At the same time, we've received a massive amount of encouragement and we're so grateful for that! Please continue to pray for us as we navigate the complexity of our time and keep our eye on the mission God has given us.

Since the last AMM, 11 people have formally joined RRCC in membership (2 via baptism), and 16 others (including 8 via baptism) are in the process of doing so!

The church has cared for one another exceptionally well in the past year. I'm so encouraged when I hear of ways in which care is being extended one to another. This is how the body of Christ is supposed to work!

The generosity of our church is astounding. Not only did we exceed our church budget by a significant amount in 2020 but the Extending Our Impact building fund is steadily growing. To see this in the midst of a pandemic is so encouraging.

What does the future of the Church (the big 'C', worldwide Church) look like post-pandemic? I wish there was an easy answer to that question. Here's what I hope for:

- A church that is less "Sunday-centric", meaning a church that is made up of people on mission each day of the week
- A church that relies on the Holy Spirit in and for everything
- A humble church, one that puts aside differences in opinion to work towards the unity we have in Christ
- A church that pursues justice and reconciliation

In order to embrace what is new, some of what is old will have to be released. May God give us courage and wisdom to know how to discern these things.

In the next year, here are a few things we'll be working on as a church:

- Developing a more defined way in which we develop leaders within RRCC
- Helping people connect into community at RRCC beyond the initial welcome that we value so much
- Emerging from the pandemic in a way that allows God to be glorified and the church to be strengthened
- Continuing and strengthening our online services
- Re-starting our Extending Our Impact campaign by inviting people to participate both financially and in other important supporting roles

Church, it is such a blessing to serve God and to do so together with you. You have filled our hearts with joy time and time again. May our partnership in the Gospel produce great fruit as Jesus builds His church, as we give ourselves to the Holy Spirit, and as God the Father receives glory and praise. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

With love,
Craig, Jenny, Joshua, and Kenzi Thiessen

COMMUNITY LIFE MINISTRY

I have realized my dependence on God more than ever over the past year. More things than ever were out of my control, which forced me to leave them in God's hands. My increased dependence continued to show that...

God is good

and He is in control.

I have continually come back to these thoughts over the past year in life and ministry.

His faithfulness also created a deeper love of Ross Road Community Church. Despite a year of unprecedented challenges, our church has not only survived but thrived. While there have been challenges to overcome and conflicts to reconcile our church has become closer together. We have united in our mission to help people find and follow Jesus and to glorify God. Thank you to everyone who has supported me, our staff, and our church by serving, encouraging, giving, and loving each other.

I have admired the many care group leaders who have continuously pivoted over the last year to provide community and discipleship to the members of their group. I heard many stories of people being glad they are in a care group and the great care and connection that was happening throughout the pandemic both in group time and outside group time.

The Care Team excelled at connecting and caring for many during this season. There were many health, grief, and loneliness challenges but the Care Team stepped up to the challenge to show God's love. Lynda Stobbe, Rose Loewen, Charles Storey, and Nancy Weeks continually connected with people to make sure they knew that they were cared for.

We also started the Ross Road CC Online Facebook Group in the fall. It has been a great opportunity for people to connect and disciple one another throughout the week. The Bible reading plan has given many opportunities to learn from God's word together. There are also fun connection points throughout the week to help people connect. The Online Engagement Team has done a great job of connecting and caring for those in the group: Gina Johnson, Tim Martens, Nearissa Kasper, and Giselle Jackson. Gina continually posts heartfelt and fun posts throughout the week that I never want to miss.

It has also been a pleasure to work with our Adult Ministries at Ross Road. The leaders have had unforeseen challenges and have adapted to their circumstances. The Library and Women's ministry have been especially creative to serve in the past year. Thank you to Diane Martens (Library), Vic Martens (Encore), Art Birch (LEAD), Deanna Nickel, Shaunna Dahlen, and Cindy Hauser (Women's), Steve Nickel (Men's), Jason and Jessica Janz (Young Adults).

Yours in Christ,
Bobby Rau

WORSHIP MINISTRY

I continue to count it a privilege to serve our church family in my role as pastor of worship arts and it is a joy to work with our amazing team of musicians, vocalists, techs, and leaders. As I look back at the last year, I am filled with gratitude for how God has been faithful to our church and for how our musicians, tech and leaders have faithfully served through a difficult, unprecedented season.

There are many plans from 2019 that had to be suddenly put on hold because of COVID and now as we anticipate the eventual easing of restrictions, I am excited to review those goals and plans and see how God wants to lead us as a worship ministry. Because of such a long period of time elapsing between our last full in-person gathering and our next one I see a great opportunity to re-evaluate established patterns and implement some new approaches and goals. Above all, though, I am excited to lead live worship once again in a sanctuary filled with eager worshippers raising their voices to our King and Saviour.

Yours, in His service,
Dave Rodda

ADULT MINISTRIES

YOUNG ADULTS

This is the third year in which we've been involved in the Young Adults ministry at Ross Road Community Church, and it's been enjoyable to connect further with some of our young adults from last year, as well as welcome new young adults to the group. When considering how to approach the Young Adults 2020-2021 ministry year last August, the concept of running a 'raw' ministry kept coming to mind. The thought of planning Young Adults events and engaging with our young adults in meaningful ways in the midst of COVID restrictions seemed like a daunting task to undertake. After praying about it, we decided to follow through with a raw approach, which involved letting go of the pressure of running events in the same way that we had in the past and allowing ourselves to focus even more on Bible Study as the core of the ministry.

We began our Bible Study in the fall of 2020 by meeting outdoors in the shelter at Ellwood Park, until the weather finally forced us elsewhere. Combined with increasing COVID restrictions, we soon found a long-term home for our Bible Study on Zoom. While technology is a blessing and a privilege, it's just not the same as meeting in person and engaging face to face! However, we continue to have a steady turnout to the Zoom meetings and were able to study the letters to the churches in the book of Revelation over the fall season in late 2020. After the Christmas break, we studied through the book of Galatians, and spent some extra time at the beginning of the study looking at the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15 and its chronological and contextual relationship to the letter to the Galatians. We are ending our year in a study of 1 Peter, and it's been great to take a journey with Paul, Peter and the early church through the winter and spring of 2021.

While our focus has been on Bible Study this year, we've also been able to engage in some other activities, most of which have been online. We've played online games such as Codenames, virtual hide and seek (a person hides anywhere in the world and we try to find them using yes-and-no

questions, and we've become hopelessly addicted to GeoGuessr; a Google street-view is presented, and you must try to guess where in the world the street-view is located. We were also able to take advantage of a couple of periods in which COVID restrictions were lessened and met outside at Ellwood Park and Mill Lake.

When we first considered becoming involved in the Young Adults ministry, our perspective was always that we were stewards of the ministry, giving the ministry our best effort, but understanding that it was, is and always will be God's ministry. With this in mind and after prayerful consideration, we have decided to step down from stewarding this ministry at the end of the ministry year. We have discussed this with those attending our Young Adults Bible Study and have tried our best to reiterate that our departure is in no way a reflection of dissatisfaction on our part, nor a lack of desire to remain involved in their lives but is based on seeking God's will for our lives, trusting His guidance, and taking the next step to which He calls us.

It has been a great privilege getting to know all the young adults that have been involved in the ministry for the past three years, and we trust that God will continue His ministry as stewardship is passed on to others.

With that in mind, please continue to pray for the Young Adults ministry and its future, as well as for our young adults. Life circumstances can seem daunting - all the same pressures that have always faced young adults still exist, but they are also being forced to navigate their early adult lives in the midst of challenging circumstances that affect their relationships, schooling, and career plans. Please pray for a continued passion for God's Word, and for community with other believers, without the benefit of typical face-to-face interaction.

Young adults - we love you as our brothers and sisters in Christ. Thanks for letting us be a part of your lives. Thanks for sharpening us as we have studied God's Word together.

Sincerely,

Jason and Jessica Janz

MEN'S MINISTRY

This past year has been very quiet for us in Men's Ministry. When the pandemic hit last year, we had to stop our programming right in the middle of a breakfast series and we have not been able to start anything else since then. Men's Ministry has been on a bit of a pause as the pandemic has gone on. In the background we have been mulling our future and how to best serve the men at Ross Road Community Church.

There has also been a lot of introspection and working on ourselves personally as there has been more time for that. I (Steve) have found that I have had a lot of growth personally in this time of rest that has happened as our ministry has been dormant. I have found that to be very fulfilling and a pleasant surprise in the midst of the hardship that has been the pandemic.

One program that we have started to work on together with Pastor Bobby, has been the beginning of a new program called Radical Mentorship. This program is intended to bring 1 or 2 leaders together with a small group of guys who will meet monthly over the course of a year and read

books together, memorize scripture and get to know each other on a deeper level. Bobby and a few other men are currently going through this program together, so we are getting a chance to see how it all works, and we are hoping that this is a program that will be able to be continually supported by Men's Ministry in the future as there are willing leaders and participants.

Please continue to pray for Men's Ministry as we figure out where we will go from here and how we can help the men at Ross Road Community Church become strong leaders in both the Church and at home.

Sincerely,
Steve Nickel

on behalf of the Men's Ministry team

HOSPITALITY

The Hospitality team has met once this year to confirm our members. With COVID continuing to prevent our church body from meeting in person, we have missed serving you at church events such as Fall Kickoff, Soccer Camp, Camp Sunday, the AGM and AMM meetings, Christmas and Easter brunches, or congregational lunches on Sundays. We look forward with anticipation to the time when we're able to meet in person again and the celebration meal that will be had! Rest assured that when we come out of this, our Hospitality Team will be there!

We look forward to serving you again,

Derek Janzen

On behalf of the Hospitality Team: Karen Bergen, Monika Thiessen, Jeannette Dyck, and Sandra Nelson

ENCORE (SENIORS MINISTRY)

As with the rest of the RRCC calendar, the Encore events were greatly reduced this past year due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. Our June BBQ was moved to September 20th with about 35 attending. We had planned both a Christmas Advent evening as well as a potential Valentine's evening but both of those were cancelled. The Valentine's event was turned into a boxed event with 48 RRCC seniors (over 80) and RRCC staff receiving a loving care box filled with baked goodies from Almut & Helen and a beautiful card by Elaine.

Our next planned event is our June BBQ (Lord willing) with our regular program commencing in fall.

The RRCC volunteer choir singing at Tabor Court monthly will hopefully start serving again in fall with lunch after the 2nd service provided permission is granted.

After many years of faithful and excellent service on the Encore team as well as the Heritage Builders previously, Helen Loewen is stepping down from active involvement. She joins Elisabeth and Neil Klassen who stepped down last year. The three of them have contributed greatly to the spiritual and

social life of the seniors over many years at RRCC. The Encore team would appreciate younger members to join in serving our elders - please look at the Encore group as an opportunity to serve and not to be served.

Vic Martens

On behalf of the Encore Team: Almut Loewen, Helen Loewen, Elaine Regier, Rich & Avril Letkeman, Rose Brechin, Vic Martens

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Women's ministry started the year off with an exciting retreat at Camp Squeah. There were multiple testimonials as well as times of worship and prayer. Our theme was 'Dwell in Hope'. It was well attended and well received.

The retreat helped build community. As a team we soon discovered that we needed to focus on our online platform to keep the momentum going. Women were making deeper relationships that were spread throughout the generations. We created a safer place on our Facebook page by making it a private group. Soon after that change women were posting prayer requests, sharing resources, and helping one another when a need arose.

When the pandemic arrived, we continued our online platform. We planned what we could and were always ready to pivot if needed. In the summer we hosted a handful of outdoor Connections events. The focus was on connecting with one another and a biblical word of encouragement. It was very evident that women needed in person meetups to connect with others. These summer events were well attended and very much appreciated.

We planned for many fall and winter events that were unfortunately cancelled or moved online. For Christmas we had an online party with Cynthia Friesen sharing her story of 'unmet expectations'.

In January we moved to encouraging women to do a self-led study on a book called 'Get out of your head' by Jennie Allen. It is a book about anxiety and need for connecting with others. It was about speaking God's biblical truth into women.

To celebrate Mother's Day, we held an exciting drive thru event for our mom's. We know that this pandemic has been hard on many moms. We look forward to blessing them in a small way this season.

God was with us in a year that was unexpected and always changing. As we stayed positive and anchored in the hope we have in Jesus, we have been able to bless women at Ross Road. As a team we continue to pray for the day we can unite back together in worship and community.

Thank you,
Deanna Nickel

on behalf of the Women's Ministry Team: Cindy Hauser, Shaunna Dahlen, Karen Penner, Janelle Murray, Aimee McAlister, Gloria Born, Amanda Unger, and Cyntia Stark.

STUDENT MINISTRIES

This has without a doubt been a year of challenge. Going into a new youth year in September, I'm sure that none of us expected to be back on zoom for most of our youth year! Certainly, nothing can compare with in-person youth nights, however there are opportunities that come out of zoom youth that we wouldn't normally get in person, and for that I'm thankful! For example, I love the chance that the leaders and I have to hang out with our students on youth nights after the night is over sometimes until around 10:30pm!

Middle School Ministry Highlights

- In middle school, throughout the youth year we started with a series based on the life of Jesus, then we worked through a series on patience, in keeping with a time of our lives where we are all on the edge of our seat waiting for things to return to 'normal'.
- We had many new youth leaders start this year, including young adults and 3 high school students! It is a great team this year, and with so many of them being new leaders, I am very proud of the way they rose to the challenge of leading youth in such unpredictable times.

High School Ministry Highlights

- **Grade 12 grad** – We put together a small outdoor ceremony (*with a red carpet and everything!*) where the graduating students could attend in their prom attire! As every student arrived, we paraded them with signs and music and made them immediately walk the red carpet, and then proceed to get their photos taken with some grad 2020 balloons. After the short ceremony, we had time for the students to mingle and hangout by our propane firepit. The night later turned into a drive-in movie, which was then open to the rest of the students as well (*was done through sign up to ensure it would be under 50 people*). We even had our next-door neighbours come over for the drive-in movie!
- In high school youth, this year we worked through a couple different series including the book of James, a series on serving based on the book *"Helping without hurting"* by Steve Corbett & Brian Fikkert and a series entitled "It's not about me". With this series we looked at common bible stories from the perspective of someone other than the main character of the story.
- This year in high school youth, we also have a great leadership team including a couple of leaders who have returned after a few years off from youth leading. It is a joy to have them return to youth leading, and it is obvious that the whole team gets along wonderfully. A lot of us end up staying after on zoom connecting/playing games together until quite late.

Combined (Middle School & High School)

- Thankfully we were still able to have a Leader appreciation for 2020. We split it up into separate nights for middle school and high school to make it easier to have conversations while physically distancing.

- We were thankfully able to have a couple of summer events! We spent a day at Cultus lake together, were able to have a day at Harrison Waterpark and got together for a few Bible studies at Mill Lake.
- We converted our leader training weekend this year into a socially distanced 2-day training event. We managed to get through all the material and even have some fun at Cultus Lake as well!
- This year we decided to do something different other than Operation Christmas Child for our service project. This year we raised money to buy two goats for families in need through Food for the Hungry. This was a great way to put into practice what we had just talked about with our high school youth series.
- This Christmas the youth leaders teamed up to make goody bag deliveries to all our regular youth attendees.
- Even amidst the tight COVID restrictions, we were still able to have our annual ski-snowboard day at Manning park. This was an amazing opportunity to see the students in person again! There were around 40-50 people there in total with students, leaders, and parents.
- We have begun a partnership with the youth group and the food bank. I have arranged two groups of volunteers to come in to help pack the bags. Both experiences were enjoyable for me to be able to see some of the students again, as well as see them get to practically serve God and their local community.
- In the past few months, I have been focusing much more on meeting with students one on one. Right now, I am intentionally mentoring 3 girls, and I see at least one of them every week.
- During the students' spring break, I provided opportunities for the students to still play games together online, and we also had one night where some of us met at Mill Lake to have a socially distanced hangout.
- We are now (*in April*) starting a series on mental health with both the middle school and high school groups. We will spend quite a bit of time here and work on covering topics like anxiety, depression, mental health & the church, stigma, and more! I have been learning a lot in preparing this series and have found incredible resources through many places including RightNow Media and TeenMentalHealth.org. Many of the leaders are scheduled to share about their own mental health journeys throughout this series as well!
- Recently, I had the idea to set up a Minecraft server that is private for the youth group, and free to use it whenever they would like. Kaleb Rosborough handled the execution of this idea, as I know nothing about Minecraft... there are around 15 kids on the server now, and it is a great way for them to connect outside of just a youth night!
- **Interns** – We were blessed to work with Abbey Lin as the summer intern this year. Although it looked very different than a usual internship, she still was able to help plan & attend

summer events, lead a Bible study, connect with students through social media and help with some big picture future planning.

I'm now in the process of re-integrating in person youth nights, as there are allowances in the current health order for teen groups to meet under specific guidelines. I have started to see many other youth groups meeting together in safe ways that I believe are attainable for us as well. This will look much different than a normal youth night, and will focus more on small groups, but will still provide opportunity to be together in person once again! We will still be having a couple of zoom nights before the end of the year as well to include those who won't be allowed to return to in person yet.

God is certainly still moving in the hearts of our youth at Ross Road, and I'm so thankful to be a part of it. If you would like to partner with us in prayer, please send me a message and I will pass on to you our prayer guide!

Much Love,
Holly McLean

KIDS MINISTRIES

Kids' ministry has looked very different over the past year! The classrooms have been eerily quiet on Sunday mornings and quite a few Wednesday nights. Yet God is in control and has provided new ways for ministry to take place that wouldn't have been possible even twenty years ago. I am incredibly grateful for the technology that allows us to connect virtually!

Family Connections

In an effort to stay connected early in the pandemic, we tried several different things. Kids who came to the parking lot chalk art event in May 2020 received a goody bag of toys and colour sheets. The bags were made from soccer camp t-shirts left over from the past several years. Weekly Lego challenges were posted to our Ross Road Kids Facebook page in May and early June. Then summer activity buckets were delivered in late June. Families were given a list of 21 activities they could do together with supplies included for several of them.

Summer 2020

Abbey Lin served as the kids and youth summer intern in 2020 and did an awesome job! For kids' ministry, she helped select activities for weekly Faith@Home lessons and created two of the videos. She also assisted with planning and running day camps in August.

With all the unknowns of the pandemic, our traditional kids' soccer camp was replaced with 2-day camps. We selected a few days of "The Sweet Life" Sunday School curriculum and modified them to fit into a 2-hour timeframe. The first camp was held August 20-21 and then repeated August 27-28.

Sunday Morning Storytime

Cindy Sue Peters now hosts a Bible Storytime for preschoolers through grade 2 on Zoom each Sunday morning between the services. There are typically 6-10 kids in attendance with 6-8 leaders.

Faith@Home

For the first seven months of online services, the one weekly kids' lesson matched the adult sermon series. At the end of September 2020, we began using the Grow curriculum and created a separate video for preschool and elementary age groups. At the same time, we started packing monthly Faith@Home resource boxes for families with all the supplies needed to participate in the activities and games demonstrated onscreen. These changes have been very well received.

Initially, I did all the filming and editing for each lesson, which is quite time-consuming. I am extremely grateful for Courteney Rodda and Graham Hofs who are now part of the production team.

- Six to 10 volunteers gather once a month to pack the Faith@Home boxes.
- Several volunteers drop off boxes to families who have requested the delivery option.
- The visual environment changes each month to align with curriculum themes. This is done with purchased or created backdrops, or by using green screen technology.
- Each weekly video includes a worship song, a Bible lesson supplied by the publisher, the memory verse, and 3 lesson-reinforcing activities.
- Other people are featured in the video lessons when possible. Gabe Peters co-hosted and wrote most of the scripts for November's "Breaking News" series. Kaleb and Matthew Rosborough, Pastor Craig, Pastor Bobby, Elaine and Bob Regier, Cindy Sue Peters, Cambria Rabel, Giselle Jackson, and Ruby Setchay have all contributed as actors or scripture readers.

Awana

The club-year started later in the fall and the length of each session was shortened from 90 minutes to 60 minutes due to the pandemic. We were able to meet in-person from October 21 to November 18 before further gathering restrictions were enacted. Awana then moved online using Zoom. After reviewing the gathering guidelines in early 2021, we realized activities for kids are allowed if certain protocols were met. Two of the adjustments we made were to assign seating in classrooms and adding floor markings in the gym, so kids are spaced 2 meters apart. After a Saturday morning practice run, we resumed meeting in-person on February 24.

It is a joy to lead our Ross Road Kids ministry, even during a pandemic. I'm looking forward with anticipation to the day when we can fully regather inside the classrooms, sanctuary, and other spaces in our building.

Ellen Funk

On the behalf of the Kids Ministry Team: Melissa Degelder, Cindy Sue Peters, and Ruby Setchay

CONNECT MINISTRY

Our church experience during this year has been like no other. A few of our team served as hosts for several weeks when health orders permitted limited in-person gatherings. We are grateful that in these unusual times our pastors have adapted and still lead us in our vision to remain a **welcoming Christ-centered community** even while services have continued online. Even in these circumstances we all have opportunity to welcome people into relationship with Jesus and with our church family as we connect in unique ways.

We look forward to church gatherings in the foreseeable future and to expanding our team of **dedicated hosts, greeters, ushers, and common grounds servers who provide a welcoming environment to all who come.** We give a big thank you to all who have served so faithfully in the past and look ahead to a renewal of this ministry.

Please pray as we develop our plans to:

1. **Explore** how to draw more people into this vital ministry so we can add hosts in different areas like common grounds, and within sections in the main auditorium where people are more likely to be tuned in to those around them who are new.
2. **Improve** our training seminars to provide insight on how we can best inspire a mindset of attentively hosting every person who attends. This is true whether we are specifically “on duty” or off. How we serve is all about having people feel valued and important.
3. **Create** helpful video and written guidebooks to encourage all who serve with how crucial their ministry is and to help us continually serve with excellence.
4. **Increase** the participation of junior hosts so we develop a whole new generation who make people feel at home in our church.
5. **Maximize** the benefit of our online scheduling app to ensure we have people in place for every opportunity.
6. **Pray** for creative ideas to effectively connect with newcomers, so they want to keep coming back. Perhaps we can utilize newcomer luncheons or other ways to connect that show people we value them and are eager to help meet their spiritual and life needs.

When we meet again, let's pray that our entire church family will have a **renewed enthusiasm to welcome others extravagantly.** Perhaps the Lord is already prompting you to join our Connect Team or share some ideas you believe might help fulfill our vision. We would love to get you connected in an area where you can contribute in a way that is suitable for you.

Keep connecting,
Barry Jackson

On behalf of the Connect Ministry Team

LEAD

LEAD is an intentional discipleship ministry which purposes to develop followers of Jesus, who are growing in him and helping others to do the same. Our belief is that growing followers of Jesus are increasingly able to take the initiative, as his servants, to empower those around them to know and serve God in such a way that together they are transformed into godly wholeness.

Our team members this past year have been (in alphabetical order) T Anderson, Art Birch, Cheryl Cook, Michelle Penner, Bobby Rau, and Darcy Scholes. In the upcoming ministry year, while Cheryl Cook and Michelle Penner, who have served well on our team, will be stepping away, God has graciously provided Curtis and Joanne Congo and Rhonda Janzen to join us.

We came into this ministry year, collaborating with Pastors Craig and Bobby, at Craig’s invitation, on the development of “Hit the Mark—Discipleship Pathway of Ross Road Community Church.” I hope you own a copy, since it is packed with information about how you can continue your growth in Christ. If you don’t have a copy, we urge you to ask our church office to give you one.



The discipleship pathway envisions the flight of an arrow toward Christ, represented as the bullseye in the center of an archery target. The pathway is ideally travelled in community with others, as the first symbol on the flight of the arrow indicates. The arrow then travels through four growth stages: **Exploring Christ**, **Growing in Christ**, **Maturing in Christ**, and **Abiding in Christ**. At the same time, followers of Jesus bring each stage with them as they grow.

You’ll also see that each stage has an associated growth catalyst: Exploring Christ by **Discovering Truth**, Growing in Christ By **Practicing Disciplines**, Maturing in Christ by **Living on Mission**, and Abiding in Christ by **Submitting Humbly**.

Following the development of “Hit the Mark—The Discipleship Pathway of Ross Road Community Church,” the LEAD Team has undertaken the extensive project of producing a four-module series that we have entitled *Discover the Word*. The title is a play on words: we discover the Living Word, Jesus, in his written word, the Bible.

From the very start of the pathway, “Exploring Christ by Discovering Truth” calls for reading the word of God. There is no better way to explore Jesus than to read the gospels. That’s the focus of DTW1. This module is written specifically for those who have not yet committed their lives to Jesus, but it also has the potential to nurture growth in those who are already following him.

From there, the DTW series seeks to help believers experience Jesus more and more fully by learning to read every genre of scripture: story, psalm, wisdom, prophecy, gospel, epistle, and apocalypse. The goal is that scripture reading would become a treasured, rich aspect of a daily rhythm of grace in a believers’ walk with Jesus.

While coaching readers in the seven genres of scripture, the DTW series also introduces the catalysts for growth associated with each stage. So, for example, DTW2 introduces seven spiritual disciplines that are ideally suited to the three genres covered in that module.

We have now completed and field tested the first module. Like each module, it is designed to be highly interactive, with a wide variety of learning approaches. Ideally, a couple of people would work through it together, although it is also suitable to be done alone, in a care group, or even in a larger group. You can download a copy from the RRCC website under Ministries>L.E.A.D.>DTW1. We'd be happy to support you in making productive use of it. Just ask.

We are currently working on DTW2. As a team we collaborate on content and refinement. Art Birch is the principal writer and T Anderson, who designed the pathway pamphlet, is once again doing design and layout. We will continue this work until all four modules have been produced. We are excited about the possibility, when pandemic restrictions are over, of offering a workshop to introduce this series more fully to all of you.

While the majority of our energy is currently invested in developing the *Discover the Word* series, we continue to promote and support mentoring relationships of twos and threes, because we grow best in community. Talk to us if you feel drawn to being or having a mentor. We provide mentors with a helpful resource, *Walking Alongside Others: A Mentoring Guide*. You will also find a wealth of mentoring resources identified on our webpage under four relevant headings: Relationships, Health & Wellness, Spiritual Growth, and Leadership. This resource list is accessible to anyone.

May God himself nurture spiritual growth in us all, along with a growing capacity to impact others for him.

Gratefully,
Art Birch

On behalf of the LEAD Team: T Anderson, Cheryl Cook, Michelle Penner, Darcy Scholes and Harry Welsh.

PROPERTY MINISTRY

With the pending building renovation and the limited use of the church in the past year, our focus has been on maintaining the facility as we did not deal with any larger projects.

I would like to acknowledge Tina and Brian Cooper for their many years of work cleaning our facility which came to a close at the end of November last year.

A big thanks to Sandy Nelson for helping to organize and relay information regarding tasks related to the Property committee.

Thank you to the property team members for their behind-the-scenes work, Jeff Thiessen, Donovan Funk, Nick Born, Al Brechin, Ben Dyck and Jeremy Nunnikhoven. And also thanks to Len Loewen for his work and input as the property committee liaison on the elder team.

Respectfully,
Mike Hauser

On behalf of the property team

BUILDING COMMITTEE

It is hard to believe that a year has passed since my last building committee report, and nothing has changed significantly. Who would've believed this to be possible?

However, despite the ongoing COVID restrictions, we (the membership of RRCC) have decided at our annual AGM that it was time to reengage and proceed with the process that will prepare us to the point of permit application with the City of Abbotsford.

The building committee was restarted, with everyone on the committee continuing on. We met for the first time on May 18th and are working to secure the required consultants and engineers. Once the permit drawings are complete, the building committee will begin asking for quotes from general contractors, which will much more clearly define the project cost.

The past year has seen an unprecedented amount of money flow from the government into its constituents' hands in the form of COVID relief. The economic result is yet not fully known, but we have already realized a drastic real estate inflation and many other areas of the economy are also starting to inflate rapidly. Building materials for example have spiraled upward literally out of control. Lumber has at bare minimum, doubled since a year ago, and some particular types of lumber have gone up by over 400%. The expectation is that materials will level off and come back down somewhat, but new highwater price levels have been reached, which usually indicates that the old ones are a thing of the past. Regardless, my point is that cost expectations from early 2020 are very likely to be exceeded. This will be verified once we receive the contractor quotes.

God is with us, and He is for us. Who can be against us? (Romans 8:31) We trust that as God has been faithful to each of us throughout the past year, that He will also then be faithful to His Church. I personally have no doubt. In my morning devotions today, I read Psalm 127. *Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain.* I was reassured and reaffirmed that the Building Committee desires only to labor on the Lord's building site.

Sincerely,
Len Loewen
Chair – Building Committee

On behalf of the Building Committee: Shana Evans, Jeff Thiessen, Dylan Murray, Michael Penner, Jake Konrad

SATELLITE FOOD BANK MINISTRY

As with many of the church ministries, our group of volunteers and guests have continued to cope with the many restrictions that have changed the way our ministry has operated over the last year.

We had many decisions to make as we continued to run as an essential service to our surrounding community. Our services moved outside of the church, into the North parking lot where we set up tables to distribute hampers to our guests through a contactless drive through model. Even though

we started in the warmer months God blessed us with beautiful weather each month despite the forecast for inclement conditions, except for a snowy Saturday in February.

We witnessed another wonderful Christmas season as the church body banded together to bless our guests through the Christmas Bureau Hampers. Nine households were sponsored by 6 care groups, five households were sponsored by 4 RRCC families and 3 single people were sponsored by a collective group of people. In total 7 adults, 14 kids, 10 seniors and 3 singles were blessed through our partnership with Archways at this special time of year. Guests also received a brochure with the Christmas Eve online service information.

Members of the Stobbe care group have continued to help with stocking shelves and packing hampers on Wednesday evenings at the church. Recently, the high school youth have also been volunteering on Thursday afternoons with the same jobs, which has allowed our ministry volunteers to be present on satellite mornings to engage with our guests, who deeply miss the social interactions during our fellowship time.

We are currently working with 24 households and delivering hampers to 6 of those households.

Our guestlist has changed over the course of the last year, which is expected, but the hardest thing that we have had to face in the last year was the loss of two of our guests in March. Neither were expected and have devastated our team. This was not something that I was personally prepared for, but I am grateful for the team members that have rallied around the families who have mourned the loss of their loved ones. This path has stretched us, but God has been opening doors for important conversations to happen and hearts to be heard while healing takes place.

Our ministry has faced several obstacles over the last 12 months, but God remains faithful and our Guide as we continue to work together to meet not only the physical essential needs of our guests, but the emotional, spiritual and eternally essential ones as well.

Furthering His Kingdom together,

Michelle Penner

On behalf of the Food Bank Ministry Team

LIBRARY REPORT

"To acquire the habit of reading is to construct for yourself a refuge from almost all the miseries of life." – W. Somerset Maugham

It may be a surprise to some of you that the library has been functioning, albeit at a reduced capacity, during this time of COVID restrictions. Usually either Marilyn Wedel or I open the library for about an hour each week to clear returned items and sign out new ones. Approximately two dozen people have used the library resources this past year.

There are several ways to gain access. As the newsletter states each week, after an e-mail or phone call to Marilyn or me we arrange for patrons to borrow items. Some readers are happy to have books selected and signed out for them. These are left in the lobby and can be picked up during church office hours. Others prefer to meet one of us and browse through the collection making

their selections independently. A few borrow the key from the secretary and go in on their own signing out items on a clipboard from which we later enter the books into our computer circulation system. There is even a library “door dash” drop-off service.

We are also continuing to purchase newly published items of current interest. Last summer we added several titles dealing with racial issues. As usual, adult fiction remains most popular. Each week a new book is featured in the newsletter. It is also possible to search our database and make requests that way. We would love to see more people use our resources, particularly now when we need to stay close to home.

Diane Martens
On behalf of the library committee

GLOBAL OUTREACH TEAM

This year our team consisted of Craig Thiessen, Christy Peters, Tim and Elvira Martens, Fabiola Rojas, Derrick Dick and Donna Penner.

We did have one face-to-face meeting in the early fall but have been conducting regular meetings via Zoom for most of the year. Zoom has given us the opportunity to meet with local workers as well as some of our global partners that are not in Abbotsford and we have been able to visit with Cynthia Friesen, Dale Regier, Paul and Edna Cairns, Janice Esau, Saji Oommen, Carol McLean, George D., and Conner and Lauren King. During our meetings, we have also been reading about other countries through a book called *Praying for the World* and pray for the spiritual needs of a different country each month.

We have continued to support our global partners at home and on the field through finances, emails, and regular prayer. Currently our church supports 7 overseas and 6 in-country individuals or families financially as well as numerous others in prayer, visits, and encouragement. We also send out virtual birthday and Christmas greetings to each individual.

The GO Team has also been able to support the needs of some of the ministries represented such as promoting the drive for snack packs for the truck drivers as organized by Paul and Edna Cairns. We were able to complete the revision of our handbook last fall and have that online so it can be easily passed to new members. We have also started using a Biannual report form to keep in touch with the needs of some of our partners more often.

We are currently working in coordination with the office staff to include information about our global partners on our website. We have chosen the term ‘global partners’ to replace the term ‘missionaries’ which can have negative connotations in some areas.

We continue to promote all our partners through the Missionary of the Week prayer focus. As a team, we encourage everyone to keep our RRCC global partners lifted in prayer.

Respectfully,
Donna Penner
on behalf of the GO Team

STARFISH PACKS

Starfish Packs has run smoothly this year despite COVID. Last spring saw the children receiving monthly hampers of food. Regular deliveries were able to resume this fall, only the food has been delivered in plastic shopping bags, rather than using the backpacks. This allows our team to only have one trip to each school a week and lessens concerns around transmission via fabric.

We continue to pack around 20 bags a week, 12 of which are funded by our church. Our schools continue to be Aberdeen, Ross, Bradner, and Abbotsford Traditional Middle School.

A continued “thank you” to all our volunteers in this ministry. I greatly appreciate the time you spend picking up, sorting, and delivering the food to the schools. We could not run this ministry without the faithful volunteers who together fill the calendar each school year.

Another “thank you” to the staff at the Whatcom Save On Foods. The food is paid for at food-bank costs and then sorted by the staff into the correct portions for each church. This makes pick-up quick and seamless. Please pray that as our and other churches pick-up each week that we can be good witnesses toward the staff members we interact with.

And lastly, a “thank you” to the Abbotsford School District for allowing us to serve the children in their schools in such a practical way. Pray that this opportunity continues and that as COVID restrictions lift we will still be welcome to invite these students to church summer day camps.

Please continue to pray for the children and families receiving these Starfish Packs.

Respectfully,
Marianne Rosborough

TABOR HOME

Tabor Home has served the MB churches and the community in and around Abbotsford since 1961 when it opened on 18 April to serve residents in 39 rooms. Our families and their loved-ones benefit from the “Care from the Heart” that Tabor provided in the past 60 years.

As a non-profit faith-based society, THS has taken on the responsibility of replacing our complex care residence (planned for 154 residents) at a cost of \$40+ million on land that it presently owns. We thank RRCC for its contribution to THS of 4% of cash received for the RRCC Building campaign up to a maximum of \$50,000. We are asking the Fraser Health Authority to help us to rebuild. At present, THS is pursuing rezoning with the City of Abbotsford for two lots that will allow THS to add about 60 additional assisted living suites.

Our seniors, both in their own homes as well as in care homes, need additional support. Thank you for remembering to encourage and pray for them especially during this time of crisis caused by the COVID-19 virus. We mourn with the families of the 26 residents of Tabor Village that died as a result of the pandemic. The care-home staff and home-care workers have done their best to provide for our residents. Many staff are burned out physically and emotionally with the extra

work and precautions needed to care for their charges. Please pray for them to find rest and rejuvenation as they recover.

THS appreciates the support of RRCC as a church and as individual members. The RRCC volunteer choir was unable to serve the residents of Tabor Court on the 3rd Sunday for the past year. Hopefully we will be able to visit and serve them again by September.

On behalf of Tabor Home Society,
Jake Konrad (vice-chair) and Victor Martens (chair)

MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE

For the benefit of people that are new to Ross Road, here is a brief description! Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) is a volunteer network through which various groups within the Anabaptist tradition assist people affected by disasters in North America. The organization was founded in 1950 and was incorporated as a nonprofit organization in 1993. MDS currently involves more than 3,000 members of the Mennonite, Amish and Brethren in Christ churches. The primary focus of the service is cleanup, repair, and the rebuilding of homes. MDS also works closely with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). A quarterly newsletter called On the Level is published and is available on-line

Due to the pandemic, there are no major MDS projects in Canada at this time. (Just a few smaller local ones, see below.) Also due to the pandemic, the U.S./Canada border is closed so Canadians can't go south to places where MDS is able to operate

An initiative was begun in 2020 and continues in 2021 in response to the Covid Crisis. Over \$90,000 in grants has been given to local churches and ministries responding to pandemic needs in their communities through the **Spirit of MDS Fund**. Funding is available to help Canadian congregations meet practical needs in their communities for things like food, shelter, PPE and emergency financial assistance such as rent, groceries, and medications.

MDS and MCC are working together in Ontario to renovate an office that will house MCC's Indigenous Neighbours program in Timmins.

In collaboration with Menno Homes, MDS is making a former derelict home livable again for a low income Family!

For more info and volunteer opportunities please visit their website or Facebook page.
<https://www.facebook.com/MennoniteDisasterService/> and <https://mds.mennonite.net>

Respectfully,
Jake & Phyllis Epp

MEI BOARD

MEI is comprised of an elementary, middle, and high school where strong Christian values are promoted in an academic environment. This past year at MEI has been both an exciting one as well as a challenging one due to the COVID-19 pandemic that has turned many aspects of traditional educating upside down.

Under the guidance and leadership of our Head of Schools, Vijay Manuel, MEI is continuing to focus on their vision of providing "an engaging learning environment for all their students" while undertaking the challenges of "Virtual" or online instruction. These teaching methods were obviously and suddenly thrust upon everyone involved. The amount of cooperation, communication and trust that has been shown by School administration, teachers, support staff and the students themselves has been truly amazing. There has been a significant amount of extra time and hours. Thankfully, the staff and students were able return to the classrooms in September. This has been very beneficial for all involved but it has come with a whole new set of challenges in following the Provincial Covid 19 guidelines. From the administration to the teachers, support staff, janitorial staff, and bus drivers, the entire staff have been amazing. Extra precautions, extra cleaning and nonstop sanitizing has in large part kept everyone safe! A job very well done!

The following goals are still the focus:

- Modelling and teaching worship as a lifestyle built on Biblical foundation.
- Effectively communicating with students and parents.
- Maintaining a committee to guide the annual plan for growth.
- By intentionally developing the character of our students through engagement confirming that they are individually and collectively valued.
- Finding ways to connect with the larger Abbotsford community.

The mission of MEI is to work in cooperation with the families and our supporting churches to equip our children and young people to live a life of faithfulness to and excellence for God's Kingdom. MEI highly values their supporting churches through financial contributions, curriculum development and leadership input. With this continued support, all campuses of the school continue to be strong leaders in educational training.

Registrations continue to climb at all campuses. Unfortunately, the present pandemic has pretty much cancelled our international students from attending MEI. This is both a spiritual concern for their wellbeing as well as and a financial concern to the budget.

Our Head of Schools, Vijay Manuel, would like to share the following:

1. Registration

Other than the International program, our registration numbers have risen to capacity with a completely full school for this year.

2. What needs to be addressed moving forward? - (a goal, dream, & hope)

MEI has continued developing the plan to renovate the existing secondary building which was built on the Downes Road site in 1981. There has been a lot of planning work that has been done already and we are developing the strategy that will move us forward.

3. How can you pray for our ministry?

- Please pray for the health of the entire MEI staff and students throughout this pandemic.
- Please pray for wisdom in understanding the needs of each staff member and student.
- Please pray for the International students and program.
- Please pray for spiritual protection.
- Please pray that our students would make decisions to follow Jesus and grow in their faith.
- Please pray for our teams as we continue to develop a renovation plan for the secondary school building.

MEI is intentional at being good stewards with the funds that it receives from tuition, Church support and donations. MEI is blessed with having many committed and dedicated leaders, teachers, and support staff, who share the vision of seeing students become fully equipped for their future. Ross Road Community Church has teachers, staff, and many students involved in MEI this year and we ask that you continue to pray and support this important ministry in the upcoming years.

Respectfully,
Ken Nelson

MCLURE ROAD MENNONITE CEMETERY SOCIETY

Due to COVID19 restrictions the last annual general meeting of the MRMCS was on April 1, 2019. Because of this there is little new information to report. It is planned if possible, to have a society meeting in September of this year. Our Church is a member of this society. The requirement for maintaining membership is having a representative at each AGM of the society.

There is a financial advantage in burial fees for persons from member churches.

Some survey work has now been done on the additional 2 acres of land purchased in 2011 for expansion, as space in the original cemetery is almost used up.

Due to the current BC provincial health regulations, Maclure Road Mennonite Cemetery Society has made some the following adjustments to its COVID-19 Safety Plan:

1. Graveside attendance is limited to no more than 10 persons (this includes officiant and/or funeral directors).

2. Guests must wear face masks and stand 2m apart from each other, except for those in the immediate household.
3. We respectfully request all graveside services be kept to a maximum of 1 hour in length.
4. Receptions associated with funerals are not allowed at any location, including any public or community-based venues.

Full information regarding fees and other pertinent details can be obtained by visiting the society's website at www.maclureroadmennonitecemetery.com or by telephone at 604.226.7772.

Respectfully,
Jake Neufeld

ROSS ROAD COMMUNITY CHURCH FINANCIAL POSITION ON April 30, 2021

OPERATIONS AND CAPITAL EXPENSES				
	Year to Date	Year to Date	Variance	ANNUAL
	April 2021	April 2021	Good	2021
REVENUE	Actual	Budget	(Bad)	BUDGET
Donations	237,343	305,736	(68,393)	917,207
Rent & Misc. Income	5,195	5,931	(736)	17,793
TOTAL REVENUE	242,538	311,667	(69,129)	935,000
EXPENSES				
Church Ministries	3,230	7,076	3,846	21,229
Missions	28,731	28,545	(186)	83,134
Loan Interest & Bank Charges	1,808	1,397	(411)	4,192
MB Conferences & Ministries	15,337	15,500	163	70,083
Staff Expenses	1,862	5,100	3,238	15,300
Staff Salaries & Benefits	171,523	176,179	4,656	528,537
Property & Facilities	26,041	28,500	2,459	85,500
Children's Ministries	2,637	4,272	1,635	12,815
Administrative Expenses	9,316	14,233	4,917	34,700
Music Ministries	1,663	2,623	960	7,870
Hospitality Ministries	597	1,980	1,383	5,940
Youth Ministries	1,097	5,233	4,136	15,700
Total Ministry Expenses	263,842	290,639	26,797	885,000
South Asian Ministry Support	5,000	5,000	0	5,000
Principle Loan payment	54,604	53,072	(1,532)	53,032
Major Expenditures	2,892	3,000	108	34,180
TOTAL EXPENSES	326,338	351,711	25,373	977,252
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(83,800)	(40,045)	(43,755)	(42,252)

FUND BALANCES

Care Fund	12,219
Starfish Backpacks	8,727
Building	448,191
Missions	16,308
Refugee	38,762
Scholarship Endowment (Base)	27,603
Scholarship Distribution	2,407
Camp Ministry	2,948

2021 Year to Date Comments

- 1 Year to Date \$69,000 less received than budgeted
- 2 Year to Date actual expenses are \$25,000 less than budgeted
- 3 Total received this Year to Date for Building Fund is \$77,095
- 4 Building Fund Balance \$448,191

ELDERS AND MINISTRY LEADERSHIP 2021

A. ELDERS

The Members affirm as Elders those men and women presented by the Discernment Team at a Membership Meeting. Elders are normally affirmed for a three-year term and can serve 2 consecutive terms. They are affirmed by the membership at the AMM by 75% approval. More information on the nominees can be found in this package.

Name (First Elected)	Term	Term Expires	Status
Al Stobbe (2015)	1	May 2021	Term expires
Rose Brechin (2018)	2	May 2021	Term ends
Susan Dick (2018)	2	May 2021	Term ends
Brian Degelder (2018)	1	May 2021	Term ends
Len Loewen (2016)	2	May 2022	Term continues
Rick Thiessen (2017)	2	May 2023	Term continues
Shawn Coupland (2020)	1	May 2023	Term continues
Mike Rosborough (2020)	1	May 2023	Term continues

Thanks to Al Stobbe for 6 years of service and to Rose Brechin for 3 years of service!

Nominations:

Susan Dick (2 nd term)	May 2024
Brian Degelder (2 nd term)	May 2024
Dan Stark (1 st term)	May 2024

Elder Nominees (In Alphabetical Order)

Brian Degelder

I've been attending here at RRCC for around 12 years and Ross Rd has been an amazing community to be raising our family in. I came to faith as a child having been raised in a healthy Christian home. Maturing in my faith has been a lifelong process for me and I continue to learn and realize how amazing God's love and grace is. Living in the truth of my salvation gives me a desire to serve God in His kingdom in whatever way I can.

I have very much appreciated the opportunity to serve as an elder for the past 3 years at RRCC. We have an amazing team of elders here and I have appreciated seeing and working with the pastors and board seeking God's will for our church and striving to further the mission of our church. It has been really encouraging to hear stories from new members about how they have found Ross Rd. to be such a welcoming church and feeling the power of God at work within our community. I believe that the focus of our church on our mission to help people find and follow Jesus has been helping us as individuals and well as together to develop deeper maturity in our faith while also focusing on reaching out to those around us who need to hear the gospel.

My greatest prayer for RRCC is that we fearlessly continue to seek after the calling God has given us to bring glory to his name by sharing the truth of the gospel. I also pray that as brothers and sisters in Christ we continue to love and encourage each other to grow and step out in faith, trusting that God is at work in each one of us for the good of His Kingdom.

Susan Dick

I accepted Christ as my Saviour at the age of 14 and have served him ever since. At Ross Road, I have continued to grow in my faith, especially during this time of COVID. Last year we returned to Abbotsford after a tour in Israel, and Egypt. We participated in the Panim el Panim (Face to Face) tour through MB Seminary. It was an amazing trip and was so worthwhile: it completely changed how I read the Bible. When we returned, it was to a completely new world. But I soon found that this new world is still under God's mighty domain, despite the trials. God has proven himself to be so good to all of us

Over the last three years as a new elder, I have been blessed in many ways. The elder team is made up of amazing men and women who love the Lord and want to serve him and his Ross Road Church. I have learned much from them. It has also been a blessing to get to know the pastoral staff better. Getting to know what happens day-to-day, week-to-week, and year-by-year has given me so much more insight, appreciation, and sense of awe about how well God has equipped Ross Road for such a time as this.

God is working at Ross Road Community Church. The faithfulness of you all has been very humbling. The interactions I have, our online presence, the financial health of our church, the different events that have been planned, all attest to this. God is moving in us, his people. I am so excited to be part of this church, and see God continue to move in wondrous ways.

My prayers for the future are that God will work in each one of us, and allow Ross Road to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

I look forward to continuing to serve God as an elder for the next three years.

Dan Stark

I met my wife Cynthia at her church in 1991. My home church was very small and had run out of eligible women, so I thought it would be a good idea to try out a bigger church, and I was not disappointed. We have been married for almost 28 years. Our son Jonah is 23, our daughter Lily is 21 and our daughter Ava is 18.

I gave my heart to Jesus when I was seven years old. My parents brought me to Sunday school, and I learned all about Jesus. When my parents felt I was old enough to understand, they asked me if I would like to give my heart to Jesus and ask Him to put my name in his book of life. I was baptized when I was 16.

We came to Ross Road in 2000. My wife's Uncle recommended Ross Road to us because there were so many kids here, and that was important to us at the time. We also felt such a sense of community here. Since then, we've been involved in various aspects of the church. We serve presently in Common Grounds and have been part of many care groups. Cynthia served on Women's Ministry and taught Sunday School and VBS, as well as Girls Night Out. I was in Men's Ministry for a while, and I served on the elder board. I even sang in some productions that we had put on, but for some reason, have not been asked to sing since!! Haha!

I feel called to be an elder because I want to serve Jesus and I care about His church. My greatest prayer for Ross Road church is that we would really enjoy the Lord's presence and experience Him in a more deep and meaningful way than what we've even done in the past. I pray that we would be amazed to see Him at work in our lives. I want to see His love flowing through us in such a contagious way, that people can't help but want to be part of that and experience it for themselves.

B. DEACON MINISTRIES (In Alphabetical Order)

Ministry team leaders are considered deacons of Ross Road Community Church and are discerned by the Discernment Team in cooperation with current ministry teams and other congregants. Ministry Team members are affirmed by the Discernment Team. Ministry team leaders and team members normally serve 2-year terms and can normally serve 3 terms consecutively. Ministry team leaders (deacons) are highlighted in bold below, when applicable.

CARE: Pastor – Bobby Rau

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Carly Toews (2020)	1	2022	Term continues
Nancy Weeks (2020)	1	2022	Term continues
Charles Storey (2020)	1	2022	Term continues
Lynda Stobbe (2017)	3	2023	Term renews
Denise Tall (2021)	1	2023	New member
Joanne Friesen (2021)	1	2023	New member

Thanks to Rose Loewen (8 years), Karen Wiebe (4 years), Fabiola Rojas Ruiz (2 year), and Neil & Elisabeth Klassen (2 years) for your service!

CONNECT: Pastor – Bobby Rau

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Barry Jackson (2018)	2	2022	Term continues
Giselle Jackson (2018)	2	2022	Term continues
Kory Dicks - ushers (2018)	2	2022	Term continues
Nearissa Kasper – greeters (2018)	2	2022	Term continues
Jen Thomas (2017)	3	2023	Term renews
Dale Regier (2021)	1	2023	New member
Teresa Regier (2021)	1	2023	New member

Thanks to Will Wall for 2 years of service!

DISCERNMENT: Pastor – Craig Thiessen & Elder Brian Degelder, appointed

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Karen Stobbe (2016)	3	2022	Term continues
Elaine Regier (2020)	1	2022	Term continues

ENCORE: Pastor – Bobby Rau

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Vic Martens (2018)	2	2022	Term continues
Rich Letkeman (2020)	1	2022	Term continues
Avril Letkeman (2020)	1	2022	Term continues
Almut Loewen (2013)	5	2023	Term renews
Elaine Regier (2019)	2	2023	Term renews

Thanks to Elisabeth Klassen (8 years) and Helen Loewen (5 year) for your service!

FINANCE: Elder – Rick Thiessen

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Jake Konrad (2016)	3	2022	Term continues
Scott Miller (2020)	1	2022	Term continues
Ben Toews (2020)	1	2022	Term continues
Jeff Friesen (2019)	2	2022	Term renews
Phil Giesbrecht (2019)	2	2023	Term renews
Kory Dicks (2021)	1	2023	New member
Cheryl Cook (2021)	1	2023	New member

FOOD BANK: Pastor – Craig Thiessen

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Michelle Penner (2019)	2	2023	Term renews
Bob Regier (2019)	2	2023	Term renews
Elaine Regier (2019)	2	2023	Term renews
David Penner (2021)	1	2023	New member

GLOBAL OUTREACH: Pastor – Craig Thiessen

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Derrick Dick (2017)	3	2023	Term renews
Donna Penner (2016)	3	2022	Term continues
Fabiola Rojas (2020)	1	2022	Term continues
Tim Martens	1	2022	Term continues
Elvira Martens	1	2022	Term continues
Christy Peters (2018)	2	2022	Term continues
Rose Brechin (2021)	1	2023	New member

HOSPITALITY: Staff Support – Sandra Nelson

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Derek Janzen (2011)	6	2023	Term renews
Monika Thiessen (2011)	6	2023	Term renews
Karen Bergen (2011)	6	2023	Term renews
Jeanette Dyck (2019)	2	2023	Term renews

LEAD: Pastor – Bobby Rau

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Darcy Scholes (2018)	2	2022	Term continues
Harry Welsh (2020)	1	2022	Term continues
Art Birch (2019)	2	2023	Term renews
T. Anderson (2017)	3	2023	Term renews
Rhonda Janzen (2021)	1	2023	New member
Curtis Congo (2021)	1	2023	New member
Joanne Congo (2021)	1	2023	New member

Thanks to Cheryl Cook and Michelle Penner for 4 years of service!

LIBRARY: Pastor – Bobby Rau

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Diane Martens (2010)	6	2022	Term continues
Marilyn Wedel (2010)	6	2022	Term continues
Donna Penner (2016)	3	2022	Term continues
Frieda Loewen (2010)	6	2023	Term renews
Ginni Amendt (2015)	4	2023	Term renews

MEN'S MINISTRY: Pastor – Bobby Rau

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Steve Nickel (2018)	2	2022	Term continues
Doug Parton (2020)	1	2022	Term continues

Thanks to Dan Stark (2 years), Bob Regier (4 years), and Lloyd Pattenden (4 years) for your service!

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT: Pastor – Bobby Rau

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Gina Johnson (2021)	1	2023	New member
Tim Martens (2021)	1	2023	New member
Giselle Jackson (2021)	1	2023	New member
Nearissa Kasper (2021)	1	2023	New member

PROPERTY: Elder – Len Loewen

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Ben Dyck (2018)	2	2022	Term continues
Jeremy Nunnikhoven (2020)	1	2022	Term continues
Mike Hauser (2017)	3	2023	Term renews
Donovan Funk (2019)	2	2023	Term renews

Thanks to Al Brechin (8 years), Jeff Thiessen (6 years), and Nick Born (2 years) for your service!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY: Pastor – Bobby Rau

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Shaunna Dahlen (2018)	2	2022	Term continues
Deanna Nickel (2018)	2	2022	Term continues
Gloria Born (2018)	2	2022	Term continues
Janelle Murray (2018)	2	2022	Term continues
Aimee McAllister (2018)	2	2022	Term continues
Karen Penner (2018)	2	2022	Term continues
Cynthia Stark (2018)	2	2022	Term continues
Jane Welsh (2020)	1	2022	Term continues
Sarah Van Belle (2020)	1	2022	Term continues
Cindy Hauser (2019)	2	2023	Term renews
Amanda Unger (2019)	2	2023	Term renews

YOUNG ADULTS: Pastor – Craig Thiessen

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
TBD			
TBD			

Thanks to Jason & Jessica Janz for 3 years of service!

C. REPRESENTATIVES TO PARTNER MINISTRIES**MACLURE ROAD MENNONITE CEMETERY: 1 POSITION**

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Jake Neufeld	2	2023	Term renews

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE (MCC): 1 POSITION

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Susan Dick (2018)	2	2022	Term continues

MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICES:

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Jake Epp (2014)	4	2022	Term continues
Phyllis Epp (2014)	4	2022	Term continues

MENNONITE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE BOARD: 1 POSITION

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Ken Nelson (2019)	2	2023	Term renews

TABOR VILLAGE SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES:

<i>Name (Began serving)</i>	<i>Term</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Status</i>
Jake Konrad (2015)	4	2023	Term renews
Vic Martens (2015)	4	2023	Term renews

Our Mission:
“Helping People Find and Follow Jesus”

Our Vision:
“To be a welcoming, Christ-centered community that glorifies God by impacting individuals and families near and far.”