



2021

ANNUAL REPORT



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2022

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Lead Pastor Annual Report

Held Back but Moving Forward!

I am thankful that God knows what He is doing because there certainly have been times when I was unsure of what to do. Perhaps you have felt that way at times.

Thank God for His word, which continually assures us that we will move ahead in times when things are held back. God's Word continually gives us encouraging words such as "fear not" or "I am with you" or to be "strong in the Lord and in the power of His might". Possibly the most popular verse we use in times like this is, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJ) The truth is that God is never held back from doing His will. Our job is to pray that God's will is accomplished in our lives, in our church and in our community.

At Bethel we want to "Be-the-Light" that shines in a world that desperately needs to know the peace and love of God... a light that is steadfast in troubled times. It will be interesting to find out what our church and community will look like as we start to live in a post-Covid world.

As I have been seeking the Lord for direction in our church, I know that God will be moving in the following areas:

- ***To recreate community*** : Our hope is to create an environment of warmth and inclusion once again; to feel that we are a family and to know that we are cared for. This atmosphere of love and acceptance has been difficult to feel or experience when limited by pandemic restrictions. Our prayer is that God will restore friendship and fellowship as we seek to allow opportunities for Him to minister to us, whether in person or online, in a large group setting or church event, and in home groups when we are able to meet safely. This may take time, but it is worth the effort of everybody to create the sureness of being loved in an unsure world. I know that God is pleased when we live together in a loving, unified community.

- ***To be a church in our community, for our community*** : In 2022 Bethel will serve a distinct role as a church in Brandon. God is going to use our church to prove to our community that God loves them. Obviously, that can not be done by confining ourselves to the four walls of our building. It is true that people don't care what you know until they know that you care. As we continue to create opportunities to serve our community, we are trusting that the Holy Spirit will use these acts of love to reveal His love and care for lost people who are desperately looking for hope and life.
- ***To be multi-generational, multi-cultural, multi-faceted*** : Bethel has always sought to be a church that serves every generation. We want to do our best to minister to everyone who calls Bethel home. We also want to reach and include every culture as we seek to reach the mosaic of believers and people we now have in our community. God is calling us to reach, include and welcome every culture to incorporate all their gifts, talents and contributions to reach our new world. We want to eliminate any cultural or language barriers so that every person can truly feel loved and at home irrespective of race or culture. We also desire to be multifaceted, continuing to be versatile in changing times. We want to be effective in inviting people to a life that matters.
- ***To be a church which is inviting*** : Recently God has been revealing to me as we go ahead in these unique times that there is a challenge to be a church that is inviting; inviting in a number of ways. Not only is God calling Bethel to invite the lost to come to know Him but also to invite each other to walk closely with Jesus together. God will be asking us to engage in a new level of hospitality in exercising true love for each other. I know that God's richest blessing will be found in these efforts. Perhaps most of all, we will be inviting the Holy Spirit to move, to change, to save, to heal and deliver. The altar at our church will be opened regularly to allow God to do the work He desires in us. Any positive and lasting change will happen because the Spirit of God is in charge!

Thank you for your prayers. They certainly have been needed as we navigated in uncharted waters. Thank you to all staff and leadership who have worked so hard to serve our church so that we can "Be-the-Love", "Be-the-Life" and "Be-the-Link". Thanks for your patience. It has not been easy on any of us but with God's help we will make it. Thanks for your participation. Church life does not go ahead without people who love Jesus sacrificing hours to kingdom work. And finally, thanks for your support. It has kept our ministries afloat as we have sought to reach people.

Simply put, this church is not a building; it is a family of people who love Jesus, who join together for the cause of Christ to fulfill the great commandment and the great commission.

We look forward to what God will do in 2022!

Pastor Mike Gordon

2022

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1) Welcome/Announcements & Offering

2) Convene Annual Congregational Meeting

3) M/SC/C Appointments of the recording Receptionist & Administrator

4) Members Present

5) Quorum requirement - 50% of voting membership

6) The 2021 Annual Minutes were reviewed by the Elders Council

on May 18th, 2021

7) Josh will introduce Videos from:

- Children's Ministry - Pastor Stephen

- Youth Ministry - Pastor Bryce

- Missions - Sherilyn

8) M/SC/C to approve the ministry reports shared by Josh Bambridge.

9) Finance Ministry, Josh will introduce the Finance video

10) MOTION M/SC/C to approve the Financial Report (presented on April 10, 2021)

By Neal Boyce.

11) Looking to the Future

12) Prayer for Staff & Elders

13) M/SC/C to adjourn and close in prayer.

Pastor Glenn Paddock
Praise & Worship; College & Career

Wow, when you look back, what a year!

In Praise & Worship Ministries, we started out the year with only four people allowed on the Praise & Worship team, livestreaming to an empty room with half of the equipment we needed to make that happen. It was pretty rough sounding. And throughout the year we have run cables, repaired sound boards, purchased new lights and set up a second sound board in a separate room from which to broadcast online. Once we figured it out for Sundays, the youth were trained to livestream their services.

Then summer came and we moved everything outside, running cables again and purchasing a radio transmitter so we could do church in the parking lot. Again, it started out pretty rough and we learned as we went. By the end of the summer, it was running pretty smoothly. Being outside gave us the chance to set up all the new lights, cables, and sound without having to work around all the events. In September we moved everything back into the sanctuary, finally getting all the parts, cables and lights set up in there, along with a new laptop to run the keyboard with new sounds, etc., learning how to use it all effectively. We started a regular vocals-only practice on Thursday nights before band practice and got back to working with teams and having people in the building in many ways, trying to gather while still following regulations.

College & Career was back and forth, but for the most part we were able to keep something going that worked within restrictions: skating, bowling, hanging out at our place or Manhattan Beach, meals, devotionals, and sports nights, with anywhere from five to 25 people. It developed into much more of a family feel when we all got together. At the end of the year, College & Career transitioned to Pastor Bryce's oversight.

Other things to highlight: we were able to host Christian Heritage School Grad in our parking lot in June. We were also able to have people in the building in October and host Creation Ministries for a citywide event.

Personally, we renovated two bathrooms. Our oldest son entered his final year of high school and we said our final goodbyes to my mom in December. Thank you to everyone for your thoughts and prayers. Others in the church have passed away this year as well who will be greatly missed.

Moving ahead we are not where we once were, and we are not where we will be. God is on the MOVE. Recently I've sensed HIS moving and HIS hand in all of it as we keep focused on Him, continuing to build his house. As we focus on the multigenerational and multicultural aspects of our church we will see where he is leading us together as the body of Christ in 2022.

Blessings & Wisdom
Pastor Glenn

Brent Schram
Grounds and Building Maintenance

This year we had the privilege of hiring a summer student. He cut the grass, fixed pot holes, did some painting and other odd jobs around the church. He kept busy and did a fantastic job!

We levelled out a spot along the south parking lot to create a skating rink. We purchased a tarp and with the help of the fire department we filled it with water, and with the -45 degree weather, we had a rink. Unfortunately, a couple of weeks later it warmed up to +5 degrees and it melted, creating a ridge in the middle. We were getting it fixed when the February weather turned again and we had more plus degree days and a rain, which fixed it for good. I am excited for next year, to get it started a lot earlier and, with some knowledge and better tools, we will have a great rink for the community and us to use.

In the building, we moved the youth lounge to a different room as we needed a larger room for the expanded media ministry due to Covid-19. We also began to create a room with a coffee bar feel that the youth could use as an area to hang out. It is still a work in progress.

We had to do a couple of small repairs to the aging boilers and other maintenance items that came up due to our aging building.

We also are in the process of looking into giving the sanctuary a major face lift, removing the back wall and creating full-size gymnasium. This would meet a need in our community as there is very little gym space to rent and it would give us a source of income. It also gives us a multipurpose room that could be used for all kinds of events and increases our seating capacity. In this renovation we would like to address the boiler system, the sanctuary and the foyer. We are currently in the planning stages and are getting preliminary drawings made to present to the congregation.

Chris Mohan
Technology

In 2021, our only major technology project was an upgrade to the stage lighting. Because of the ongoing impact of the pandemic, providing a high- quality live stream for Sunday services has been important. Since lighting is one of the most critical components to producing a quality video image, an upgrade to our aging stage lighting was necessary.

There are no major projects planned for 2022.

Phil Price
Seniors Ministry 2021

1 Corinthians 2:5 “That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.” (KJV)

2021 has come and gone, and along with it, most of the Covid mandates. We have enjoyed a few Seniors meetings in 2021 and look forward to a new chapter in 2022.

The fellowship and friendship that is found at Seniors is like coming home. Home is where the heart is, and we pray that in the coming year we will enjoy our freedom of worship and fellowship where friends find a home to share past and present experiences.

The coffee and fellowship have made the Seniors sweet as can be. Be sure to come to the Seniors (all ages welcome) and enjoy the songs of the past and hidden treasures of the heart found in feeling loved.

Phil Price

Joshua Bambridge

Connect (Small) Groups 2021

“And day by day, attending the temple together, breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,” Acts 2:46 (ESV)

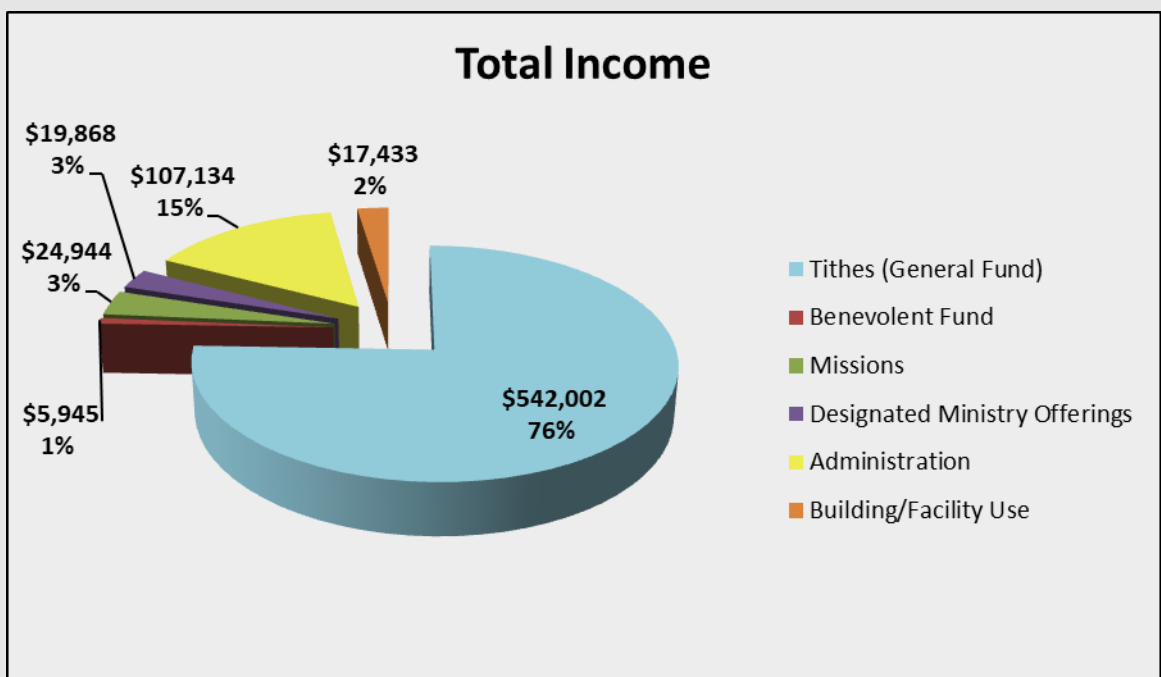
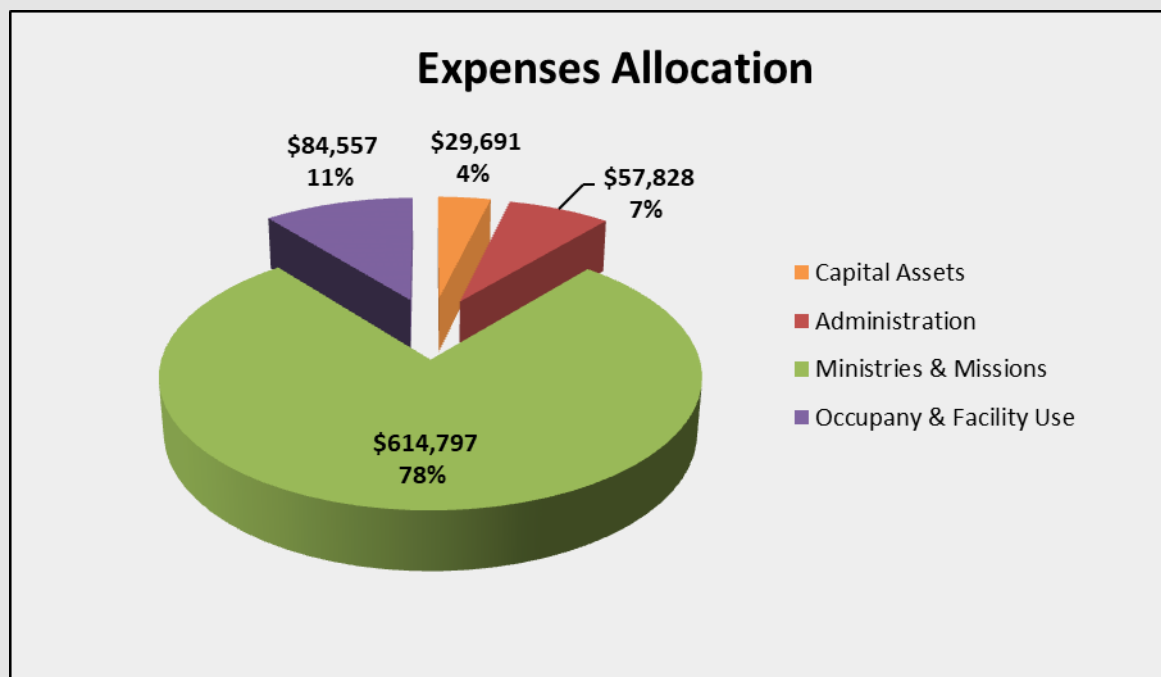
The last two years have been crazy years for most of us. With the constant shifting and implementation of Manitoba Public Health Orders and restrictions, it has been difficult to schedule and host small groups. This has been challenging as, typically, the idea is to have people host groups in their home and create a sense of community. The ironic thing is that during this time of isolation we have needed community even more than ever. Not being able to have groups of people in homes has made that nearly impossible while following all restrictions. We did our best to try and accommodate some type of small group at the church once a week from November to December as we were able to accommodate a larger group within the church building.

While we have entered a new year, still with some limitations, we are beginning to see some light at the end of the tunnel and are looking forward to starting to host small groups again, hopefully in homes.

Our plan in the next couple of months is to provide a survey to see who is interested in helping and/or attending small groups, what topics people may be interested in and what obstacles might hinder people from hosting or attending. This information is very much needed as we have been away from this for the past two years and we want to plan correctly to help create community.

We are also looking into the idea of creating life groups for men and women. We are in the beginning stages of planning and, restrictions permitting, we are excited to see what opportunity these groups could bring. Stay tuned for updates as we move forward, always listening to God's will.

If you are interested in helping in any capacity with small groups by hosting, leading, co-leading, etc., please contact myself or the church.



Missions Focus

