

# ELDER'S UPDATE

April  
2021

Thrive Spiritually - Build Community - Reach the Lost

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As always I would like to begin by drawing attention to all that I am thankful for. Please join me in thanking our pastors and staff for their commitment as shown by extra work to present and live the relationship with Jesus. While it is more difficult to maintain relationship with each other, many have used creative ways to maintain relationships with our children, our youth, our men and women, our seniors and our community. We have many fully engaged volunteers working in maintenance, committees, prayer teams, formal services and on the board. I thank the Lord every day for you. May you be encouraged to carry on and know that Jesus is there with you.

No doubt you all feel the challenge of change and transition. I do as well. COVID forced us to change the method, but the message is still the same. Jesus resurrection gave us hope through all of life in all circumstances. It took three years or 10,000 hours of teaching and mentorship to prepare His disciples. (Sorry, Malcome Gladwell, but you did not originate the 10,000 hours theory.) It took deliberate effort by Chester Fullmore to teach me how to lead a business God's way. It took the patient mentoring of Garth Ford and John Stonehocker to help me be a board member with vision for SGAC. It took Robert Toews to teach me how to reach children and youth in our church. For me the turn around came through the prayer mentoring of Pastor Lloyd Draper. While the method may have changed, the principle of making disciples has not. My delight is in seeing new leaders rising up in our church who have completed their 10,000 hours and are still learning as they train others.

Again, I want to thank the Future Development Team, all volunteers, and all who have given financially to bring us as a church to where we are today.

For some of us our roles have, are, and will change. However, our calling to make disciples who will prepare others to lead never ends. Peter, I want to thank you for recently reminding me of this. In reviewing the history of SGAC and my own journey, I am reminded of Zack William's song, "There was Jesus". May Jesus be a reality for all of us every day in all we do. Thank you for letting me serve you.

Blessings,

Henry Banman, Board Chair

**Average Weekly  
Attendance:**

**November: 682**  
(351 online + 331 in person)

**December: 663**  
(448 online + 215 in person)

**January: 619**  
(457 online + 162 in person)



## Transition Team Update

The transition team is made up of a Bev Bowzeylo, Angele Medieros, Peggi Perry, Dan Ibsen, Laurie Breitreuz, Dan Houcher, Sharina Kim, Amy Turton, Cathy Reid, JB Colbourne as well as Pastors Jim and Brenda. There are two tracks on the team--the prayer track and the planning track. Members have a specific interest or focus on one of these two tracks.

As a church we are currently in phase 2 (assessment and evaluation) of our 5 phase transition process. One tool that we will use in the next few months is a "history wall" exercise that involves the whole congregation. In this exercise we seek to look at and celebrate the significant people, events and circumstances in the life of our church during the past 50 years. (From the time our congregations separated from the Stony Plain group and became an autonomous congregation.) We will also look at some of the challenges that we have faced during that period and affirm what God has taught us through these times.

We see this as engaging our whole body in a time of reflection and celebration for what God has done and who He has made us to be as a congregation in this community. We will do this by giving people an opportunity to write down their "memories" of things to celebrate, challenges and things we've learned. These memories will be placed on a "history wall" in chronological sequence.

## Ministry Highlights

Our Ministries continue to meet within the AHS Guidelines

- Monday Night Men, Daybreak and Evening Edition completed their winter session and recently began a short spring session.
- Youth and Young Adults continue to meet regularly for Bible Study on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.
- AWANA wrapped up at the end of April with their awards night. Well done to all the kids and families involved.
- Faith on Fire debuted in February and has been very well received. This occurs every third Sunday of the month
- Keenagers have been meeting in person and online once again on Wednesday mornings.
- Women's Ministry hosted the IF Gathering in March with over 65 women attending in person and online, and Women's Retreat in April with 55 attending.
- Men's Retreat was hosted at the church in March with 33 Men in attendance.

**Average Weekly  
Attendance: (cont.)**

**February: 773**  
(509 online + 264 in person)

**March: 964**  
(654 online + 310 in person)



## Women in Leadership Team Update

This team consists of Paul Friesen, Mike Piska, Leah Woitas, Laresa Jespersen, Tracey Flynn, Tim Wiebe, Melanie Sharratt, Alex Clowes, facilitated by Brenda Regehr. Our priorities as a team are to promote unity amongst a diversity of opinion and the education of our congregants and members as to the actual issues that make up this discussion and decision. This is an amazing opportunity for people to dig deeper into their Bibles to understand what it is that they think they know on the subject and to be able to speak with confidence on the topic.

Brent Trask, District Superintendent of the Western Canadian District of the C&MA will be presenting to the congregation on Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm, as the first of several learning opportunities that will be made available to our congregation throughout the coming months. This event will also be available digitally for those who are more comfortable attending from home. Brent will be providing a non-partisan overview from both sides of the topic.

Be in prayer as we move forward with this process and be open to the Holy Spirit's leading of our church on this topic.

## Church and Politics Team Update

The group is made up of 9 individuals: Brian Westra (chair), Pastor Steve (co-chair), Mathew Clarke, Bryan Kincheloe, Andy Wierenga, Laurie Breitreuz, Scott Merrifield, Pastor Jim, and Michael Szpreglewski. The team has done much research and began narrowing our topics down to some essential questions that are pertinent to our church. At our April meetings we heard from the Honourable Searle Turton and the Honourable Dane Lloyd, who addressed some of these essential questions and we will also use this time to gain a better understanding of the issues at hand from both a provincial and federal view point. After these meetings, the team will begin work on creating guidelines and recommendations to the board.

### Updates in the Office

- Jim and Brenda Regehr joined us starting February 1 as our Transitional Lead Pastors.
- Pastor Art resigned from his position with SGAC on February 28 after 5 and a half years in his role as Senior Lead Associate Pastor and then Interim Lead Pastor while we searched for our Transitional Lead Pastor.
- Pastor Joel has taken on the Keenagers Ministry.
- Pastor Karen is now looking after membership.



## FUTURE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The vote last month by the congregation in support of the project was a significant milestone in the process of moving forward with construction; significant in that it was a strong confirmation of the vote four years earlier.

Following the vote the Board approved the Future Development Construction Team to proceed with the building permit application to the city. This will be done in parallel with the submittal of application to the District for financial approval of the project. Had the permit process been delayed until District approval was gained the June start would not have been attainable.

In the meantime, work will continue with the following pre-approved projects;

- Installation in the parking lot of perimeter curbing and islands ,
- Construction of the north bound exit ramp,
- Installation of foundations for exterior lighting,
- Site preparation for landscaping,
- Installation of the sign (mid-May)
- Landscaping, including trees and shrubs,
- Preparation for removal of the existing building portion north of the gymnasium.

The Board would like to thank the FDT for their continued efforts in fundraising, communication and construction. We are very excited to celebrate shovels in the ground in the coming months.





Henry Banman  
Chair



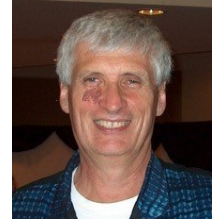
Gerald Weighill  
Treasurer



Tim Wiebe  
Secretary



Paul Friesen



Dan Ibsen



Steve Medeiros



John Olsen



Orv Perry



Brian Westra



Fred Zelensky

### **SGAC Elder's Highlight - John Olsen**

John is in his third term, and serving his fifth year on the board at SGAC. He is married to Arlene, who he met in the explore program at Prairie Bible College. They have been married for 20 years, and have 4 kids. Mikaela 18, Jacob 16, Elias 10, and Hailey 9. John is a ticketed journeyman carpenter, who has been working as a commercial job site supervisor for the last 13 years. As a member of SGAC he taught grade 5-6 Sunday school as well as going to Antigua on a short term mission. John is thankful for the many people who call SGAC home, and looks forward to the amazing things God has in store for us.

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The Elders of SGAC want to keep the lines of communication open and clear with our attendees. This newsletter is not designed to be comprehensive, but rather, to provide an overview of some things that have been happening at the board level since our last newsletter (November 2020). If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to one of our Elders in person or by email at [chair@sgac.net](mailto:chair@sgac.net). It is our goal to serve with integrity and transparency.

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