

The Link

A quarterly publication of the Saskatchewan Baptist Association

December 2016

The logo for the Saskatchewan Baptist Association (SBA) is displayed in white text on a blue rectangular background. The letters 'SBA' are in a bold, serif font, with a small graphic element resembling a cross or a stylized 'A' to the right of the 'A'. The logo is positioned in the upper right corner of the page, above a silhouette of a forest.

What is Happening at Heritage Baptist Church in Yorkton?

"What were all those cars doing at your church last night?" A grandmother asked. It was a question I was asked recently while sitting in a bleacher watching my son's volleyball game. It is a question that I get asked in various forms by people in our community when they notice activity or a full parking lot at our church.

Heritage Baptist Church is located at a fairly busy intersection, where many cars pause at the four-way stop as drivers pass by on their way to and from the schools and homes in our neighbourhood. When people look over at the church they often see cars parked in our lot. I think people are surprised to see that many cars parked outside a church especially when it is not a Sunday.

Yorkton does have a lot of churches, like a lot of other communities in Saskatchewan, but often when you drive around the churches it appears to be deserted wastelands more than places of living, vibrant activity.

Sadly, even on Sundays too many churches have empty spaces not only in the parking lot, but also in the pews.

When people ask me about what was going on at Heritage the other night or last week someday, it is my joy to be able to talk about what God is doing. It is not about the building, it is about people gathering together with other people in the presence and blessing of God. Men gather for a Bible Study one night. Ladies and 55+ meet on certain afternoons. Youth, and kids club have their nights to meet as well. Still other times people gather to plan and to pray. Through the doors come babies (we seem to keep adding more lately), children, youth, college and career, newlyweds, single parents, growing families, mature and aging adults—we have the full spectrum here. After working on a building expansion for a number of years, it is good to see that our efforts were not without purpose. Pretty much every day of the week our facility gets used in some way.

The Gathering

For decades, students from all over the United States and Canada have gathered together for a "TRIENNIAL" conference. Recently this time together has shifted from a conference to a full-blown mission trip / superconference! They would love to have you and your youth group join them at Chapman University in Orange, California for THE GATHERING 2017 on July 16-21! For more information, please visit:

<http://www.wewilloverflow.org/info>

Be in prayer for our Youth Pastors and Youth as they make plans to attend this exciting conference.

What is Happening at Heritage Baptist Church In Yorkton?...continued from page 1

When people ask about the activity happening at our church, it is an open door to invite the questioner to come and see for themselves what God is doing here at Heritage. Sometimes people do respond to the invitation. The grandma at my son's volleyball game did come and brought some others along when I invited her to a concert that was coming up at the church. One never knows how God will use a simple invitation to speak into someone's life.

As a pastor I'm thankful that our people also go to a lot of other places when their car is not parked here at Heritage. I know that many of them get some of the same questions as I do when people find out I am the pastor at Heritage. "What was happening at your church the other night?" I pray that as people get some of those questions, they will speak up boldly, not only telling people what happened, but also inviting them to come and see for themselves.

The seasons of Advent and Christmas often provide many opportunities to invite people to come and see what God has and is doing in and through His church. I pray that we would all have the boldness of the early church (Acts 4:31) to share the good news of Jesus Christ, and that as we do all of our parking lots and pews would overflow.

Have a blessed Christmas!
Pastor Brian Kirsch



SBA Fall Meeting Update by Regional Minister Ken Solberg

On Saturday, October 29, 2016 we met as delegates of the SBA for our annual fall meeting. We were hosted by Raymore Baptist Church. There were delegates from nine of our thirteen churches in attendance. In the absence of a secretary, Pastor Jonathan Pettinger from Melville was nominated to serve as the meeting secretary.

We were led in a time of worship by Pastors Doug Armbruster, Luke Miller and Parker Meginbir. A devotional from Philippians 2:3-7 followed where we were challenged to follow the example of Christ, and roll up our sleeves and invest ourselves in the lives of those we are called to serve.

A Good Spirit Bible Camp report was given by our Director Luke Prybylski, in which he highlighted the number of rentals from outside sources that had occurred this past year. A praise item was the fact that the camp staff positions were filled quickly this past year. Luke asked for prayer for the staff and campers who grew in faith over the summer, and that they might continue to grow throughout the year.

Pastor Mike Anderson, the GSBC Chair, brought a report that highlighted the work on a site plan that will be presented to the SBA at our spring meetings, to be held on February 10-12 at Dallas Valley Ranch Camp.

Pastor Stephen Luff, our Youth Chair reported that there were 50 kids at the Junior High Retreat and slightly more at the Senior High Retreat.

The Youth Leadership Team is also preparing for "The Gathering" missions/conference trip in July 2017.

Regional Minister, Ken Solberg reported that Balgonie, Balcarres and Southey are all seeking pastoral staff. Please be in prayer for them as they wait on the Lord. It was also noted that the property in Jansen remains unsold at this point in time.

Dr. Gene Speer was elected as moderator for a one year term. It should be noted that the one year term was at his request. We thank him for his willingness to serve. Rick Shott was elected to fill the remaining part of Dr. Speer's term on the Credential Committee.

Discussion was held on a request for support for the Vintage Church Plant in Regina. It was moved and passed that Vintage be supported by the SBA at \$750 per month for a period of two years with a review in one year.

The 2017 Shadow Budget of \$119,605.00 was presented and passed. It should be noted that this is up from the 2016 budget which was \$117,640.00. At the current level of giving this will be a deficit budget.

A time of prayer followed and then the fall meeting was adjourned.