

# Annual Report

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## 2023



First Baptist Church  
Tillsonburg, Inc.



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# In Loving Memory

Together we remember faithful lives, well-lived.



**Sharon Marie Godby**

June 25th, 1950 –  
April 5th, 2023



**Ronald W. Hatton**

1938 - May 3, 2023



**Marlene Florence Ford**

December 13, 1942 –  
June 4, 2023



**Margaret Jean  
Honsberger**

November 9, 1934 –  
June 14, 2023



**Gladys Harper**

1934 - September 3, 2023



**June Laye Lowrie**

August 6, 1926 –  
November 14, 2023



**Germaine Stephanie  
Camilla Godelie**  
June 25th, 1950 -  
November 29, 2023



**Lois Bernadine Hickey**  
July 1, 1939 –  
December 9, 2023

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Jesus said, “Do not let your hearts be troubled.  
You believe in God; believe also in me.  
My father’s house has many rooms;  
If that were not so, would I have told you  
that I am going there to prepare a place for you?  
And if I go and prepare a place for you,  
I will come back and take you to be with me  
That you also may be where I am.”

**John 14:1-3**

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# Leadership Appointees for 2023

## Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors oversee the property and business of the church and are responsible for ensuring that FBC operates according to the policies we have established. They oversee things like: finances, maintenance of facilities and property, policy development, legal issues and contracts.

T = Term    R = Remaining years in term of service

### 2023 Board of Directors

Chair	Andrea Harley	T2 R0
Treasurer	Rayburn Lansdell	T1 R0
Secretary	Irene Clarkson	T1 R1
Directors at Large	Gary Gordon	T1 R0
	Marilyn Skingley	T1 R0
	Leanne Coyle	T1 R1

### 2024 Nominees

(Director at Large)	Gary Hunt
(Director at Large)	Elaine Csire
(Director at Large)	Sharon Heatherington

### Financial Secretary

Sal Lansdell

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## Board of Deacons

Our deacons are responsible for overseeing the various ministries of our church and advancing FBC's mission of Gathering, Growing and Going. Along with the Pastoral Team, our Deacons oversee the spiritual life of our congregation and the development of things like: worship services, mission initiatives, congregational care, teaching/discipleship, baptism, and communion, as well as overseeing memberships.

T = Term    R = Remaining years in term of service

### 2023 Board of Deacons

Chair/Mission & Evangelism Team	Deb Young	T2 R0
Care Team	Marlene Buck	T2 R2
Christian Education Team	Carol Hodgson	T1 R2
Prayer Team	Sal Lansdell	T2 R0
Discipleship Team	Jan Siemens	T1 R2
Discipleship Team	Richard Lucas	T1 R2
Worship Ministry Team	Judy Kingsbury	T1 R2
Fellowship Team	Sherrin Guyard	T1 R1

### 2024 Nominees

Prayer Team	Jan Ebert
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### Clerk

Vacant

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# Board Reports

## Board of Directors

### Andrea Harley, Chair

Greetings FBC family from your Board of Directors. Your Board of 2023 includes Leanne Coyle, Marilyn Skingley, Irene Clarkson, Rayburn Lansdell, Gary Gordon and Andrea Harley.

The Board met monthly and sometimes issues that came up unexpectedly which were discussed through email and thus voted on.

As the search committee is still looking for a full-time pastor, we were blessed to have Pastor Gord Rutledge fill an interim position from August 2022 to May 2023.

Once again, the Deacons had to find another interim pastor and Dave VanKooten filled the position until his resignation at the end of January 2024.

Thankfully Rayburn Lansdell is filling in for the month of February, 2024.

We have in place a new revised Abuse Prevention Plan. We are still working on the updating of bylaw number 5 (Statement of Faith).

We approved the paving of the rest of the parking lot which was a requirement by the town of Tillsonburg.

The Board approved the hiring of Vikki Wilson starting in September, 2023. Her office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 am -2pm. She is a huge asset to our church staff. Thank you, Vikki!

We also thank Jane Grass for the cleaning of our church building.

I also want to thank Jackie Hughes for taking the minutes of all our congregational meetings.

The Alzheimer's group still meets on Tuesday afternoon from 1-4.

The acoustic panels were installed in the lobby.

We have so many volunteers in our church family and we are so appreciative of each one who does their part. We could not function without you.

Blessings to all of our FBC family in 2024, on behalf of the Board of Directors.

Andrea Harley



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## Board of Deacons

### Deb Young, Chair

Hello Everyone

This report is bittersweet for me to write. I am sure most of you know this is the end of my term as a Deacon and Deacon Chair.

This has been the most rewarding and frustrating time. Obviously, during Covid we were all frustrated that we could not meet and worship and then we had to figure out how to do church after Covid but with restrictions and guidelines, we just finished all of that and when Pastor Steve made his announcement about leaving. I have to say it has been quite a ride.

One of the best parts of being the Chair of the Deacons has been seeing the Deacons and their Teams come together to serve our Lord and Saviour. He really does Save Us. He goes before us and prepares the way. We have a great Deacons Board. They are followers of Jesus. I am excited to see how the team members continue to grow in their own walk, through serving others. Each Team has done an exceptional job. But there have been a couple of extra special moments that touched me. I would like to share them with you.

- Kudo's to the Care Team. They expanded the level of care they provide. The Potlucks for each team were so much fun and people made new connections. That was a whole new idea that God laid on their hearts and they followed God's leading through faith. – Blessings
- Another highlight was seeing the KidsRock Choir. These children did not even know the Lord's Prayer a year ago and now they are singing it by memory. Seeing these children and their families becoming connected to FBC is so exciting. – Yeh God
- Our Hands in Mission Group had a plan for the Village Quilt. Auction it off with the proceeds going to the Lunch Bunch expenses. A full circle of community blessings. – God Bless
- The Worship Team is growing with new talent, new technicians, and some new equipment. So exciting to have some young people involved. – God Bless You
- We are seeing new people come to our Church Services. Praise God.





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As the Deacon's Board continue to lead the spiritual aspects of FBC, I will continue to pray they lead from a God centered position while praying for HIS Will to be done. I pray they follow His leading and trust the Holy Spirit in their lives. Thank You for all that you do, every one of you.

The Deacons Board would like to thank you, our Church Family for being so patient and flexible as the Deacons continue to seek Interim Pastors & the Pastoral Search Committee continues to search for the person God has for us. Please continue to pray for both the Deacons and the Search Committee.

**Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9**

I have so many mixed feelings as I write this, and there are so many people who have helped me walk along this path with Jesus. Thank you to everyone for your support, for trusting me, and for encouraging me to do better. I have no idea what I will do next, but I pray God will lead me to help in some small way.

In our Saviour's Holy Name

Submitted by Deb Young, Deacon Board Chair

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# Team Reports

## Adult Fellowship

### Gary Hunt

At the end of June, we had an organized planned car tour to Camp Oneida's Annual Open House and BBQ. After supper, the group sat out on the lawn for conversation and to enjoy the beautiful weather and the palatial campus. Murray Edmund led us in prayer.

In October we enjoyed a gorgeous fall leaves color tour by car from Tillsonburg into the rural areas of Norfolk County.

The tour ended up at the church building for a great potluck supper. A freewill offering was taken for the work that CBM, Canadian Baptist Ministries, is doing in the Ukraine. Our Treasurer, Andrea Harley, sent \$250.00 to CBM.

Gary Hunt

## Benevolent Fund

### Jackie Hughes, Benevolent Treasurer

This fund exists so that F.B.C. can assist persons in the community who need help.

Carol Hodgson or Jackie Hughes interviews each person and asks them to fill out an application, or if unable to get to the church, the initial interview is held over the phone by Vikki Wilson. Following the interview, it is decided whether FBC can assist with rent, utilities, gas card, etc.

In 2023 we assisted 33 individuals and their families.

Balance on hand January 1, 2023	\$ 4,626.95 (incl.\$35 profit share)
Receipts from Envelopes	\$ 10,410.00
Interest	<u>\$ 5.00</u>
	\$ 15,041.95
<b><u>Disbursements</u></b>	
Benevolent Payments	\$ 12,421.92
Balance on hand, December 31, 2023	\$ 2,620.03

Submitted by Jackie Hughes, Benevolent Fund Treasurer

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## Oneida Baptist Camp Inc

### Gary Hunt

Camp Oneida was started in 1950 by our association churches from Oxford-Brant, Norfolk, and Niagara-Hamilton in order to provide a summer Christian camping season for our youth and families. This year we were able to return to a more regular season with camps for ages 6 to 18 and family camp.



We also were pleased that Christian groups rented our facilities for retreats and other groups such as school and Girl Guides who rented in the Fall and Spring.

We were able to keep camp registration rates the same as we had a donor who picked up the rate increase that would have increased rates. Again, for the 2024 season, this donor has picked up our rate increase, holding rates at the 2022 level.

We are expecting that the coming year will see us return to more normal levels of campers as in pre covid.

Our Wednesday work crew put in a new, much needed washroom in the Lakeshore Staff Cabin.

We also determined it was time to replace the deteriorating windows in the lodge. A fund-raising campaign will go forward in 2024, and the new windows will be installed by the Wednesday maintenance crew. We always welcome maintenance help. \*

We are thankful for our dedicated camp committee and board that oversees the operations. This group would like to see our numbers of campers increase and we are exploring new building projects to make our camp barrier free.

The camp would like to thank Tillsonburg First Baptist and individual persons for their prayers and financial support for this Ministry.

Children at camp are provided a week or half a week in a Christian environment where we see people accept Jesus as their Saviour and Lord.

We encourage church people to get involved, whether as perm staff, camp directors, leaders, committee members, or sending a child to camp.

\*If you would like to help our ministry, contact Gary Hunt: 519 842 5446 [kanmanoneida@gmail.com](mailto:kanmanoneida@gmail.com)

- Gary Hunt

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## Care Teams

### Marlene Buck, Deacon

There are 12 people on the Care Team who meet faithfully and enthusiastically the 1st Tues. of every month.

Between meetings we pray for every person in our church family, and look for ways to connect with them.

Our teaching time is centered around the book, \*"Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart", (How to Relate to Those Who Are Suffering).

We now have available the beautiful and helpful book, \*"Cancer, What Next", for the people and families of people who are dealing with this disease.

Several in our church who are grieving the loss of a loved one are being helped by receiving a series of booklets entitled, \*"Journeying through Grief". There are 5 booklets that are given to them over an 11-month period.

This year we had 6 potluck suppers. Each team invited their people to come, and they were well attended. There was lots of good food, and most importantly, lots of getting to know each other, which is one of our goals as your Care Team.

Kathy Troyer and her helpers worked diligently on the Seniors Luncheons and the Christmas Dinner. They were also well attended.

Joyce Ecker continues to make beautiful cards for our needy folks.

Several of our home-bound folks received poinsettias this Christmas, delivered by Care Team members.

You can be a big help to your church, if you would let your Care Team know of anyone who would like a visit, a phone call, or a card.

As children of God, we are **all** responsible to care for one another. The Care Team just strives to make sure no one is forgotten; that no one slips through the cracks.

\*These 2 books and the booklets are put out by Stephen Ministries, St. Louis, Missouri, and are very well written by Kenneth C. Haugk

Please tell me if you know someone in our church who might be helped by these publications.

Blessings from:

Marlene Buck, Deacon of your Care Team

Care Team members: Joyce Ecker, Doug & Sherrill Babbey, Judy Kingsbury & Janice Edmund, Kathie Troyer & Marlene Buck &, Sandy Burggraeve, Rosemary Hopper & Maria Day, Jim & Yvonne Hill.

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## Christian Education

### Carol Hodgson, Deacon

(Team members: Jackie Hughes, Carol Hodgson, Bev Pype, Darlene Oke, Mac Troyer)

The team oversees the activities of Sunday School, the Nursery and the Youth Programs. The church library is also part of the Christian Education budget.

The team helps children and youth to learn about Jesus and aims to encourage them to accept Him as their personal Saviour. We recognize that the home is the place where the child's faith begins to grow and mature with the support of the faith community of First Baptist Church.

**Mission Statement:** 'Train up a child in the way he should go: even when he is old he will not depart from it.' Proverbs 22:6 *ESV*

### Sunday School

During 2023, attendance has been low and sporadic, however, our teachers and helpers have served faithfully every week. If just one child accepts Jesus as their Saviour and we have the privilege of seeing that child grow in faith and joy, we consider ourselves blessed indeed 😊

On September 16, the team partnered with the Mission and Evangelism team to organize games for the Community Outreach event, featuring the Teen Challenge Choir.

In September, we introduced a new curriculum called 'The Big Story' and have enough material to take us through the next 2-3 years. We interrupt the scheduled lessons to celebrate special days in the life of the church, i.e. Christmas, Easter.

In November & December, the Sunday School partnered with the Mission and Evangelism team to support Compassion's Newborn project and the children decorated a Christmas tree with specially designed tree ornaments.

On Christmas Eve, the Sunday School presented Hopeful Gifts for Change to Canadian Baptist Ministries. We have 16 volunteers every month who serve faithfully as teachers and helpers (20 volunteers on 5 week months!) We really need more volunteers in the nursery to help once a month.

The children are cute and they have such fun 😊

### Youth Activities

**ARK** (grades 7-12, Monday evenings – 6.30-8pm @ FBC)

Grow Hope was a major, successful spring & summer project this year. The youth, with a team of adult volunteers, Judy Kingsbury, Mac & Caleb Troyer, Brent & Nicole McDougall and Bev Pype, planted a garden and sold their produce to the congregation to raise funds for Campfire Circle.





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They raised \$6671.20 and presented the gift to a representative at the Family Church Service on December 17.

In November the youth group enthusiastically made Christmas cards and tags, with the help of Carol Hodgson, to raise funds to pay for a special Christmas dinner and theatre outing.

***THIS GROUP NEEDS A MALE LEADER*** – please contact Bev Pype

**KidsRock** (Grades 3-6, Wednesday evenings – 6.30-8pm @ FBC

The group meets for games, choir practices, devotions, prayer and snacks. Leaders of this group are Bev Pype and Deb Young. The KidsRock choir sang four songs at the Family Christmas service on December 17. The choir leaders are Kathy Troyer, Derek and Eva Sibbick. Bibles were presented as Christmas gifts during the December 20<sup>th</sup> Christmas party.

***THIS GROUP NEEDS A MALE LEADER*** – please contact Bev Pype



### **Other C.E. Activities**

The C.E. team arranged to participate in Kids Bible Camp in July. Leaders from FBC were Barb Sherman and Jackie Hughes. Wrap-up for the summer camp was held at the bandshell on July 30, where all churches participated and had a wonderful gathering in beautiful weather.

### **Volunteers**

The team thanks all our volunteers who serve so faithfully, however this is an area of our ministry that presents challenges.

#### January 2024 needs:

*ARK*, Monday 6.30-8pm, one male adult leader.

*KidsRock*, Wednesday 6.30-8pm, a male leader.

*The Sunday School*, two adult leaders. Sunday School volunteers are organized to serve once a month so that they don't miss too many 'live' church services. This means that 16 – 20 volunteers are needed every month.

PLEASE TALK TO ONE OF THE TEAM MEMBERS TO ASK HOW **YOU** CAN BE INVOLVED.

We would be happy to have you visit ARK, KidsRock and/or a Sunday School/Nursery classroom to show you around and to answer any questions you have regarding your participation as a volunteer.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the C.E. Team,  
Jackie Hughes

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## Christian Library

### Margaret Dawson, Librarian

Another good year in our Library has just passed. Joyce and I have been pleased to welcome new readers and welcome back some readers from the past. We are delighted to help you find that book that is just the right one for you to read right now. Please, ask us to help you find the second or third novel in a series. We are sorry we have to file novels in double rows. We know it is confusing, but the filing system gives us an opportunity to help you and have a chat with you.

Joyce Ecker again in 2023 has been able to assist you on Sunday mornings. Marilyn Skingley has helped behind the scenes. Joyce, of course, has assisted me to get some of these jobs done. There always are jobs we need to do to keep our Library humming. Marlene Rockley has put new Library items on the computer for is. Thank you, Father, for such good help.

During 2023, we purchased 43 new books, and Library supplies: laser cards, book pockets, etc. Also, yearly we pay a fee for our computer program. This year we had eight books donated to the Library, as well as 18 DVDs.

As 2024 approaches we look forward to serving you to the best of our ability. Please pray for God's guidance and help. Those prayers are very important to us as we purchase new items for our Library.

Margaret Dawson, Librarian



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## Discipleship

**Jan Siemens, Deacon**

Discipleship is a matter of the heart. We are called to share the Good News of Salvation to all. Reaching out to others, showing care for the lonely and homeless. Ministering to the need of everyone – spiritually, health-wise, financially (food or clothing).

**For all have sinned and fall short of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Romans 3:23-24**

We give thanks to God for the time we share in grace in small groups – 1 at the church and 3 in homes.

**And whatever you do, in Word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17**

Jan Siemens, Deacon

## Fellowship

**Sherrin Guyard, Deacon**

With our Lord's guidance:

Twenty twenty-three was a very active and productive year.

My team and myself have worked together in the set-up preparation and clean up before and after our Fellowship Sundays each month. We along with help from our congregation bake in order to provide desserts for the family friendly get together each month.

We also provide tea, coffee, punch and of course, water as beverages. We also try to remember the children and youth. At times there is a special treat and also fruit. These things are done so that no one feels left out. Sometimes when fellowship time is at an end and there are certain desserts left, we make up trays for Hands in Mission, Hilda Lindsay, kidsRock, ARK and at times we may even have something Lunch Bunch is allowed.

As our Lord fed the five-thousand, we try and give our best to others as well. We consider this as reaching out to our community. As He loves us, we should love others as well. We have also baked and served at funerals, potlucks, a wedding, baptism, barbecues, and other events as well.

In my Lord I trust, Sherrin Guyard  
Blessings

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## Financial Report

### Rayburn Lansdell, Treasurer

Thank you FBC for your generous giving throughout 2023! At the time of printing we do not have a year-end financial report, but here are some highlights from 2023:

1. Missions and Outreach - Over \$33,000 was given for community outreach and several global ministries that FBC supported in 2023.
2. Benevolence - Over \$12,000 was dispersed through the FBC benevolent ministry to various physical/financial needs in our community.
3. Debt Reduction - Another \$80,000 was repaid to debenture holders in October 2023, leaving the amount owing at \$80,000. We started in October 2020 with a loan from debenture holders at \$670,000 with a 5-year term. We hope to repay the final \$80,000 in October 2024, one year ahead of schedule!
4. Operations - The FBC operations balance is in a strong position going into 2024.

Rayburn

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## Hands in Missions

### Grace Scott

On behalf of Hands in Mission (HIM), we want to thank you for your continued support. Without a doubt this year we were bountifully supplied with donations of wool, fabric, many articles for crafts, many goods to forward to missions. Bless you!

**“May the favour of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands, yes establish the work of our hands.”**

**Psalm 90:17 (NIV)**

Grace Scott



#### **Power of Hope – Children’s Aid**

Baby Quilts = 15  
Izzy Dolls = 227  
Baby Afgahans = 6

#### **North – via Gladys Horner**

Mitts = 12 pairs  
Scarves = 3  
Neck Scarves = 1  
Toques = 20  
Hats + Scarf Sets = 2  
Hats + Mitten Sets = 3

#### **Victoria Hospital – London**

Baby Hats = 50  
Baby Hats + Mitten Sets = 29

#### **Hamilton Street Mission**

Toques = 100

#### **Africa**

Small AFGHANS = 58  
Dresses = 9

#### **Tillsonburg Food Bank**

Dishcloths = 193  
Slippers = 23 pairs

#### **Armstrong – Native Ministries**

Baby Quilts = 22  
Fuzzy Baby Blanket = 1  
Large Quilts = 15  
Dishcloths = 130  
Youth Quilt = 2  
Baby AFGHANS = 5  
Baby Sweaters = 10  
Sweaters – Assorted Sizes = 9  
Large AFGHANS = 10  
Izzy Dolls = 64

*We sent in two shipments – Spring + Winter clothing, bedding, school supplies.*

#### **Mission Church Outreach, Haldimand Norfolk**

##### **Early On Houghton**

Baby Mittens = 11  
Baby Sweaters = 20  
Baby Socks = 24 pairs  
Baby Vest = 1  
Baby Hats = 29  
Kids Mittens = 12 pairs  
Sweaters – Assorted Sizes = 20  
Small AFGHANS = 33  
Baby Blankets = 6  
Knitted Toy Animals = 5  
Girls Dresses = 6

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**Simcoe Street Mission**

Toques = 50

**Haiti**

Shawls = 2

Large Afghan = 1

Small Afghan = 4

Dish Cloths = 30

Izzy Dolls = 40

**Samaritan's Purse**

Toques = 100

Izzy Dolls = 150

Scarves = 30

Hats + Scarves = 10

Slippers = 10 pairs

Vests = 21

**Community Nursing Service to Guatemala**

Izzy Dolls = 50

**Central Public School – Woodstock – via Trish****Tomico**

Hats = 100

**Grand Erie Teachers – via Alida Hunt**

Hats = 100

**Secret Hands Mission – Mississauga**

Toques = 150

Baby Quilts = 50

Baby Sweaters = 25

**Zambia – Faith's Orphan Fund**

Girls dresses = 3

Boys shorts = 6

**Friendship House Brantford**

Gift Bags – Assorted Sizes = 383

Baby Quilts = 113

Baby Afghans = 16

Quilts = 15

Large Afghans = 11

Receiving Baby Blankets = 8

/baby Blankets = 2

Medium Size Afghans = 42

Quilts in a Bag = 2

Hats = 343

Shawls = 3

Sweaters – Assorted Sizes = 24

Slippers = 65 pairs

Mitten + Hat Sets = 12

Dish Cloths = 25

Mittens = 11 pairs

*Clothing, bedding – household items*

*Books, toys – for kids*

**Tillsonburg Salvation Army – Christmas Family****Gifts**

Quilts – Adult = 2

Baby Crib Quilts = 4

Receiving Blankets = 4

Baby Sweater = 1

Baby Afghan = 1

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# Hilda Lindsay Mission Circle

## Yvonne Hill

### FINANCIAL REPORT 2023 – Hilda Lindsay Mission Circle

Balance January 1, 2023	\$143.59		
<b>Receipts</b>		<b>Disbursements</b>	
Donations BWOQ	\$2,164.00	BWOQ	\$2,164.00
Memorial Donation June Lowrie	\$50.00	BWOQ Memorial June Lowrie	\$50.00
		BWOQ Donation Memorial	\$25.00
General Offering	\$248.95	Speakers	
		Cycle of Life	\$25.00
		Camp Trillum – Campfire Circle	\$25.00
		Jan Siemens	\$25.00
		Chad Cornish	\$25.00
		Helping Hand Food Bank	\$200.00
		Bank Service Charges	\$30.00
		Balance December 31-2023	\$37.54
	<u>\$2,606.54</u>		<u>\$2,606.54</u>

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## Maintenance Team

### Bryan McBride

The team has continued with upgrades to the Church Building.

Fencing was installed to protect the HVAC Units from possible theft of copper wiring. Arrangements were made to finalize the paving of the balance of the parking lot.

An “Emergency” location sign was installed and the first emergency training session for the Congregation was held last spring. This is an ongoing Safety standard that we will comply with. Periodically we will hold a session that involves the entire Congregation to make sure we all know what to do and where to go in an emergency.

It was time we had a Sunday Lock Up schedule so the Church Building will not be left unlocked, thinking someone else locked it. We now have volunteers scheduled to make sure the Church Building is secured properly.

Each month Gary Day checks the Emergency Lighting and Fire Extinguisher equipment to make sure they are in good working order. Thank you, Gary Day, for doing this.

As we discovered there was still an echo in the Lobby. Sound baffles were ordered, and PK Construction will be installing them on January 17, 2024.

The ongoing maintenance contracts for lawn cutting, fertilizing, snow removal and salting of sidewalks were negotiated and signed.

The Horticultural Team have kept our gardens looking great. Ongoing maintenance of weeding, pruning, purging & updating happened spring, summer and fall. Thank you so much for keeping us looking so nice.

Maintenance Team



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## Missions and Evangelism

**Deb Young, Deacon**

### **Lunch Bunch**

Our Lunch Bunch Crew is totally amazing, we have 3-4 people on each team Monday to Friday plus delivery people each day. We serve 37 lunches per day, = 185 per week = 740 per month. WOW

Thank you to the teams and to our congregation for supporting this amazing ministry. We have received thank you letters from the children not only thanking us but some that are praying for us. How sweet is that.

### **Mission Giving**

Jan & Feb Youth for Christ	\$7,379.00
Mar & Apr. Camp Oneida	\$5,889.00
May Fresh Start	\$2,752.00
June Galcom	\$2,167.00
July CBOQ	\$2,612.00
August CBM - Ukraine	\$2,492.00
Sept. & Oct. Lunch Bunch	\$5,634.00
Nov. Food Bank	\$3,212.00
Dec. Compassion Canada	\$4,567.00 (incl. Christmas Project) of \$1050.00
Total Mission Giving	\$36,704.00 God Bless You

### **Christmas Project**

Childrens Education Team and the Mission Team combined to have a Christmas Project where people could purchase a Tree Ornament from Compassion Canada. The children hung them on the Christmas Tree on Stage. This money is going to Families that Compassion Help that have no food therefore, their children cannot attend school. What a tragedy. Thank you again for your help.

The Mission Giving for December was assigned to Compassion Canada Newborn Program. The sad truth is without the help of Outside organizations such as Compassion Canada, many newborn babies do not survive. If a child is born with a disability or needs medical attention, unless others are there to help these babies do not get the help they so desperately need. The same applies to moms.



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The culture demands the mother to be strong and deliver a baby with no problem. If there is a problem they are shunned and considered weak. Through this program you have supported babies and moms to make sure they are taken care of. Thank you for your loving heart.

## Evangelism

### Community BBQ & Concert

Teen Challenge came to our Community BBQ with some fun music and amazing testimonies. The food was delicious, we are working on getting the food served faster, & looking at new ways of advertising the event. We will see what next year brings. Maybe something different.

### Movie Nights

The Movie Night at the Tillsonburg Theatre was a huge success. The Jesus Revolution touched a lot of people's hearts that night. We pray they will remember what it was about.

Our in-house Movie Nights were fun but not a lot of people came. At our age we forget younger people can stream/download whatever movie they want to watch whenever they want in the comfort of their home. Who wants to go out on a cold winter night when you can watch from home.

Thank you to all those who did come out and support us.

Thank you and God Bless you all for Loving Jesus

Submitted by Deb Young, Chair of M&E

**Jeus final command to his disciples in the Bible was to  
"go and make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:19)**

### Matthew 25:31-40

**For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. "I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."**



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## Pastoral Search Committee

### Deb Young, Deacon

As Chair of the Pastoral Search Committee, I want to thank the Committee for their willingness to serve and be available for meetings and discussions. It is difficult to always find time to meet but everyone has made themselves as available as they can. I appreciate it so much.

This process has taken a lot longer than we had anticipated but what we are seeing from God is, Him closing doors, (which helps make decisions) when we have come close to considering a candidate for FBC.

As I mentioned in a recent announcement, we have interviewed a number of applicants, some as many as 3 times, some on zoom, some in person. They have all been interesting and all have love in their hearts for our Lord.

Before meeting a candidate, we have read their information (some are very long) and the Committee either meets in person, on zoom or over email to decide if we want to interview this person. Depending on everyone's schedule, including the candidate's, it could take a week or 2 before the Interview can take place. The Committee will then meet in person a few days after the interview to go through our notes and check list from our Job Description before taking the next step. Some have fallen short of the criteria in the Job Description, some were what we were looking for, but the "door" was closed. Just recently we spoke to a person who is moving back to their hometown as their son was diagnosed with cancer. They just need to go home.

I hope that gives you an idea of what the Committee has been doing. Please continue to pray to God to guide us to who He has chosen. Maybe God wants FBC to change something before he reveals His plan to us, or maybe He is waiting for the Candidate to free himself up for us. Only God knows. We wait patiently, and faithfully, that He has a plan for us, and HIS plan is perfect.

If you have any questions or maybe you know of someone, who knows of someone etc., we are always delighted to hear from our Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

As we all continue to pray for a new Pastor, please remember His words in Jeremiah 29:11

Thank you for your patience and your prayers.

God Bless You.

The Pastoral Search Committee is made up of the following people: Marlene Buck, Jan Ebert, Andrea Harley, Yvonne Hill, Carol Hodgson, Deb Young, Ronda Keller, Rayburn Lansdell, Gary Hunt

Submitted by Deb Young

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## Prayer Team

### Sal Lansdell, Deacon



#### Sal Lansdell

Where has the 7 years gone, completion of being deacon of our FBC Prayer Ministry. I value so highly the ladies who have gathered together faithfully each week to pray - to Praise Him, to storm the throne of God on behalf of folks within our church, our community, our country and around the world at large. Our prayer times are about forming a close-knit community centered on honoring/worshipping God, developing our faith and bringing others before Him.

I'm thankful for the leaders of FBC who've been comfortable and willing to lead the congregation in prayer each week when asked, a blessing and honor to come before our Father 'for the team'!!

I'm grateful for all the work Marlene has given on the prayer chain throughout the year again in '23. It keeps us in touch with one another and the needs arising. Another blessed opportunity to love one another through this avenue of prayer.

I've recently read an article on church's prayer ministry from Clickmill Unlock Ministry Growth that I'd like to quote some thoughts by Brett Henderson which I think sums up the value and richness of a vibrant prayer team.



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*“We’ve all been there – sitting in a circle, holding hands (or not), or perhaps in a quiet corner of our homes, saying a prayer. But when it comes to a prayer team, things dive a bit deeper. A prayer team isn’t just a spontaneous gathering that happens every once in a blue moon. It’s an organized, dedicated group of individuals bound together by faith and purpose. Think of it as a task force, but instead of mundane tasks, their mission is spiritual intercession. Being a part of a prayer team requires commitment, consistency, and a heart that genuinely seeks God’s will. Members often commit to regular meetings, sometimes even forsaking personal time or other engagements to ensure they are there for the church and its community. It’s like having spiritual warriors, always ready to battle in prayer for any need that arises within the church, our community or world wide. They influence the atmosphere, direction, and the spiritual health of the church, setting the tone for spiritual growth, commitment, and genuine worship. They’re committed, praying faithfully behind the scenes, ensuring that the church is covered, guided, and driven by the power of prayer.”*

I think this sums up the year nicely, may God bless you and keep you as we continue this journey of seeking His will, individually and as a congregation and may all Glory and Praise be poured out to God our Father, His precious Son and Holy Spirit. S

Prayer Team consists of:

Joanne Young, Kathie Troyer, Marlene Buck, Yvonne Hill, Jan Edmund, Lois Howe, Jan Siemens, Ria Day, and Sal Lansdell (visitors join occasionally).

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## Worship Team

### Judy Kingsbury, Deacon

The members of the Ministry Team are Ronda Keller, Doug Babbey, Darlene Covey, Denise Light and Kathie Troyer.

We met to plan Lenten and Easter worship times, Advent and Christmas, plus Ronda has been organizing our monthly schedule. Ronda continues as our amazing, fearless leader. She continually prays for us and encourages us. We thank you Ronda; you are a blessing.

Before Dave Sheilds left, he began to train Greg McCoy and Derek Sibbick on the sound, light and video board. Thank you Dave! Ronda stepped in and learned/taught the many skills needed to produce a technically complete Worship service each Sunday. Greg and Derrick also went online and investigated our technical setup and did much of the training themselves. They also are training new people to run the words and videos – thank you Gary Day, Mackenzie Troyer and Jessie McDougall. Many heartfelt thanks to Ronda, Greg and Derrick; thank you God for preparing their hearts.

We have also added to our 3 Sunday Worship Teams; welcome GARY HAUN. Ronda's Team is comprised of Brent McDougall, Darlene Covey Gary Haun and Kathie Troyer. Janice Edmonds now plans and leads her original team of Denise Light, Doug Babbey, Mackenzie Troyer and Sal Lansdell. Kathie Troyer, Sal Lansdell, Doug Babbey and Gary Haun comprise the third team. Gary loves a keyboard but he and Mackenzie have been playing some awesome drum sets. Well done Gentlemen!

“Kids Rock Choir” joined us before Easter and again at Christmas. They came for rehearsals for about 6 weeks before each performance and were very committed. They've already told leader Bev Pype that they're singing again this Easter. We were most pleased to have their parents and families join us for the service and stay for Fellowship. For many, this was their first time in church. What a blessing they were!

We worked on our budget in October and ordered new, smaller monitors, more mic booms and microphones; well worth the money! We understand our sound could be improved but we are trying our best with volunteers. Without them there would be no online services.

We will continue to strive to bring a worshipful atmosphere that will inspire a deeper connection with the Holy Spirit and compliment the Message of the day. God Bless you!

Respectfully submitted by,  
THE WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM





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# Membership Report

For a comprehensive list of the ACTIVE, NON-ACTIVE and NON-RESIDENT Frist Baptist Church Membership, please contact the Deacons Board. If you are an adherent of FBC and would like to become a member, please contact our Deacons Board. Our upcoming 2024 Church Directory will include all current active members and adherents at FBC. Please visit the office if you would like to be included in our directory and have not yet spoken to Vikki or Jackie.

## FBC Membership as of December 31, 2023

<b>Active Members</b>	<b>90</b>	Those who have been formally received into FBC membership and are actively involved in our ministry
<b>Adherents</b>	<b>48</b>	An estimate of those who are actively involved with our ministry and are not members
<b>Non-Active Members</b>	<b>135</b>	Those who have been formally received into FBC membership but have either moved, or are no longer involved in our ministry
<b>Non-Resident Members</b>	<b>106</b>	
<b>Members Received</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Members Transferred</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b>Baptisms in 2023</b>	<b>0</b>	

*Errors & Omissions Excepted*

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## Active Members in 2023

Pauline Amey  
Trevor Armstrong

Doug Babbey  
Sherrill Babbey  
Linda Bell  
Norma Bilger  
Deb Bouck  
Marlene Buck

Joan Cain  
Susan Charby  
Isabelle Chilcott  
Irene Clarkson  
Wanda Clarysse  
Joyce Cottrell  
Darlene Covey  
Lawrence Covey  
Leanne Coyle  
Elaine Csire  
Steven Csire

Margaret Dawson

Jan Ebert  
Joyce Ecker

Heather Franklin  
Shirley Franklin

Dorothy Ghesquire  
Gary Gordon  
Sherrin Guyard

Denis Hallet  
Elaine Hallet  
Andrea Harley  
Jane Hawkins  
Karen Hernandez  
Sharon Hetherington

Jim Hill  
Yvonne Hill  
Bob Hodgson  
Carol Hodgson  
Rosemary Hopper  
Lois Howe  
Jackie Hughes  
Maurice Hughes  
Alida Hunt  
Gary Hunt Sr.

Carl Jones  
Linda Jones

Ronda Keller  
Judy Kingsbury

Rayburn Lansdell  
Sal Lansdell  
Denise Light  
Richard Lucas  
Donna Ludwig  
Doug Ludwig

Lillian MacKenzie  
Sonya Marshall  
Todd Marshall  
Ann Mathews  
Dawn Mathews  
Bryan McBride  
Connie McBride  
Greg McCoy  
Katrina McCoy  
Brenda McQuiggan  
Reta Meloche  
Joy Milmine  
Annette Mitchell  
Grant Mitchell  
James Morgan

Judy Nancekivell  
Frances Nevill

Darlene Oke  
Jim Oke

Beverly Pype

Barb Sherman  
Darwin Sherman  
Jan Siemens  
Jurrien Sissing  
Marilyn Skingley  
Marian Smith  
Pam Smith

David Tomsett  
Jeannette Tomsett  
Lidia Tromp  
Kathie Troyer  
Rick Troyer  
Mackenzie Troyer

Dan Young  
Joanne Young  
Deb Young  
Rick Young





## **Annual Report 2023**

First Baptist Church Tillsonburg, Inc.