

The Journey

Winter 2020



SPRUCE GROVE
ALLIANCE CHURCH

Thrive Spiritually. Build Community. Reach the Lost



Jesus is our Saviour, our Sanctifier, our Healer, and our Coming King

Welcome



Pastor Scott: scott.buck@sgac.net

Welcome to Spruce Grove Alliance Church (SGAC). We hope that if you are new with us, you will make yourself at home. Please fill out a Connection Card or stop by the office to introduce yourself to us.

As we move into the winter; we still hope that you will make time to THRIVE SPIRITUALLY, engage in BUILDing authentic COMMUNITY and join us as we seek to serve our world and REACH THE LOST with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Thanks for picking up the Journey, this book will help to direct your path this winter at SGAC. Take time to look through it and prayerfully consider where God is calling you to get involved.

Please remember, that the Staff and Elders are here to serve you. Please feel free to be in touch with us if you have any questions or concerns.

Lead Pastor

Rev. Scott Buck

LEADERSHIP STAFF

Main Office: 780-962-4700 250 Century Rd Spruce Grove, AB T7X 1W6

Lead Pastor:

Rev. Scott Buck

Pastor of Outreach, Missions & Men:

Joel Marquez

Youth & Young Adults Pastor:

Josh Palsky

Sr. Lead Associate, Senior's Pastor:

Rev. Art Quist

Pastor of Children's Ministries:

Coreen Frey

Pastor of Apologetics:

Steve Kim

Worship, Arts & Prayer Pastor:

Andrew Bugiera

Pastor of Women's Ministries:

Karen Houcher

Worship Services

Sunday Morning:

9:15 am & 11:15 am

The 2nd full weekend of each month, we offer (gluten-free) Communion, followed by a Benevolent Care Offering.

SGAC Library is available for signing out resources on Sunday mornings.

Children's Ministries

Full children's programming provided at both Sunday Morning Services.

Birth - 24 months - Nursery

2 Year Olds - The Meadow

3 Year Olds - The Marsh

4 yr - K - The Reef

Grade 1/2 - Classroom 1

Grade 3/4 - Classroom 2

Grade 5/6 - Classroom 3

Missed a worship service? Check out www.sgac.net and listen online!

SGAC

Spruce Grove Alliance Church

NEW TO SGAC?

We're glad you're here! A few things we encourage you to do to get to know us:

1. Go to the Welcome Center to pick up a New Comer's Gift Package.
2. Check out www.sgac.net. We'll share a bit about ourselves, and let you know about ways you can get connected at SGAC.
3. Fill out a Connection Card. Take a quick moment to let us know of your visit!

Find a Connection Card:

- In the New Comer's Gift Package
- In one of the chair pockets in the main Sanctuary
- At www.sgac.net.

Ways to stay informed:

1. Check our website for news and information: www.sgac.net
2. Sign up for our e-newsletters at www.sgac.net
3. Read your weekly bulletin at weekend services (or find a copy on our website under the news section)
4. Find us on Facebook!
 - [Spruce Grove Alliance Church](#)
 - [Spruce Grove Alliance Church Children's Ministries](#)
 - [Spruce Grove Alliance Church Women](#)
 - [SGAC Youth](#)
 - [Spruce Grove Alliance Church Young Adults Group](#)

Worship, Arts & Prayer



Pastor Andrew: andrew.bugiera@sgac.net

Colossians 3:16ff, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your

hearts to God. 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."

Ephesians 5:19, "be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ."

When we gather together, we do so with a twofold purpose of glorifying God and edifying each other. We sing up and we sing out. When we have spent time in His presence, we will be eternally changed and we will have Christ's heart for the world. Our worship will propel us out of this building into the community to reach the lost.

My prayer for this season is that we would be propelled out of these walls, strengthened in our faith and our bond with one another, into the community to tell everyone of the great gift that we have received in our Lord Jesus.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES

We meet every Sunday Morning at 9:15 & 11:15 to worship our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Everyone is welcome.

MISSED A SERMON?

If you missed a sermon or want to re-listen to an old one, check out our website. Scroll through old sermons and listen to ones you have missed. Sermons can be found on our website at:

<http://www.sgac.net/sermons>

CORPORATE PRAYER

Our Wednesday evening Corporate Prayer is moving! Corporate Prayer time will continue on Sunday evenings at 5:00 pm starting on January 5, 2020 and we will be meeting in Portable 2. For more information please contact Ken Nixon at kpnixon@shaw.ca.

SGAC HOUSE OF PRAYER

Join us on January 19 at 6:00 pm for SGAC House of Prayer. A night of unbroken modern worship, praise and prayer. Come and spend time in an atmosphere of scripture-based worship and prayer over our church and community. Additional dates will be March 15 & April 19.

MEN'S OUTREACH PRAYER

Men, come pray with us on Monday Mornings at 9:30 am for our outreach ministry. For more information please contact Merrill at merrillj@hotlinkwireless.com.

DOOR TO DOOR OUTREACH PRAYER

Please watch the journey updates in March for upcoming opportunities as we love our community with door to door prayer. For more information please contact Pastor Andrew at andrew.bugiera@sgac.net.

WOMEN'S PRAYER

Do you love to pray or have a prayer need that you would appreciate prayer for? We invite all women to join us for a time of prayer Mondays from 9:30 am in the church library. You are welcome to stay for the whole time or come for a few minutes to be prayed with. Drop in anytime.

"Then you shall call and the Lord will answer".

-(Isaiah 58:9)

Worship, Arts & Prayer

WORSHIP MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS

February 23 we will experience the WELL (Worship, Encouragement, Learning and Laughs). Please plan to join us for this if you are a part of the worship/tech/drama ministries.

SINGIN' THE GOSPEL

Join us on Sunday, March 22 at 6:00 pm for a special night of music with an invite to the whole community in cooperation with the *Every Home for Christ* campaign in Spruce Grove. Three guest artists from the greater Edmonton area will be here for a great night of music. Jamie and Faith Blahun, The Martens Sisters, and Dave Crawford. This event is FREE.

MUSICIANS WANTED

We are always on the lookout for skilled musicians to add to our Worship Teams. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, we'd love to hear from you!

DRAMA MINISTRY

We have ignited a drama ministry here at SGAC and look forward to some more upcoming skits and opportunities to perform. If you would like to act or have talent in set design, costumes or stage management, please chat with Pastor Andrew or email him at andrew.bugiera@sgac.net.

TECHNOLOGIES MINISTRY

Our tech team is always looking for willing volunteers to help with Sunday mornings and special events. If this is an area you can help us, please e-mail Dave Janssen at dave@sgac.net.

PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday is Sunday, April 5. Join us for one of our morning services and enjoy a presentation from our Children's Ministry department. The kids work hard each year to present on this meaningful day and it is always such a treat for the whole congregation.

EASTER WEEKEND

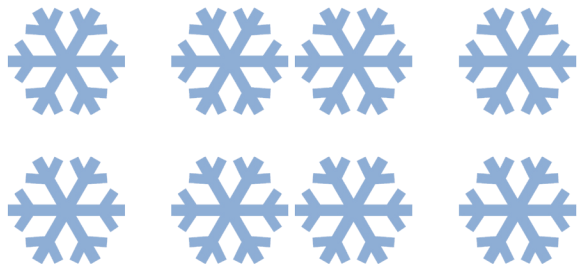
Please plan to join us for 1 or more services and consider inviting someone. Here's what we have happening.

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 10

- 9:15 am
- 11:15 am
- 6:30 pm- Family Friendly "Jesus Film" - *All Welcome! Free admission & popcorn for everyone.*

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 12

- 8:30 am
 - 10:00 am
 - 11:30 am
- Full children's programming will be offered at all 3 Easter Sunday services!



Children birth to grade 6



Pastor Coreen: coreen.frey@sgac.net

We believe that teaching kids about Jesus, faith and Biblical values is critical to prepare them for a purposeful and fulfilling life. We want them to know they are loved, accepted, and belong here as we grow in relationships, teach, and train them in serving. We want to partner with parents to help grow our kids in the respect and love of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

DISCOVERY ISLAND

D **New to our Church?** Please fill in a registration form at the "Check In" station in the foyer. All children check in at the station in the foyer before the service.

AWANA

- **WELCOME BACK:** AWANA will resume in the new year on Wednesday, January 8 for all Clubbers.
- **GRAND PRIX:** Saturday, March 14, 2020 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Puggles to Journey pick up your car kit at AWANA starting Mid-January. Car weigh in will be at AWANA on March 11.
- **CAR WORKSHOPS:** Book a space to create your car on either Friday, March 6 or Saturday, March 7. Contact Kari Gehlert for details at kari.gehlert@sgac.net
- **AWARDS NIGHT:** Wednesday, April 29 at 6:30 pm for all AWANA Clubbers. The kids have worked very hard this year to hide God's Word in their hearts and to learn more about Him. Come congratulate our Clubbers on a job well done! Bring goodies to share afterwards.

VOLUNTEERS

There are many opportunities to serve in Children's Ministries all year long. Would you be willing to be trained to work alongside the kids during AWANA, Discovery Island or VBS? You can help out every week, twice a month, once a month, every 6 weeks, or when someone is away or sick. We welcome all ages 12 and up to serve the Lord in Children's Ministries. Please contact Pastor Coreen at coreen.frey@sgac.net if this is an area you would like to bless and be blessed in.

- **SAFETY & RISK MANAGEMENT TRAINING:** All youth and adults who have been or would like to work with children are required to be trained once per year. This is for the safety and protection of both those in our care as well as the volunteers who serve.

Please join us for this training on

- 1) January 18 from 9:30 am to 11:00 am
(Continental breakfast provided)
- OR
- 2) January 19 from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
(Hot dogs provided)

Please RSVP by January 15 or direct any questions to debbie.funk@sgac.net

- **TEACHER TRAINING BREAKFAST:** Please join us on Saturday, February 29, 2020 from 9:00 am to 11:00 pm. All Children's Ministries volunteers are invited for a time of training and refreshing our skills. Breakfast provided. Please RSVP to Debbie at debbie.funk@sgac.net by Wednesday, February 26. **Safety and Risk Management Training will take place from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm for those that need to take it.**

SAVE THE DATE: VBS will take place August 10-14. Registration will open May 27.

Deeper Life School of Theology

Higher Education in Biblical Studies

Pastor Coreen Frey: coreen.frey@sgac.net

Intro

We exist to:

- Be obedient to the great commission to make disciples (Matthew 28:19).
- Equip the saints to do the work of the ministry (Ephesians 4:11).
- Help raise a new generation of effective servant leaders without sending them away to Bible School; making it affordable and flexible.
- Encourage diligent study of the Word of God and recognize their accomplishments.
- Raise up people who have a thirst to know God and His Word. People who find freedom and wisdom in the Spirit for practical life and ministry.

Accreditation

Christian Life Educators Network (CLST Global) is a world leader in church-based theological and leadership education for over 30 years. It belongs to the International Association of Bible Colleges and Seminaries, as well as Peter Wagner's Academic Council for Educational Accountability. CLST Global has met the state requirements under the Post-Secondary Educational Authorization Act and can legally award certificates and degrees ranging from a Diploma of Theology through to a Doctor of Theology.

Divisions of Study

- Historical Theology
- Practical Theology
- Biblical Theology
- Christian Counseling
- New & Old Testament

Degrees Offered

- Diploma of Theology - 30 Credits
- Associate of Theology - 60 Credits
- Bachelor of Theology - 126 Credits
- Master of Theology - 171 Credits
- Doctor of Theology - 300 Credits

Standard of Conduct

We are a community of Christian believers who confess and follow Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. The community is expected to uphold the Word of God and apply Biblical standards to morality and integrity in life. We are to conduct ourselves in a manner in keeping with Christian decorum and testimony. This involves embracing attitudes and actions the Bible identifies as virtuous and avoiding attitudes and actions the Bible identifies as sinful.

Courses Winter 2020

Class Times are Thursday & Friday Evenings from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm and Saturdays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

- **January 16-18, 2020:**
CC510 "EXPERIENCING FATHER'S EMBRACE"
Rev. Jack Frost
This course is designed to lead you deep into the Father's presence where you can receive a restoration of intimacy.
- **February 20-22, 2020:**
OT120 "SURVEY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT 2"
Dr. Charles Gauden
A study of Hebrew, Poetic, Wisdom and Prophetic Literature. Investigate some major archaeological discoveries and their impact on Scripture.
- **March 19-21, 2020:**
NT113 "THE BEATITUDES"
Dr. Ron Cottle
This Course provides an in-depth study of each profound declaration of Jesus in Matthew Chapter 5.
- **April 16-18, 2020:**
PT125 "THE PRAYING CHURCH"
Dr. Sue Curran
Study God's purpose for corporate prayer from scripture, learn the principle of agreement, going over the wall and how we know He hears us.

You must pre-register for all courses ahead of time. Please contact Pastor Coreen to register or learn more.

Youth & Young Adults



Pastor Josh: josh.palsky@sgac.net

For the most up-to-date information on weekly events check out our Facebook group: We welcome each and every student from Grades 7 - 12 to participate.

IMPORTANT: All youth must fill out a 2019-2020 youth information form in order to attend all youth events. Please go to our website www.sgac.net/youth or to our Facebook page **SGAC Youth** to fill out this form.

YOUTH PARENTS MEETING

Sunday, January 12 at 1:00 pm in The Oasis Room. Meet with Pastor Josh and the Youth Leaders and hear about what is coming up. Calendars of events and information forms will be available.

FRIDAY NIGHT EVENTS FOR GRADES 7-12

All events start at 7:30 pm and pick up is promptly at 10:00 pm unless specifically stated otherwise. Youth Events resume Friday, January 10. Make sure to keep track of our youth events by following us on our Facebook: **SGAC Youth** or our Instagram page **sgacyouth**.

SMALL GROUPS FOR JR. HIGH & SR. HIGH

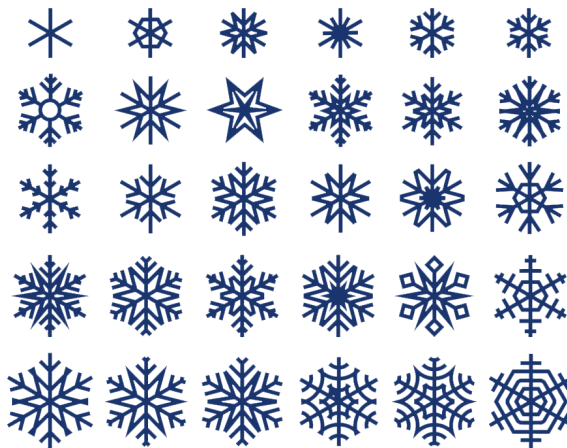
Bible Study will resume on January 7 and run Tuesday evenings from 7:00 pm to 8:45 pm here at SGAC. Come early at 6:30 pm for our drop in youth Games in the gym before study gets started!

YOUTH RETREAT AT CAMP NAKAMUN

Save the Date: February 21-23, 2020 at Camp Nakamun. Watch our Facebook, & Instagram pages and the upcoming weekly bulletins for details.

TREK & JOURNEY

Wednesdays from 5:30 pm until 6:20 pm. Contact Laurie Breikreuz at 780-962-2554. Cost is \$60. Register Online at www.sgac.net/eventregistration.



YOUNG ADULTS

Are you a “Young Adult”? Do you want to learn more about Jesus or the Bible? Do you want to get to know some other Young Adults? If any of these are you then join us Wednesday nights at 7:30 at Mike and Bonny Piska’s (13 Linksvie Close Spruce Grove). We meet weekly for Bible Study and aim to have events / games nights / Sunday lunches monthly. Follow us at the Facebook group **SGAC Young Adults** and our Instagram Account **YoungAdults.SGAC** for details.

- Young Adults will start again on January 8. We meet every Wednesday at 7:30 pm.

For more information about what goes on week to week contact Corisa at 780-996-8687 or check out our Instagram [youngadults.sgac](https://www.instagram.com/youngadults.sgac) or our Facebook group **SGAC Young Adults**.

Women



Pastor Karen Houcher: karen.houcher@sgac.net

We hope that you join us as together we strive to Thrive Spiritually, Build Community, and Reach the Lost. Connect with us on our women's Facebook page "[Spruce Grove Alliance Church Women](#)".

LOVING TANGIBLY WITH NO EXPECTATION

So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples. John 13:34-35

Let's get together and have fun intentionally showing love to complete strangers. On Thursday, February 13, 2020 Meet at Spruce Grove Alliance Church at 6:30 pm. All are welcome! More details on event to come soon!

DAYBREAK & EVENING EDITION

Women of all ages and stages of life join us at Daybreak or Evening Edition for a study by Jo Saxton on the book of Philippians. In this eight-session series, Jo takes us through Philippians to encourage us to follow Jesus no matter what life throws at us. Through Paul's words and example, learn how joy and sacrifice can go hand-in-hand. Registration opens December 29, www.sgac.net/eventregistration.

DAYBREAK: Beginning January 21 join us Tuesday mornings for 9 weeks from 9 – 11 am. Child-care available.

EARLY-BIRD RATES UNTIL JANUARY 12TH.

- Cost: \$7/person
- 1st Child \$30/2nd Child \$15/Family Maximum \$45

AFTER EARLY-BIRD DEADLINE

- Cost: \$15/person
- 1st Child \$45/2nd Child \$15/Family Maximum \$60

EVENING EDITION: Beginning January 30 join us Thursday evenings for 8 weeks from 7-8:30 pm
Cost: \$7/person

WOMEN'S PRAYER

Mondays at 9:30 am in the Library. Join us for a time of Thanksgiving/Praise, interceding for the church and its leadership, sharing our blessings and needs and enjoying the special fellowship one experiences in prayer, be it silent or audible. "Then you shall call and the Lord will answer". (Isaiah 58:9)

DEEP DISH

Women Building Connections, Community, and Conversation
A casual time for women of all ages to come together and get connected. Drop in to the Fireside Room, between 7:00 pm -8:30 pm the first Tuesday evening of each month from February - May, for a time of building friendship with other women. Enjoy some coffee and dessert as we dig deeper into life and faith.

2 LITTLE 4 ME

Children's Toy & Clothing Sale

The 2 Little 4 Me Children's Clothing and Toy Sale is a bi-annual outreach event and we will once again open our doors to the community on Saturday, April 25 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Invite your friends and neighbors to stop in for the sale and to check out the church!

Mark your Calendar: Table rental registration for the spring sale will open on March 5 at 10:00 am in person at the church. Check out the **2 Little 4 Me Children's Clothing & Toy Sale** Facebook page for the most up to date information.

Women's Retreat

Join us April 17-19 as we gather together at Camp Nakamun to connect with women of all ages (grade 11 and up we'd love for you to join us). Spend time with the Lord as we worship, learn and pray together.

Early bird rate: \$175

Late rate: \$180

For more information please contact Amy Bugiera at amybugiera@gmail.com

Keenagers & Other Ministries



Pastor Art: art.quist@sgac.net

Family – definition – ‘all the descendants of a common ancestor.’ When we pray and begin, “our Heavenly Father” we are identifying with the family of God.

And what a great family we are. Of course in most families, there are the young ones and the elderly ones. ‘Keenagers’ is the name that we affectionately called our wonderful senior adults. For all those great folks who are somewhere between 50 and 100, plan to join us for some great times of friendship and fellowship throughout the days and weeks ahead.

KEENAGERS BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER

Each Wednesday morning a great group of senior adults meets at 9:45 am in our Oasis Room for a wonderful time of fellowship, singing the old hymns, prayer and study of God’s Word.

The Apostle Paul wrote the following to Timothy, his protégé: (2 Timothy 2:15)

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

This is our desire each Wednesday as we dive deep into God’s Word. Our hymn singing time and prayer time are always very special times together. Each first Wednesday of the month we enjoy a great home-cooked meal together. The cost for this is \$10.00.

KEENAGERS SPRING BRUNCH

Keep your eye peeled for our next fellowship meal together. We always look forward to getting together for these great times of food and fellowship. We’ll have more details in a few weeks.

OLD FASHIONED HYMN SING

Did you know that the Psalms were actual songs? Yes, they were sung as the pilgrims of old journeyed, worked and worshipped.

We all need the encouragement that each other offers. Hymn Sing is one of those such times of fellowship and building.

Plan to join us on the second Sunday of most months for a great time of singing the great hymns of the church plus some wonderful sharing over snacks following the singing. Be sure to check the website and watch for weekly announcements for details.

BAPTISM AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Baptism is an ordinance of the church that Christ has commanded. It is also such a joy to witness a person giving public testimony of their decision to trust Christ as their Saviour and of their faith journey.

Pastor Art will conduct Baptism Classes during both services on March 1. These classes will be held in the Prayer Room – 9:30 am and 11:30 am.

We encourage Church Membership as a ‘next-step’ in your life within the body of Christ here at Spruce Grove Alliance Church. ***If you would like to know more about Membership and Classes offered, please contact Pastor Art.***

MAINTENANCE TEAM

Would you like to serve with some odd jobs that involve some ‘fixing’ skills? Please call me or stop by my office and I’d love to chat with you about this great opportunity.

Apologetics



Pastor Steve: steve.kim@sgac.net

Apologetics is sadly an unfamiliar word for many in the church. “It must be a very Canadian discipline,” I was once told.

Actually, apologetics has nothing to do with saying sorry. Rather, it is a discipline in which you seek to provide the rational basis for your beliefs. I hope to “whet the intellectual appetite” of the SGAC family as we train together in seeing the whole world through the lens of a Christian worldview.

ALPHA Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith.

Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Each talk is around thirty minutes long and given as a live talk or played as a video. Come explore the big issues around faith and unpack the basics of Christianity, addressing questions from Who is Jesus? And How can we have faith? To Why and how do I pray? and How does God guide us?

One of the most important parts of any Alpha: the chance to share thoughts and ideas on the topic, and discuss in a small group. It’s an opportunity to hear from others and contribute your own perspective in an honest, friendly and open environment.

Starting January 12, Alpha will take place in the Oasis Room from 6:00-8:00 pm on Sunday evenings. Join us for this amazing opportunity to fellowship and share the gospel. Space is limited so please pre-register with Pastor Steve.

SGAC READS

This book club will start again in January. We will read through “**Straw Dogs**” by Dr. John A. Gray. Gray is Professor of European Thought at London School of Economics and is an atheist.

As an atheist, he examines Secular Liberalism and learns why it’s hopelessly rooted in Judeo-Christian values. We will meet twice a month. Dates will be posted soon, so keep your eyes open!

APOLOGETICS BOOT CAMP

Once a month, we will get together on a Saturday for apologetics Boot Camp. We will meet from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm (bring your own lunch) and delve into various worldview issues together. We will cover such topics as: *spotting logical fallacies, the nature of truth, arguments for God’s existence, how to communicate apologetic insights, which worldview can make sense of objective morality and how.*

Dates: January 18, February 22, March 14, & April 18

THE THINKING SERIES

We will be running this again in the spring. Dates are TBD, so keep your eyes open for more information. If you haven’t attended the Series before, join us and learn to think about the why behind the what of our faith.

*“Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.”
-Colossians 4:5-6 (ESV)*



Pastor Joel: joel.marquez@sgac.net

A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD", make straight in the desert a highway for our God." Isaiah 40:3

Local Outreach

- **EVERY HOME FOR CHRIST:** I, along with three other local pastors (namely SGAC, Christian Fellowship Church, Parkland Baptist and Community Church) got together with one heart and one mind with a united vision to reach the whole city of Spruce Grove for Jesus. To God be the glory! All four churches are now organizing an event in March that will make the name of Jesus famous in the city of Spruce Grove with the coordination and help of the *EVERY HOME FOR CHRIST* ministry. We would like to make it possible for people in every home in Spruce Grove to know who Jesus is and how to experience His transforming life. Stay tuned to the bulletin for more information.
- **SINGIN' THE GOSPEL** on March 22, 2020. This event will be open to our community and it will be included in the mail out that Every Home for Christ send to each home in Spruce Grove. Please check the bulletin or church website for more information.

GLOBAL MISSIONS

- Thank you for giving faithfully to our "Global Advance Fund" (GAF). Your generous giving to the GAF allows our International Workers like Andy and Janet, Ray and Cindy Perry, Ace and Cecilia Cheung and many more to be the hands and feet of Jesus around the world.
- Several people from our congregation have recently taken or will be taking a short mission trip. Currently, Isabelle Wiebe and Robin Jespersen are serving in New Zealand with YWAM. Jazz Barendregt just returned from her short mission trip with YWAM. In the next months please be in prayer for the Fikkert family (Trevor, Paula and the children) as they prepare to head to New Zealand for a term. This January Bo Houcher will be heading to YWAM in New Zealand and Kendra Friesen is going to Capernwray, Australia in January 2020. Let's uphold them in prayer as they seek, serve and make Jesus famous.



Pastor Joel: joel.marquez@sgac.net

Men's Ministry

- **WINTER SESSION:** Come join us for Monday Night Men study from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., beginning January 13, 2020. We will continue our six week study on becoming the man that God would like us to be. 33 the Series - “Authentic Manhood – Volume 2 - A Man and His Story.” This study will help men to understand how their past shapes who they are today. It will provide insights about our past and enjoy God’s best for our future.” Online registration for this 6 week course opens December 29, 2019. You can also register at the Welcome Desk on January 5 & 12. Registration fee is \$25.00. Sponsorship is available if needed – talk to Pastor Joel for more details.
- **SPRING SESSION** of the Monday Night Men study will start on March 30, 2020 where we will continue our study on “Authentic Manhood Volume 3 - A Man and His Traps”. This study will help men identify the deep idols of their heart and develop a “Battle plan” built on God’s grace.”
- **SOCIAL EVENTS:** We are planning to host some social events to give men the opportunity to connect with other men and to Build Community. More information to follow.
- **MEN’S RETREAT:** March 6-8, 2020. We would like to ‘Thrive Spiritually’ and to experience the power of Jesus to transform us into the person that God created us to be. Our prayer is that each man who attends this Retreat will hear the voice of God and experience the loving presence of Jesus. We would like to ‘Build Community’ among the men of SGAC.



REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP UPDATE

Praise for God for the many great things He has done in us and through us. On behalf of the Refugee Sponsorship Team headed by Natalie Boldt, we are so grateful and thankful for all of you. For your love, prayers and support as we anticipate the arrival of the Ranjbar family, the refugee family that we are sponsoring.

The Ranjbar have completed all of the requirements set out for them and we are now waiting for a decision from the immigration officer at a Canadian visa office. That office will make the final decision as whether the Ranjbar family have successfully met the eligibility and admissibility requirements set out in Canadian law. The issuance of their visa could happen anytime.

Because of your generosity, we were able to raise the financial amount needed to support the family for one year as required by the government. A generous donor from our community has donated the use of their new house for one whole year. To God be the glory!

Discipleship Pathway

Walking with Jesus Mark 3:13-15



Centered in Jesus Christ, we will Thrive Spiritually, Build Community, and Reach the Lost by loving our community and serving the world.

It is the goal of SGAC to have the **resurrected Jesus** at the centre of all things. Our desire is to see people grow in their spiritual journey. From one who **investigates** the claims of Jesus to one walking with Jesus as a **mature** person of faith.

To help with the journey we have developed this wheel that helps identify key steps along the pathway. The foundation of a Christian life is to first **believe** in the person of Jesus Christ as the only substitute for our sin, then to **repent** and turn from our sins, followed by a public profession of our faith through the waters of **baptism**. Finally we are to be **filled** with the **Holy Spirit** in order to walk out the Christian journey. In order to mature in our faith we long to encourage followers of Jesus to develop rhythms that foster and strengthen a daily personal relationship with Jesus through prayer and scripture reading.

The second leg in the journey is to “Study to show yourself approved” (2 Tim 2:14-16). It is our hope that each person that attends SGAC would have a clear, in-depth, accurate and full understanding of the **Word of God** and seek to apply it in their daily lives.

In addition, as the Bride of Christ walks in the fullness of the Holy Spirit, the **fruit of the Spirit** will be evidenced in our lives. As the fruit of the Spirit is evidenced so too will we operate using the **Spiritual gifts** in order to glorify God, edify the body and reach lost people with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Finally, we desire to encourage maturing believers to **serve/mentor** others in the church and those seeking truth and salvation. We long to be a people who make a significant impact for the Kingdom. That Jesus would be pleased by our service and sacrifice.

The Discipleship Pathway has been created to help you discern what the next step is for you in your faith journey. Maybe you have resolved who Jesus is but you are not sure how the Old or New Testament fit together, consider attending our “Understanding” studies to gain a deeper knowledge. You have a basic grasp but need to strengthen your bible knowledge. Or maybe you have a decent understanding of God’s word but want to dive in a bit deeper on a specific subject. Please consider: Daybreak or Evening Edition, Men’s Monday Night study, Keenagers, Young Adults, Youth or Awana. These studies are geared to help you grow in your *understanding of God’s Word*.

Coming Up

Pastor Scott: scott.buck@sgac.net

UNDERSTANDING THE OLD TESTAMENT:

Starts Wednesday, January 22 at 6:40 pm. This study will attempt to bring some continuity and clarity to the Old Testament writings, highlighting some of the main characters, concepts, and time-lines within these 39 books.

From beginning to end, the Bible is God's story of promise and provision. Get to know this story-His story. Join us in understanding more about His story through the Old Testament. Please register at the Welcome Center or in the office starting January 5. Online registration will open January 9. This study will only run if there is enough interest.

LIFE GROUPS

As part of our strategic priorities to thrive spiritually, build community and reach the lost we encourage you to participate in a life group for prayer, Bible study and fellowship. If you are interested in joining a life group please contact Pastor Scott at scott.buck@sgac.net.



SOUL CARE CONFERENCE

MARCH 5-7 AT ST. ALBERT ALLIANCE CHURCH
W/AUTHOR ROB REIMER.

We are often limited by our past wounds, our current behaviours, and our faulty thinking. The Soul Care Equipping conference teaches biblical principles for the healing of the soul and how to overcome broken and sinful areas of life as well as equips participants with tools to help others find hope and healing in Jesus.

A key focus of this equipping event is giving tools to leaders to facilitate deep life-change in themselves and others through the presence of Jesus. During each session a ministry time will be provided for participants to process their own journey and lead others through healing.

Join Dr. Rob Reimer, creator of Soul Care, for this life changing conference!

- Super Early Bird Registration- \$79 (Until December 31)
- Early Bird Registration - \$89 (Begins January 1, 2020)
- Registration -\$99 (Begins February 1, 2020)
- Student Registration-\$49 (Must be enrolled full-time)

Cost includes lunch each day, snacks, coffee and tea.

Tentative Schedule

- Thursday March 5, 9AM-8PM (4-6PM break for dinner on your own)
- Friday March 6, 9AM-4PM
- Saturday March 7, 9AM- 8PM (4-6PM break for dinner on your own)

To register online go to:

<https://staalliance.churchcenter.com/registrations/events>

RightNow Media

rightnow MEDIA

We are excited to share that our church now has access to an extensive, new video library called RightNow Media! It's like the "Netflix of Video Bible Studies" and has a HUGE library of faith-based videos that you can access whenever and wherever you want—on your phone, iPad, computer, or at home on your TV.

As a church staff, we're always looking for ways to help you develop and strengthen your faith. We believe that RightNow Media will be a tool to serve you as you live out your faith at home, at work and in your neighborhood. RightNow Media has videos for everyone—kids, youth, parents, married couples, college students, single adults, working professionals—all aimed at helping you grow.

You should have already received an official invitation email to give you FREE access to RightNow Media. If you haven't received it yet, check your mail filter (because it came from RightNow's system, it may have gotten caught there). If you did not receive an email, no worries, it's easy to join.

Visit www.sgac.net/rightnowmedia to start using this resource today.



Giving at SGAC

How can I donate at SGAC?

We have five methods of donating to SGAC:

1. ONLINE GIVING

Whether it is a one-time gift or you would like to schedule a recurring donation, you can give online to Spruce Grove Alliance Church using a Visa or MasterCard debit cards or the traditional Visa or MasterCard credit cards.

2. DIRECT PAYMENT FROM A BANK ACCOUNT

Pick up a pre-authorized debit agreement form at the Welcome Centre. You can fill it out and then return it with a voided cheque - just drop it in one of the offering plates or return it to the Welcome Centre in an envelope marked "Confidential: Donations Clerk".

3. ENVELOPES IN THE CHAIR POCKETS

There are envelopes in the chair pockets in the sanctuary that you can use to make an offering at any time. Please print your name and address (and Giving Number if you have one) clearly so we can correctly disburse the funds and issue your tax receipt. If you don't already have a Giving Number, please inquire in the office and we'd be happy to set you up with one.

4. INTERAC

Use Interac at the Welcome Centre to make your donation while at church, then fill out your donation envelope as normal including your name, address, giving number and insert your debit receipt so we can disburse funds as directed.

5. E-TRANSFER

Use E-Transfer to give at SGAC, using giving@sgac.net. Please include your offering envelope number and contact information. The money is deposited directly into the church account and does not require a security question. (This method of giving is not to be used for registrations.)

Where are the funds used?

General Fund: *Make a donation to support the Ministry of Spruce Grove Alliance Church.*

Your donation to SGAC will help support the general ministries of our church in Spruce Grove. This includes ministry staffing, office staffing, facilities, operating costs and other administrative costs.

Canadian Ministries Fund: *Make a donation to support Canadian work of The C&MA.*

Contributions to the Canadian Ministries Fund will go towards church planting in Canada, the C&MA's Ambrose University/College and Seminary and to other Canadian initiatives.

Future Development Fund: *Make a donation to support SGAC's Future Development Fund.*

This fund has been approved by the Board to be used for major building repairs, equipment purchases and the development of the existing site with a new Christian education wing, sanctuary, chapel and office space.

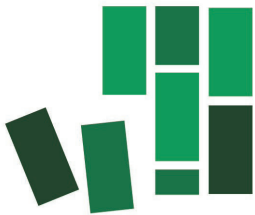
Global: *Make a donation to support the Global work of The C&MA.*

Around the globe Alliance workers are active. Your gift to Global Advance will help support the full-time missionaries that have been sent from SGAC to the Desert Sand, Asian Spice, Silk Road and Caribbean Sun districts of the world. GAF funds are forwarded monthly to the Canadian Alliance Head Office.

Refugee Sponsorship Fund: *Make a donation to support SGAC's sponsorship of a refugee family. Your gift to the Refugee Sponsorship Fund will go directly to the sponsored family to help them get settled during their first year in Spruce Grove. This will be an amazing opportunity for the body of Christ to come together and love beyond our walls.*

You are able to direct your donations to any of the above funds through designations on the offering envelopes and/or through the on-line giving page.

Future Development *Phase 1 Update*



SPRUCE GROVE ALLIANCE CHURCH

Building a Spiritual Home for Spruce Grove

THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT TEAM is grateful to be working on behalf of a congregation that gives sacrificially to realize our shared vision for the future of Spruce Grove Alliance: a church that is positioned and equipped to meet the growing spiritual needs of the communities we serve. Thank you for your continued participation with Phase 1!

CONSTRUCTION - The parking lot lights will be delivered and installed in early 2020, following the installation of the necessary posts and underground wiring (part of our summer and fall work to lay the foundation for phase 1). We look forward to increased safety and enhancing the curb appeal of SGAC.

FUNDRAISING - As of December 12, 2019, we are \$735,000 away from reaching our goal of \$4 million in cash and pledges (2/3rds of the total project cost).

We had hoped to reach the \$4 million goal by the end of December so that construction could begin in early spring. Not reaching this goal means that construction will be delayed as we are not able to secure the final architectural drawings and building permits until we have 2/3 of the full project cost in cash and dedicated pledges.

As well as working to raise the funds required to begin construction, the Future Development Team will continue to seek skilled tradespeople and willing hands to reduce the anticipated final cost of the project. We will also continue to complete work around the church that will ensure we are ready to begin construction, when our fundraising goals are met. This work will be limited to volunteer labour and low cost repairs and preparations, or supporting the building maintenance team to ensure our existing building remains safe and functional.

If you have questions or are wondering how giving or pledging to this project works, please contact a member of the FD team.

Join us today and help build a spiritual home for the people of Spruce Grove and Parkland County!

Dan Houcher, Chair

Future Development Team

Email us: Phase1@sgac.net

Learn more at: www.sgac.net/phase1

Knowing Jesus Personally

Next Steps...

EXPLORE:

What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus? What's my next step?

GOD'S PERSPECTIVE:

God loves you and created you to know Him personally. He has a wonderful plan for your life. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

OUR CONDITION:

People are sinful and separated from God, so we cannot know Him personally or experience His love and plan. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

GOD'S RESPONSE:

Jesus Christ is God's only provision for our sin.

Through Him alone we can know God personally and experience God's love and plan.

But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'" John 14:6

OUR RESPONSE:

We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord; then we can know God personally and experience His love and plan.

"Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast."

Ephesians 2:8-9

(Resource: Knowing Jesus Personally)

BAPTISM

If you are interested in learning more about Baptism, come to an information session on March 1 during each service, in the Prayer Room. Contact Pastor Art to sign up at art.quist@sgac.net.

Baptism is a public declaration of one's belief in God and a testimony of God's involvement in a person's life. It is a decision to tell the world that we love Jesus, that we believe He died and rose again for us, and that we want to live our lives for Him.

We at Spruce Grove Alliance Church understand baptism as a personal decision that each believer must make after entering into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. For that reason, we do not baptize infants or others who have not yet placed their faith and trust in Jesus.

Baptism is not required for salvation. The Bible says, "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9). Baptism in itself does nothing without faith. It is simply an outward sign or a public declaration of what God has done in a person's life.

Like all C&MA churches, Spruce Grove Alliance Church practices baptism by full immersion in a public setting. We understand this to be the Biblical pattern, expressing death to self and new life in Jesus Christ (see Romans 6). Under certain circumstances, however, we will consider a different method of baptism.

RESOURCES

- [RightNow Media](#)
- **SGAC LIBRARY:** Enjoy numerous fiction and nonfiction resources, available for sign-out.
- **FOR BIBLE STUDY:** www.biblegateway.com
Questions? Contact Us!

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