

ELDER'S UPDATE

December
2018

Thrive Spiritually • Build Community • Reach the Lost

Message from the Chair

I would like to thank the membership, the staff, and the board for their support and prayers for Anne and myself as we dedicate ourselves to serve our Lord Jesus Christ in helping all of us move forward in “Loving like Jesus”. My desire is for all of us that have chosen to follow Jesus, to practice this every day wherever we find ourselves. This will change our families, our church, our workplace, our schools, our community, and our global perspective.

I would like to thank those who worked so hard on our policy manual. It has provided guidance for decision making without the need for a meeting. It also provides for consistency. We have also scheduled a review of the policy before yearend.

To avoid a conflict of interest while maintaining consistency for the Future Development Team, Graham Jespersen has taken my place on this team. As you will see from their update, we are moving forward with the goal to start building in 2019. These are exciting times of great opportunity for Spruce Grove Alliance Church.

We are also thankful that the new board was able to meet October 19 and 20 for our annual workshop retreat with pastoral staff and district leader Ken DeMaere. It was a time to worship and pray together, get to know each other relative to our gifts and strengths, and be united to move forward with a focused vision. To all who call Spruce Grove Alliance home as well as all visitors, my immediate goal is to get to know you so I may better serve you.

Serving together in Jesus' love,
Henry Banman



Future Development Team is going Underground!

The Future Development Team is aiming to raise \$750,000 – and we need your help!

The Future Development Team, with the support of the Church Board, is aiming to begin preparing the church site for future construction. We have a lot of work to do to get ready!

This groundwork will include, Storm System install, Water line, Sewer line and tie in, Parking lot ground work and dirt removal, Foundation ground work, Power upgrade tie-in, and Telecommunications and internet upgrades.

We encourage all those who call Spruce Grove Alliance Church home to consider how they can and will contribute to the success of this project. We are looking to raise \$750,000 to fully fund this preliminary stage of the project – site service upgrades. This groundwork is part of the phase 1 project and already included in the building expense.

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

Ministry Highlights

- **Youth** Friday night attendance is averaging 90 kids along with an average of 30 kids who attended a Sunday morning Bible study.
- **Young Adults** had 20 people attend their retreat this fall and 8-10 are meeting for the weekly Bible study.
- **Women's Daybreak** has 69 women registered as they work through the Bible as a complete story.
- **Keenagers** ministry continues to strengthen in numbers as they study the book of James.
- Pastors Art, Coreen, Karen, Andrew and Josh and their spouses, were able to attend the district **Prayer Retreat** held in Lake Louise. They were blessed, refreshed and encouraged throughout the week.

Missions / Outreach

Our **Uganda mission** wrapped up with a celebration service which was attended by around 40 people. A program of remembering was led by Walter Loewen and Richard Friesen and an offering of \$2095 was collected to be sent to Ministry in Uganda.

Fall Family Festival saw more than 450 people walk through the doors of the church. Keenagers, Women's, Men's, youth, outreach and worship ministries all work together to make this event a success, and this is very encouraging to the board.

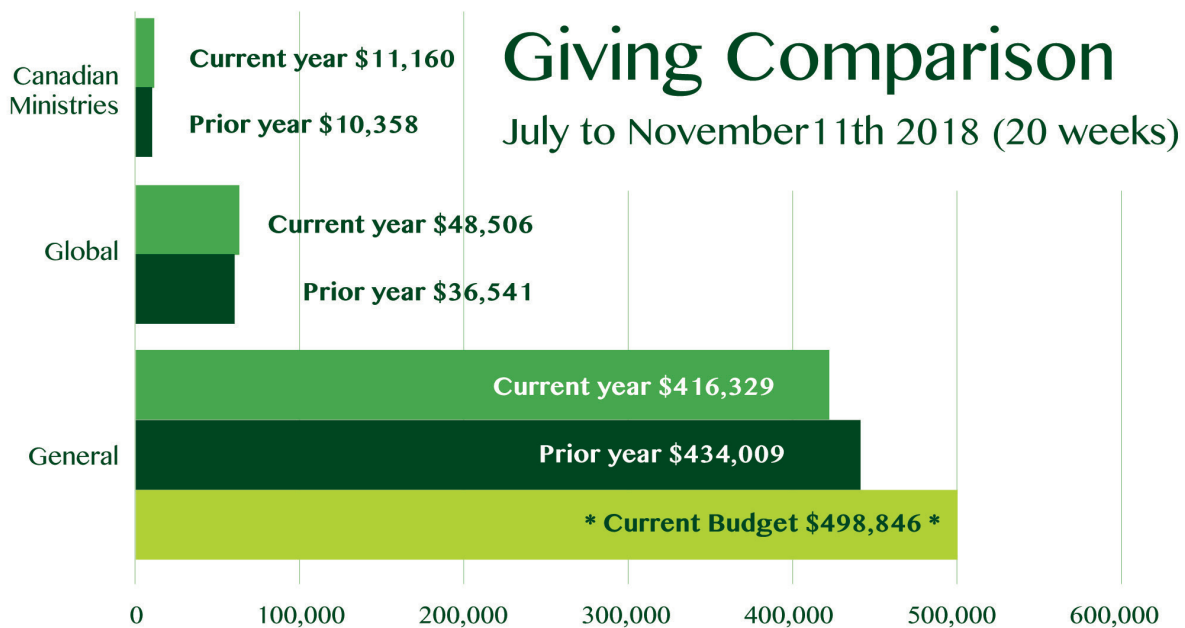
Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage was attended by more than 500 people with many couples coming from outside our congregation.



Important Financial Update

The **General Fund** is in need of your help, giving for the current fiscal year July 1 to November 11th has been averaging \$20,829 compared to our budget requirement of \$24,942. This has resulted in an overall **budget shortfall of \$82,500** for the current year.

As we look to the upcoming year, our budget includes the addition of a pastoral staff member. If we are to proceed, this needs **our immediate attention**. Please pray about this important matter and give as you are able. God bless you as you commit a portion of your resources to His work in reaching our community for Him.



Refugee Sponsorship

The Board has approved an initiative that will allow SGAC to pursue sponsorship of a refugee family. A leadership team has been formed and presented to the various ministry groups here at SGAC. The first steps are now underway to raise awareness of how and what this could look like, and to bring this to reality.



SGAC Elders:



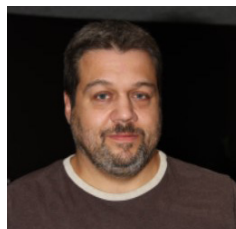
Henry Banman
Chair



Del Dyck
Treasurer



Tim Wiebe
Secretary



John de Steiger



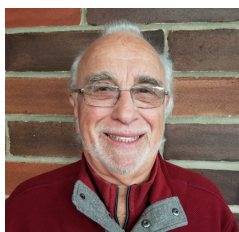
John Olsen



Anthony Toornstra



Dante Vinuya



Orv Perry



Fred Zelensky



Jim Bouchie

The Elders of SGAC want to keep the lines of communication open and clear with our attendees. This newsletter is not designed to be comprehensive, but rather, to provide an overview of some things that have been happening at the board level since our last newsletter (June 2018). If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to one of our Elders in person or by email at chair@sgac.net.

It is our goal to serve with integrity and transparency.