



## Forward Baptist Church – Celebrating 100 Years

Message from the Chair of the Deacon's Board:

Happy Anniversary! As our 100 year anniversary celebrations come to an end, we want to thank you for participating and supporting us through prayer and your financial gifts. It was great to see many of you from years past at our anniversary banquet and I especially enjoyed greeting you as you arrived in the parking lot on anniversary Sunday morning. I hope you were encouraged to see how God is continuing use ministries at Forward Baptist Church to draw men, women and children to salvation using His church. Please enjoy this small reminder of this past year's celebrations and continue to remember our church and ministries in prayer.

~John Deinum  
Chair of the Deacon's Board

Message from our Ministry Team:

It was such a privilege to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Forward with you this past year! God has been so good to our church in so many ways over the years. One of the most significant ways His goodness has been on display is in the faithful men and women who have made up the Forward family and who have served God in so many ways. So thank you for coming to celebrate with us and making our anniversary such a special event this past year. Thank you for letting us see a glimpse of the past through you and for coming to see a glimpse of the present and future through us! We hope that the connections we have with your all will continue on into the future and that you will pray for us as we march on to our 101st year and beyond. With that in mind, we wanted to share some updates from the past year with you. We hope you are encouraged by them!

~Pastor Steve Lambert  
on behalf of the Ministry Team.

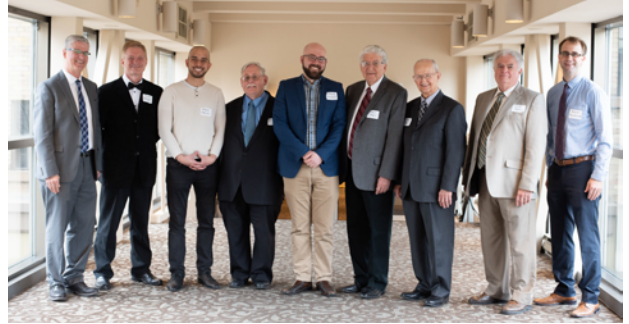
# Highlights From The Past Year

## Weeks of Prayer

This year we had two weeks of prayer: during the week leading up to Easter and during our Mission Focus week we had gatherings each morning and evening for guided times of prayer. Many people engaged in these prayer times and we know God worked through the prayers of His people.

## 100 Year Celebration

Obviously we had a lot going on this year to celebrate our 100 Year Anniversary. We really enjoyed our 100 Year Anniversary Banquet and Anniversary Sunday in May this year. We were so thankful to have Pastor Paul Kerr speak at the banquet and Pastor Bob Flemming speak on Sunday. We



were also extremely grateful to Dr. Michael Haykin for all the work he and his assistants put into researching and writing the book of Forward's History. We had a wonderful time at our Youth Reunion Banquet that was held in June. Finally, we gathered at the Mission Focus Banquet that was held in October, and we were blessed to hear the amazing story of our former missionary, Don Whiteside. All of these events took a lot of work by a lot of volunteers to put together; we praise God for all who worked so hard to make these events come together.

## Church Updates

In 2019, God has continued to bless us by working in the lives of our people. We have seen at least two people put their faith in Jesus this year through the ministries of our church. We have also been blessed to have God bring a number of brand new Christians to us who heard the gospel and then came to Forward as their first church. We have had the privilege of baptizing 3 people this year. We also have added six new members to our church this year. In 2018 we had 12 baptisms and brought in 17 new members. God is so good!



Our children's and youth ministries have grown steadily over the past few years. In 2018 we only had about 2 or 3 kids in our youth group, but this year we've been up to around 20. Not all of these youth attend our church. Some are from other churches and some come from unchurched families. God has worked in the lives of these youth and saved a couple of them over the past few years and is producing growth and fruit in their lives.



2019 was another encouraging year for our Children's Ministry at Forward. On Sunday mornings we have been following the Gospel Project curriculum which is a 3-year journey through the entire bible helping kids to trace the story of redemption. We have been encouraged by what kids are learning. We have between 15 and 25 kids in our Nursery to Grade Six on Sundays.

Our PA Day Camps (which happen 6 times a year for a full day) continue to be well received by the community and they have the full support from the Forward Baptist Church community: it takes 25+ volunteers each camp to make it a success. We love connecting 6 times a year with kids and families, sharing Jesus, showing Jesus love, and spending time together. We have approximately 50 kids in each camp and we will see 75 different kids attend this year.

We have a variety of Summer Camps that help us make connections with our community. This year we held a cooking camp, youth camp, kids camp, and backyard bible camps. We had over 130 kids attend at least one of our camps and had 50+ different volunteers.



Our Jr. Youth Program (grades 3-6) which happens one Friday night a month has also been growing. We currently have about 30 kids a month attend. This program is a bridge program that helps introduce and prepare our younger students for weekly youth group. We have a different theme each month, eat food, and share a gospel challenge.

### **Prayer Requests**

We invite you to continue to participate in ministry with us by regularly praying for Forward Baptist Church and our ministry in the city of Toronto. As God leads you, please pray for:

- ~ Our Staff, Elders and Deacons: that we would continue to identify and develop Godly leaders who will grow to serve as pastors, staff, elders and deacons at Forward and other churches in the city of Toronto, Canada, and beyond.
- ~ Our membership: that our love would increase more and more for one another, and that we would engage in discipleship, grow in Christ, and follow God's leading for us as a church.
- ~ Our outreach: that as we engage with local community, God would draw men, women and children to himself and that we as a church would be faithful in sharing Christ's love and the gospel message with individuals.
- ~ Finances: that God would continue to provide finances to fulfill His work at Forward.

## Ministry Team Directory



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