



# **ANNUAL REPORT 2024**

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# Forward Baptist Church 2024 Annual Report

1891 Gerrard Street East, Toronto, Ontario M4L 2B9

## Table of Contents

STATEMENT OF FAITH .....	4
MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT .....	6
Our Mission.....	6
Our Vision .....	6
MEMBERSHIP COVENANT .....	8
ELDERS REPORT – Shawn Freer.....	9
DEACONS BOARD REPORT – Mark Duiker.....	12
PASTOR OF TEACHING AND DISCIPLESHIP – Steve Lambert.....	14
PASTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – Aaron Woodhouse .....	20
YOUTH PASTOR – Gary Hudson .....	24
CHILDREN’S MINISTRY – Beth Alexander .....	27
WORSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS – Emma Murphy .....	30
MISSIONS COMMITTEE .....	33
BENEVOLENT FUND REPORT.....	39
FINANCE REPORT .....	41
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE .....	42
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURE - LOCAL MINISTRY FUND .....	44
SCHEDULE OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE – MISSIONS .....	46
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION.....	48
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES .....	48
MEMBERSHIP AND BAPTISM REPORT.....	50





## STATEMENT OF FAITH

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**Bible:** We believe the Bible to be the complete Word of God; that the sixty-six books, as originally written, comprising the Old and New Testaments were God-breathed and were entirely free from error; we believe that God, in His providence, ensured the preservation of His Word so that that the Bible is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice and the true basis of Christian union.

**God:** We believe in One God, Creator of all, holy, sovereign, eternal, existing in three equal Persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit who have enjoyed perfect love and community for all of eternity.

**God the Father:** We believe in one God, the Father almighty who is over all and who sovereignly works through all and in all according to His purpose. He shares the same divine essence as His Son and the Holy Spirit so that they are each fully God. We believe that He sent the Son to redeem the church, whom He chose and adopted to make them co-heirs with the Son and true children of the Father, blessing them with every blessing, and disciplining them, as a loving Father.

**God the Son:** We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He shares the same divine essence as His Father and the Holy Spirit and is fully God. We believe in His eternal existence with the Father and Holy Spirit in preincarnate glory. We believe that He took on full humanity when He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. He lived a sinless life, died a substitutionary death, was resurrected bodily, and ascended triumphantly. He is the head of the church and now sits at the right hand of the Father, mediating for His people until the day He returns to reign.

**God the Holy Spirit:** We believe in one Holy Spirit of God, who shares the same divine essence as the Father and the Son and is fully God. We believe He is a person and not merely a force. The Spirit spoke through the prophets and apostles so the Scriptures are the very words of God. He actively convinces of sin, of righteousness, and of judgement. He regenerates, indwells, and sanctifies those who put their faith in Jesus Christ. He also illuminates, comforts, unifies, and gives gifts to those who believe in Jesus Christ.

**Satan:** We believe that Satan is a spirit being who is an evil personality, the originator of sin, the archenemy of God and humankind, whose eternal destiny in hell is certain.

**Humanity:** We believe that God created humanity in His own image to glorify and enjoy Him forever.

We believe that because we were created in the image of God, we were created to work, to be creative, to care for and cultivate the earth.

We also believe that because we were made in the image of God, the value, dignity and personhood of human life comes from God; He knits us together in our mothers' wombs and numbers our days according to His will.

Furthermore, we believe that because we were created in the image of our Triune God, we were created for community. Friendship and family reflect this reality, as does the unity and diversity of the local church. This is also reflected in gender differences between male and female and in the covenant relationship of marriage, where one man and one woman are joined together as husband and wife. God created sexual activity to be practiced and enjoyed by a husband and wife in marriage to celebrate and deepen that union and for procreation. Therefore, sexual activity practiced outside of marriage is forbidden by God.

**Sin:** Sin was introduced into the world when Adam disobeyed God. The result of this first sin is that all humanity is alienated from God; every aspect of their total being is depraved. Humanity thereby incurred the condemnation of God, resulting in physical, spiritual and eternal death.

**Salvation:** We believe that salvation is by the sovereign, electing grace of God; that Christ voluntarily suffered a substitutionary death for sinners that completely satisfied God's righteous demands; that

justification is by faith alone in the all-sufficient sacrifice and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and that those whom God has saved shall be divinely preserved and finally perfected in the image of the Lord.

**Future Things:** We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ; in the resurrection of the just and unjust; in the eternal blessedness in heaven of the redeemed and in the judgement and conscious, eternal punishment in hell of the wicked.

**The Local Church:** We believe that the church is a company of immersed believers, voluntarily associated for worship, instruction, fellowship, edification, evangelism and the observance of the ordinances. We believe it is an autonomous, independent body, under the Lordship of Christ, the Great Head of the church. Its Pastors and Board members are elected by the membership.

**Ordinances:** We believe there are only two ordinances for the church regularly observed in the New Testament and commanded by Christ:

**Baptism** which is the immersion in water, whereby a person publicly identifies with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection.

**The Lord's Supper** which is the memorial wherein the believer partakes of the two elements, the bread and the cup, which symbolize the Lord's body and shed blood, proclaiming His death until He comes.

**The Church and State:** We believe in the entire separation of church and state.

**Religious Liberty:** We believe in religious liberty; that every person has the right to practice and propagate his beliefs.

**The Lord's Day:** We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day and that it is the biblically normal day for corporate worship and spiritual exercise.

**Civil Government:** We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honoured and obeyed, except only in the things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and Prince of the kings of the earth.

## MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT

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### Our Mission

**GLORIFY God**  
**GROW in Christ**  
**GO with the Gospel**

### Our Vision

Our Vision is that Forward Baptist Church would reflect God's vision for the church laid out in His Word. We aspire to glorify God as His holy temple, **built on the foundation of God's Word** with Jesus Christ and His **gospel as our cornerstone**, where God's Holy Spirit works in us as we gather together to **worship God with our whole hearts**. We aspire to Grow in Christ as His body, a **diverse group of people who are unified in Jesus**, who are **maturing together** in Him, and who are being **equipped for ministry**. We aspire to Go with the Gospel as Christ's ambassadors to the world calling others to Christ by **loving our community** and investing in **strategic missions** work.

1. **Built on the foundation of God's Word:** We joyfully submit to God's word in all that we do as a church and as individuals.
2. **Gospel as our cornerstone:** The Gospel message is at the core of everything that is done at Forward.
3. **Whole-Hearted Worship:** Members of Forward regularly and enthusiastically gather together to hear God's Word preached, to sing together, to pray together, to participate in the Lord's Supper together, to witness baptisms together, to give, and to serve.
4. **Diverse and unified:** Forward is a diverse congregation with a deep mutual love for one another. We have unity in our Lord that transcends boundaries of age, ethnicity, and economic situation.
5. **Maturing together:** Members of Forward are maturing and abiding in Christ together; living holy lives according to God's Word, filled with God's Spirit, and regularly engaged in mutual encouragement, accountability, prayer and evangelism.
6. **Equipped for ministry:** Forward strongly emphasises equipping its members for service so they can minister faithfully at Forward and/or be sent elsewhere to serve as pastors and missionaries.
7. **Loving our community:** Forward actively serves the community of the Upper Beaches and surrounding area, showing Christ's love through tangible means.
8. **Strategic Missions:** Forward works to be an initiator in planting and revitalizing churches locally in Toronto and through global missions.



## MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

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Since I have placed my faith in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour and repented from my sins, and since I have professed this through baptism, and since I am in agreement with Forward Baptist Church's statement of faith,

Therefore, by God's grace, with His help, and for His glory, I make the following covenant commitments with my brothers and sisters in Christ at Forward Baptist Church:

- I will seek to cultivate my faith and love for God, by regularly spending time with Him on my own through Bible reading and prayer. (Colossians 1:9-12, Philippians 1:9-11, 1 Peter 2:2-3, John 15:4-5)
- I will submit my life to the authority of Jesus Christ by believing and obeying God's Word and by following the leading of the Holy Spirit in my life. (James 4:7-10, Romans 12:1-2, Hebrews 3:12-15)
- I will seek the spiritual growth of my family by reading God's Word and praying with them. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Ephesians 6:4, 1 Peter 3:1-2)
- I will actively seek to put sin to death in my life, fighting hard to live a holy life through the Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:13, Matthew 5:29-30, Galatians 5:16)
- I will let the gospel shape each of my relationships, loving others as God has loved me in Christ and doing all things for His glory. (Ephesians 5:21-6:9, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12, Matthew 5:43-48)
- I will seek to share the good news of Jesus with those whom God has placed in my life. (Hebrews 13:15-16, Matthew 28:19-20)
- I will gather with the members of Forward regularly for worship, fellowship, learning, prayer, and participating in the Lord's Supper. (Acts 2:42, Hebrews 10:23-25, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, 1 Timothy 2:1-4)
- I will use the gifts God has given to me to serve my church. (Ephesians 4:11-13, 1 Peter 4:10)
- I will seek to maintain unity with my brothers and sisters in Christ at Forward. I will pray for them and seek to build relationships with them. I will avoid gossip, divisiveness, and unloving speech. I will pursue reconciliation when relationships break down. (Philippians 2:2-3, 1 Peter 4:8-10, John 17:20-21, 1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- I will engage in mutual accountability with my brothers and sisters in Christ, both accepting and providing loving correction as needed. I understand that if I refuse this correction, I will be subject to biblical discipline which seeks my restoration. (1 Corinthians 5:11-12, Matthew 18:15-20, Ephesians 4:15-16)
- I will engage in the outreach efforts of Forward by welcoming visitors and by praying for and participating in outreach events throughout the year. (Colossians 4:2-6, Hebrews 13:15-16)
- I will follow the leadership of Forward as they follow Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, Hebrews 13:17)
- I will support the ministries of Forward by giving financially and by attending members meetings, prayerfully voting as the opportunity arises. (1 Corinthians 16:1-2, 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, Matthew 18:17-20, Acts 6:1-6)
- If I move away and am no longer able to attend Forward, I will make it a priority to seek another gospel-centred church to join as soon as possible. (Hebrews 10:23-25, Ephesians 4:11-16, John 13:34-35)

What a great privilege to be part of the family of God.

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!  
And that is what we are!  
1 John 3

We who were once enemies of God and lived in defiance of Him, have a restored relationship with Him through what Jesus did for us. And we who were not a people have been molded together into a people. The Apostle Paul puts it this way:

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit  
Ephesians 2

God has given us the gift of each other, or the church, to help us to grow and flourish in our walk with Him. We care for one another, we encourage one another, and we watch over one another.

Thank you for your continued work in the gospel and for your partnership in this endeavor. We are confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

We as your Elders continue to lift the congregational needs to the Lord in prayer. We thank God for your acts of service and love towards each other. We thank you for your partnership in the gospel.

We are thankful that small groups continue to flourish. They serve as good opportunities for sharing and accountability. We would encourage you to take advantage of one of these opportunities to meet together if you are not already doing so.

We as a church continue to **Glorify God** as we worship him with all of our hearts, souls and minds. We continue to **Grow in Christ** as we study his Word and put it into practice in our lives. We each reach out to a hurting world by **Going with the Gospel** and proclaiming the good news to the lost.

On behalf of the Elders, I'd like to once again thank you for faithfully upholding our church in your prayers. Thank you for being faithful in your giving and your acts of service. Thank you for encouraging and caring for each other. It's in serving others that we serve our Lord.

The Elders' and Deacons' boards over the past year continued to meet for discussion and prayer during our joint meetings. We, as your church leadership, entreated God to be the focal point of our ministry here at Forward. We have sought His direction as we led the church.

The Elders continued to meet regularly as an independent group. We have used our time to give consideration to our existing Church Governance as we seek to model our leadership structure as closely as we can to that which is modeled in God's word.

We have been praying towards expanding our Elders group as God raises up other godly men to help shepherd this flock. As a group, we have also prayed through the prayer requests submitted to us, as well as for any known needs from the church body.

The Elders continue to give guidance with respect to policy, church vision and the direction of various church ministries. We continue to seek God's guidance and blessing as we determine how to reach the lost and develop disciples for Him.

The Elders have also served on the Mission's Committee to encourage those involved in fulltime mission work and assist those of you from the congregation who have faithfully served as well.

Thank you for the continued support demonstrated towards both your church and your leadership. It has been so very appreciated.

In Him,

Shawn Freer

Chairman, Elders Board

Elders: Pastor - Stephen Lambert  
Pastor - Aaron Woodhouse

Active Participants:  
Chairman, Deacons' Board – Maarten Theunissen  
Youth Pastor – Gary Hudson



## DEACONS BOARD REPORT – Mark Duiker

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We were once again blessed to witness God executing His plan through so many believers at our church. I am reminded to trust in the Lord in Proverbs 3:5-6 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight” and I think this is an important reminder for us to always look for God’s plan and place our trust in Him with everything we do at the Church.

We saw many changes in our Church this year. We welcomed new members, witnessed beautiful baptisms and were encouraged to see God working in people’s lives in many different ways. It is also wonderful to see so many children participating in the various ministries at the church. We are blessed to have God-fearing staff that continue to lead in their respective ways, and who continue to grow and devote their time to our church. We encourage everyone to find ways to participate in church activities or serve in any way that they may feel called to, and are thankful for everyone who keeps on faithfully serving. It is not about the importance of the activity, but rather the act of serving that is making our church function as a body of Christ.

We also had exciting additions to our staff team. Emma Murphy joined us in the spring as our Director of Worship & Communications. Then we happily announced Gary Hudson as our Youth Pastor this past fall after a long search. We are so grateful to the Lord for providing the right people to fill these essential roles in our local church. We ask that everyone continue to lift our staff team in prayer.

The Deacons Board continued to work on how to best support the pastors as our church continues to grow, and ensure that we have allocated sufficient resources to our various ministries. This is a continued matter of prayer as we intentionally try to listen to and discern God’s voice. God has continually provided us with the financial resources to support our activities and we need to have faith that He will continue to take care of our needs while understanding that we need to first ensure that we are focused on His will and not our own.

As a Deacons Board, we appreciate your prayers and ask that you continue to pray that God would give us wisdom, direction, and unity as we lead His church through these days.

In closing, I encourage you to participate with us, and be encouraged by the fellowship we enjoy in Christ.

Mark Duiker,  
Chairman, Deacons Board



His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

- 2 Peter 1:3-4 (NIV)

I had the privilege of preaching these words to our church in January of 2024. They are words fitting for the beginning of the year, as we look forward to what lies ahead. Our Lord is powerful. And, through that divine power, he has given us everything we need for a godly life. We can live this godly life because we know Jesus. So, how will we live this year? What will be the character of our lives?

These are also words fitting for looking back over the past year and reflecting on it. We know we can turn away from sin and please God every day because we have a relationship with his Son. We are loved by him and love him and so we may cling to his amazing and precious promises and live for him. So, how did the year go? What did God bring us through? How did he show himself faithful? How did we live in response? And how will we lean on his grace to find forgiveness for our many failures and do better now?

Allow me to take a few pages of this report to remind you of some of the ways that God has led us as a church over the last year so we can be thankful and hold onto him as we remember his divine power and precious promises in the year to come.

### **Preaching Ministry**

Our time in 2 Peter served to encourage and strengthen us in the first two months of the year (after finishing a sermon series on being made in the image of God which spilled over from the previous year). The short letter of 2 Peter, showed us powerfully that our salvation is a gift from God that comes through knowing Jesus. It challenged us to trust God's word when others deny its power and truth—a challenge that we desperately need.

We then spent the next six months in the Old Testament. We love the Old Testament at Forward and regularly dive into it, even in difficult and unfamiliar sections, because we believe that God's word is powerful and true from beginning to end. And so, we spent the Spring working through the book of Leviticus together. As we did, we saw how this incredible book shows us God's holiness and our need for a Saviour who can bring us to God. In the Summer (and during the Easter season), we dove into the Psalms. The Psalms are always delightful as they teach us to worship God through praise, lament, and prayers of trust. However, most of the psalms we looked at this year were specifically chosen to lead us into our Fall sermon series. In fact, one of the motivations for preaching through Leviticus was also to prepare us for our Fall sermon series.

In September, we began our series on the book of Hebrews in the New Testament. Hebrews, a book written to Christians with a Jewish (Hebrew) background, draws heavily on the Old Testament, particularly Leviticus and the Psalms. So, after studying Leviticus and all the psalms that are quoted in Hebrews, we dove into this incredibly rich book. Our time in Hebrews, which took us into the beginning of 2025, pointed us to the glory

of Jesus who came to be our great high priest and be the Saviour that we so desperately need. We were challenged to hold onto him, even in times of suffering.

During the year, we also had some special missions speakers (see the Missions Committee report for more details) as well as a one-off sermon on John 3, for camp Sunday. We were blessed to have a joint Good Friday service with Christ Church Toronto. I am thankful for all the men who joined me in the preaching ministry this year, including Shawn Freer, Aaron Woodhouse, and Gary Hudson.

### Preaching/Teaching Training

I am also grateful that I had the opportunity to lead seven men through the Charles Simeon Trust First Principles course, and give them some basic tools for how to study God's word and prepare a sermon/lesson. This is the second cohort of men that I have led through this course and several women have gone through it as well. It is incredibly encouraging to see God's people grow in their ability to study and teach God's word.

### **Small Groups**

We were blessed this year to have eleven small group Bible studies that were active. Over the course of the year, around 115 people attended a group at least once and about half of that number were regularly involved. It has been a blessing to see this ministry continue to thrive and be an avenue for our church to build close fellowship while studying God's word together. I am especially thankful to all the leaders of the small groups. Please pray that more small groups will start up this year so that we can get more members of our church plugged into them! Here are some updates from ten of the eleven groups. (For details on the Monday evening young adults group, see Pastor Gary's report).

### Tuesday Afternoon Senior Men's Group - submitted by Allister Walsh.

The group meets twice a month in the former Library at Forward. During 2024, attendance varied from five to nine. After much thought Dr. Don Webster decided to step down as Leader and he was replaced by Allister Walsh. Studies included: the study of Habakkuk, the life of David and Uriah, a man of integrity. We also have a time of fellowship where we can meet to discuss issues that are common to the membership.

### Tuesday Evening Small Group - submitted by Conor Murphy

I continued to lead our small group in 2024, and Emma and I are still hosting. We are incredibly grateful for the growth, fellowship, and encouragement that have defined our small group gatherings. Meeting on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, we have had the privilege of diving deeper into God's Word by discussing recent sermons, wrestling with scripture, and applying biblical truths to our lives. Under Pastor Steve's guidance (who provides us with sermon questions) we've explored key ideas that challenge and edify us, helping us grow in faith and obedience.

Beyond study, this group has been a place of genuine support—where we share our struggles, lift each other up in prayer, and strengthen one another in our walks with Christ. These meetings have been a reminder of the importance of gathering as the body of Christ, just as we are called to do! Our time in small group together has truly been a blessing and we look forward to another year!

#### Tuesday Evening Small Group Two - submitted by Steve Lambert

This bimonthly small group Bible study, which started in 2023, has grown well in 2024 and is no longer a “tiny group” as we used to call it. I am thankful for the men and women who attend on Tuesday evenings to build relationships with one another, grow in their knowledge of God by discussing questions from the previous week’s sermon, and pray together. Our time together is precious and it has been encouraging to watch God’s people grow in Christ together.

#### Wednesday Morning Prayer Meeting - submitted by Steve Lambert

I am thankful to be able to lead our midweek prayer meeting and small group Bible study on Wednesday mornings at 10:00. Each week a faithful group of prayer warriors gathers to sing some hymns, talk through discussion questions from the previous week’s sermon, and then spend half an hour or so praying from our weekly prayer bulletin.

#### Wednesday Evening Women’s Bible Study submitted by Carol Bain

(co-led by Shanen Cudao, Rosemary Duiker, Debbie Michaud, and Carol Bain)

Every other Wednesday evening from 7:00-9:00 pm, a diverse group of ten-fifteen women meet on zoom to pray together for needs as well as share what they have been studying in God’s word for the past two weeks. Our decision to meet by zoom was influenced by the fact that at least half of our group would be unable to meet in person due to physical limitations or family responsibilities. During 2024, we used two books to guide our Bible study. From January to May, we followed Nancy Guthrie’s book called The Wisdom of God: Seeing Jesus in the Psalms and Wisdom Books. It was so refreshing to see how Jesus is the subject of all of Scripture, including the Old Testament that was written centuries before Jesus was born. From September to December, we followed Priscilla Shirer’s book, The Armour of God. As we learned to put on the armour of God each day, it was exciting to hear how God was answering prayers and equipping us to live godly, fruitful lives. Our group continues to meet in 2025 and is currently studying the Prophets of the Old Testament. If you want to be challenged and loved, please consider joining us!

#### Wednesday Evening Men’s Bible Study - submitted by Aaron Woodhouse

The Wednesday Evening men’s study had another great year. Setting aside time weekly for studying God’s word, prayer and fellowship. We met on Wednesday evenings in person and on zoom throughout the year. This year, our Bible studies focused on the following books and topics: Romans, Philippians, Judges, 2 Corinthians (Video Series), Four Week Study on Godly Character and a video series “Not a Fan” by Kyle Idleman. The men’s group also hosted fellowship nights during the regular Wednesday study time; we gathered in June for a BBQ at the Deinum household and invited all the men from the Church. We also had pizza party nights throughout the year. Our men studied and connected with about thirty different men throughout 2024. We had between eight and fourteen men at each study every week. John Deinum and Aaron Woodhouse co-lead the group.

#### Thursday Morning Women’s Gospel Posse - submitted by Christine Woodhouse

The Gospel posse is a group of Forward women who meet weekly on Thursday mornings from 9:30- 11:30. We study whole books of the Bible, pray together and encourage each other to grow in submission and obedience to Christ. This year we have studied Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, and Matthew. We benefit greatly from servants in our church family who are willing to watch our preschool children during our study.

#### Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study - submitted by Patricia Overholt

We are a group of women who God has brought together with a desire to study and grow in His Word and spend time in prayer. We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Our study starts the beginning of September and runs until the end of May.

In 2024 we completed the study of the book of Esther and in the Fall of 2024, the group chose to study Women of the Bible, and we started with the book of Ruth. The purpose of Ruth is multi-layered: it demonstrates God's providence and faithfulness, highlights the importance of loyalty and kindness, and traces the genealogy of David, establishing the legitimacy of his kingship. It also serves as a testament to God's inclusive plan of salvation, as seen in the inclusion of a Moabite woman in the lineage of Christ. Psalm 119:105 says: "Your word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light on my path."

#### Friday Evening Small Group - Submitted by Arthur Wrigglesworth

Our group has chosen to meet on the first and third Friday of each month, so that people don't feel pressured for work the next day. We are a diverse group of people who desire to mature as Christians.

At each meeting we discuss the sermon topic from the previous Sunday, using questions supplied by Pastor Steve. The questions typically expand the themes and dig deeper into the content of the sermon. Added to this are the thoughts that group members have been working through over the week. This results in a rich and meaningful discussion that challenges, encourages, and blesses us, as well as expanding our understanding of scripture. Equally important is our time for praying for each other. We leave enough time for each person to share their prayer requests. Over the past year we have established a level of trust that allows us to share the difficulties in our lives as well as praise for God's many blessings. It has been amazing to witness God working amongst this small body of believers as we grow together in our faith and walk with Christ. Over the past year, several people have moved to groups closer to home or have moved away from Toronto. While one new member has joined the group, this leaves room for new people to join us.

#### Friday Evening Small Group Two - Submitted by William Snieder

This year we started a new small group, meeting every other Friday evening. We started out small, just the Snieders and the Duikers, but have since grown to seven members. We discuss the sermon based on Pastor Steve's questions but generally get so deep into the conversations that we only have time for a few. This group has been a blessing, as we've gotten to share our cares and troubles, praying for one another and holding each other accountable. We are thankful for this new beginning and look forward to how God will use this group in 2025.

#### **Salvation, Baptism, and Membership**

One of our regular prayers as a church is that God would save ten people each year through our ministries and the evangelism of our members. This goal of ten is somewhat arbitrary. We know God is the one who is sovereign over salvation and is not bound to our numbers. We also know that God doesn't always make it clear when he saves someone. It is very possible that one or more people heard the gospel through our church and put their faith in Jesus and we will never know about it in this life.

Nevertheless, as we have prayed for God to use us to bring ten people into his family each year, we have seen God's faithfulness in amazing ways. Not a year has passed without at least one person giving their lives to Jesus, and often more. In 2024, we baptized nine individuals. Five of these had recently made professions of faith in Jesus for the first time. Three were teenagers whose faith had come of age and were ready to make a public profession through baptism, and one had been a Christian for a couple of years but had not been baptized yet.

I can't think about these people without my heart swelling with praise. What a glorious privilege to get to be a part of what God is doing to save his people. Let's remember to pray for these individuals who are brand new Christians and to love them well and point them to Jesus. Let's be encouraged to tell the people in our lives about Jesus and invite them to turn to him because God is still saving people through the gospel of Jesus!

It was also a great encouragement to vote eight people into membership at Forward this year (one of whom had recently been baptized). It has been wonderful to see these new members become plugged in with our church and growing together in Christ with us. We were, however, sad to have to remove some members from our church as they moved away, moved on to other churches, or, in two cases, were disciplined by the church. Let's keep each of these people in prayer and trust God to work in all of us for his good pleasure.

\*\*\*See the Report on Membership for more details on baptism and membership.\*\*\*

### **Weddings & Funerals**

This year I had the privilege to perform one wedding (for William and Rowena Snieder). Becky and I were also blessed to provide pre-marital counselling for them.

Our church grieved together through the deaths of four of our members this year. I was thankful to be able to be involved in each of their funerals as we remembered God's faithfulness in their lives and the hope he gives us.

### **Prayer**

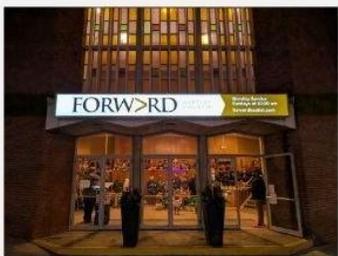
Our monthly prayer meeting has continued throughout 2024. This year we added a time of singing which has been a wonderful addition. I am thankful for all who have come to be part of it and pray for our church each month. Along with that, we have continued our tradition of having weeks of prayer before Easter and during our Missions Conference in the Fall. We put together prayer guides for these weeks that were used by individuals and by each of the small groups.

### **Conclusion**

Surely Christ's divine power has been at work among our church. We are so thankful for how he has equipped us to grow in holiness together in 2024 and we look forward to seeing how he works among us in 2025.

In Christ,

Pastor Steve Lambert



## PASTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – Aaron Woodhouse

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The verses in Psalm 37:3–7 remind me of this past Ministry year at Forward.

3 Trust in the Lord and do good;  
dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.

4 Take delight in the Lord,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

5 Commit your way to the Lord;  
trust in him, and he will do this:

6 He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn,  
your vindication like the noonday sun.

7 Be still before the Lord  
and wait patiently for him;  
do not fret when people succeed in their ways,  
when they carry out their wicked schemes.

The verses above remind me of this past year and how the Lord has sustained me and provided. In many ways, I found myself waiting on the Lord, trusting Him and His Word to direct my path in His timing. I also regularly found myself, as I do, being reminded that God has plans, and he calls us to come alongside the work he has planned and is already doing.

### Ministry Team Changes in 2024

At the start of 2024, we had two ongoing Search committees seeking to fill the positions of Youth pastor and Director of Worship and Communications. It was incredible how God provided in his timing and wisdom. Also, in 2024, we were able to fill another permanent part-time position for a Director of Children's Ministry.

On August 1, 2024, **Gary Hudson** officially began his role as Youth Pastor at Forward Baptist Church. Gary had been working as a Pastoral Intern at Forward for fifteen months, starting May 2023 and was planning to do a sixteen-month internship at Forward. Gary did not initially submit his name to the Search Committee for consideration as he was not initially interested in pursuing youth ministry. Still, after approximately eleven months, Gary sensed the desire that led him to pursue Youth Ministry and submit his name. We are thankful that he is now a part of the ongoing ministry team and look forward to all the ways he will build into the youth, young adults, and the entire Forward Community.

On February 12, 2024, we welcomed **Emma Murphy** as our new part-time Director of Worship and Communications. The position had been vacant since March 2022, and the search committee had been actively looking to fill it for over a year. Emma jumped into her new role at full speed, preparing for the Easter season and continuing full throttle for the remainder of the year. We praise God for his planning, timing, and provision in bringing Emma to our Church and filling the role of Worship Director.

On August 1, 2024, **Beth Alexander** started her permanent full-time position as Director of Children's Ministry. She has worked at Forward since May 2022, filling various positions as needed. Beth has been mentoring and training our interns, leading children's ministry, mentoring and disciplining women, leading summer camps, and helping with various administration activities at the church. She has been a welcome addition to our ministry team at Forward.

In July 2024, Forward said goodbye to Jana Ulmer, who served eleven months at Forward. Jana participated in the impact program, which is an eleven-month program that runs from the start of September to the end of July with **Liebenzell Mission**, which is located in Germany. Forward was scheduled to have one Liebenzell impact missionary starting in Sept 2024; unfortunately, Liebenzell cancelled that placement just two weeks before it was to start. Liebenzell Mission then informed us in December 2024 that Forward would no longer receive Missionaries. This was Liebenzell's decision as they say their needs have changed. This has been sad news for Forward and the ministry team as we thoroughly enjoyed building into all the various Liebenzell interns over the last five years. We are praying and discerning what may be next in regards to interns and building into young adults.

This Past Summer, we hired three summer interns who served for four months from May 2024 - August 2024: Graydon Power, Autumn Lahey and Meridel Morrison. Having two interns (Graydon and Autumn) who grew up at Forward serving for the summer was a blessing. This was a blessing as they already knew the Church and many of the people at Forward. We also had Meridel serve, who has a historical connection to Forward. Our Interns run summer camps and street parties and help with all the regular programs at the church for the four months they are serving. Praise God for his provision and another successful intern year.

I am thankful for all the ways Forward Baptist Church has and continues to intentionally invest significant amounts of time and money in developing young adults through internships and developing and training young adults who desire to pursue full-time ministry. This generosity and vision to train people for ministry is unique and special. Continue to pray for this part of Forward Baptist Church's ministry as we equip people to "Go with the Gospel."

### **Pastoral Ministry**

During the year, I have enjoyed walking alongside men in one-on-one discipleship. I had the ongoing joy of Pastoral visitation by connecting with people in person or on the phone. I had the opportunity to teach the Bible regularly in our Men's bible study and through monthly preaching during Sunday Worship services. I also had the blessing of regularly praying with and for people at our Church. I had many opportunities to minister to families and individuals through funeral planning and services. I also spent time this year in the administration of the Church.

### **Sabbatical Report**

During this past year, I took a sabbatical for five weeks (March 4th - April 8th). I want to thank the Church, Elders and Deacons Boards for allowing me the opportunity to go on sabbatical. Thank you for your generous care for me and my family in providing a sabbatical. I am also grateful to the ministry team and church members who took on additional tasks while I was away. Below is a brief report from my sabbatical:

I started my sabbatical in Luke 10:38-42 and the story of Mary and Martha. It was a passage that I meditated on and reminded myself about throughout my sabbatical. Why? Because I can easily do things and forget what is needed, listening to God, hearing his voice, and spending time at his feet. I can get distracted with things, but I need to slow and listen to Him. So, I focused on that during my sabbatical.

I was able to spend extended and uninterrupted time with God during the days when the kids were at school. I read some books while on sabbatical, and one that was a particular blessing was *Faithful Endurance*, Edited by Colin Hanson. The book helped me reflect on fifteen years in ministry and how God has been faithful in walking with me and sustaining me. Each chapter dealt with various situations that could be common to pastors in various seasons of ministry.

The biggest surprise for my renewal and enjoyment of spending intimate time with God was the Spiritual discipline of journaling. It really helped me slow down, focus my mind, get rid of distractions, and focus on God; both listening to God and responding to God. Writing out prayers and reflections was helpful. These were not deep and are likely unreadable, but journaling was a gift on my sabbatical while spending unhurried time with God.

### **Community Engagement and Outreach**

April, 2024 - Our Community Clean-up Day happened in April 2024. We had over thirty people from the Church participating in the event. This year, the youth were also very involved in the clean-up and brought along their families. We spend a few hours on a Saturday walking the streets, parks and ravines looking for garbage to clean up. This event is held yearly on the same weekend the City of Toronto holds clean TO. This event is a great way to serve our community, show creation care and connect with the neighbourhood around us.

May, 2024 - The Community Street Party returned this spring. Unfortunately, it was a rainy day, and we could not host the event outdoors. Instead, our volunteers and summer interns pivoted and moved the event indoors. It was a modified event spread through the church in various places. We still had one bouncy castle, games, face painting, temporary tattoos, and basketball, and we could still have our BBQ (we ate 300-plus hot dogs) and ice cream. The day was great, with lots of community connections and conversations. This is our biggest community connection event of the year and provides an excellent opportunity to be present and visible with the community around the Church. Many thanks to all who pray and volunteer to make it a success.

October, 2024 - This past Halloween we had the opportunity to run our Halloween outreach event again. We had good weather. Again, the church contributed a generous amount of candy that we got to hand out to kids. We also include information on the church and various programs they can be involved with. It was great to have many of our young adults helping set up and hand out candy for this community outreach event.

Our foodbank continued to be a vital outreach this past year. I am thankful to our church for contributing to the benevolent fund regularly (Benevolent Fund report for additional details). It is a joy to be able to freely bless people in the name of Jesus every month. I cannot express how many people are so thankful to our

church for this ministry. It continues to impact participants but is also a great example to the Beach Hill community that Forward loves people and is being the hands and feet of Jesus.

As I reflect on this past year I'm again so thankful that God has provided excellent Deacons and Elders and members at Forward. It has been a privilege to minister together this year. I am grateful for your love for God and His word, for your devotion to prayer and sharing the gospel. God has provided so many good things to us as a Church this year.

It is my prayer for our Church that in this upcoming year, we will continue to keep the Gospel and the Word of God as our focus and foundation. I pray that we will see ten people come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour this year through the ministry of Forward.

Let us Glorify God together, let us Grow in Christ and let's Go with the Gospel.

Yours in Christ,  
Aaron Woodhouse  
Pastor of Community Engagement

## **YOUTH PASTOR – Gary Hudson**

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The year 2024 has been a wild ride for my wife and I. The year started with much uncertainty, with my mind and heart still pondering what the future held for Fiona and I at Forward. My sixteen-month internship was coming to an end, but God had opened a door that only He could have opened. Before Easter, God had moved both my mind and heart to apply for the position of Youth/Young Adult Pastor. It was a transformation that I have not experienced in a long time, seeing how God changed me and motivated me to do what I needed to do to be successful and most of all, glorify and serve Him in all I do. By the grace of God, I was the new Youth/Young Adult Pastor at Forward by September 2024. I am excited for the future but also rejoicing for what God has done in 2024.

### **Youth Ministry:**

Since May of 2023, I have been spending time with Youth, on Wednesdays, Sundays, and events once a month. I had built a great relationship with most of our youth, and an overall familiarity. By the beginning of 2024, God had allowed me to start discipleship groups with several of our youth, on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Through these discipleship groups, we saw two individuals obey the Lord in the waters of baptism, James and Alice. I had the greatest honour of baptizing these two individuals. God was showing me He was continuing to work in our Youth ministry. Since then, these individuals and many others have been growing in their faith, and some new individuals have been joining us for discipleship throughout the month.

We have been going through the Gospel of Mark at Wednesday Night Youth Group since 2023 and spent the entire of 2024 diving into some of the greatest stories found in this Gospel. Like any other ministry in life, people come and go, and we did see a dip in our High School youth attendance, however, we were blessed with new Grade 6 attendees in September. We also saw a couple of teens starting their journey in high school in September, so the goal is to continue to speak into their lives and serve them the best I can. During the Summer, it was a different feel and experience than the previous year, mostly because of our continuing relationship, but also the addition of our LIT Camp. This camp allowed us to spend more time with our regular Youth Group attendees, and also help to build them up in their faith, and in their idea of what serving the church looks like. On top of this, God has allowed me to take over this ministry on Sunday mornings, to continue to help our Youth grow in this area, but also to see that serving doesn't equal salvation. Many thanks to Beth who started the LIT ministry, and continues to serve alongside me. In 2024, I also was able to spend time with some of our Jr Highs on my first-weekend retreat as Youth Pastor. We spent a couple of days at Muskoka Woods attending FEB Youth's Jr High Bedlam Retreat. It was an amazing experience and a great time with our Grade 6, 7 and 8s. One of our youth expressed an interest in discipleship and pursuing ministry in the future. He doesn't attend our church, but pray that I can continue to build into him on Wednesday nights and during our events. Lastly, I am so thankful for the team God has allowed me to build for our Youth Ministry. I praise God with all my heart, for my wife Fiona, for our male leaders Steve, Conor, JP, and Matthew, and I also praise God for our female leaders, Fiona, Rosemary and Pam. I am thankful for all God has been doing in my life through this ministry, and how God is growing these kids in their life and faith. Pray for me, that God would keep me consistent and strong in my faith, to keep me consistent and strong in my love for our Youth and innovative as I help shape the future of our Youth.

### **Young Adults Ministry**

In May 2024, I was asked to take over leadership of Young Adults, around the time I formerly applied for the Youth/Young Adult Pastor role. Firstly, I am very thankful for God allowing William Snieder to continue leading this group throughout the end of 2023, all of 2024, and into 2025. The transition wouldn't have been as smooth without him. Planning the future of this group has also been much easier with William leading alongside me, making sure that all I am planning to do going forward is agreeable to both of us. Because of summer camps and nose surgery in September, it was hard to have a consistent attendance in 2024, but I

look forward to the future of our group in 2025. In September, we started going through the book of Genesis, and we plan to take our time through this, with some events and other items laced throughout 2025. A hard change I decided to make in December was implementing an age limit for our group, specifically eighteen to twenty-eight. I believe this will better serve the future of this group, specifically those coming in and connecting those beyond twenty-eight with small groups (men, women, and co-ed) in our church. Of course, this meant that many who attended our group who were over the age of twenty-eight had to find something new to attend at the beginning of 2025, mostly individuals who were not members of our church and regular Sunday morning attendees. We continue to pray that we can be helpful to them, to find something outside of Forward, but also if they want to attend our church and become members, pray for William and I as we continue to lead and also attend other church YA events, to meet others of the same age, and to build relationships with others.

### **Preaching, Teaching and School**

One of the greatest opportunities I have received during my time at Forward is getting to preach on a Sunday and teaching throughout different ministries. I had the honour and privilege to preach through 2 Peter 3:1-13, Psalm 118, Psalm 3, Psalm 84, Hebrews 6:13-20 and Hebrews 10:1-18. Each passage I was given to preach and study through was life-giving and empowering to my spiritual walk with the LORD. It definitely helped me in my skill of teaching, which I do most Wednesdays at Youth. I am thankful for both Steve and Aaron who have helped me through this journey in growing as a preacher of God's word. I believe this is crucial to my growth as a pastor, alongside loving and serving those I walk with. I am grateful for opportunities during Foodbank, Summer camps, Jr Youth, and even at other churches, to preach and teach. I have more to learn about this skill and craft, which is why schooling at Toronto Baptist Seminary has been crucial in this journey. I am beyond grateful for the opportunity to go back to school, to earn a degree that will help me in the future, but most importantly in this present time as a pastor. Please pray for me as I juggle both school and full-time ministry. In this area of ministry, I pray also that I would receive as much constructive feedback as I can, from each person that hears me preach and teach during my time at Forward.

All I have is because of Jesus. There is not one single thing that I have achieved during my time at Forward that I can say was because of me:

30 It is because of him (God the Father) that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 31 Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

- 1 Corinthians 1:30-31

This is the song of my life, I cannot boast in myself, but only in Jesus Christ, who bled and died for my eternal damning sin. My holiness and growth belong to Jesus alone. As I boast in Jesus alone, I also boast that I have been blessed with a community of faithful believers who pray for me and believe in me. Thank you and I love you! Pray for me that in all I do, that Jesus will be magnified, that faith will come to many, that I will be forgotten, and He will be stamped on the minds and hearts of many for eternity. Glory be to God!

In Christ Alone,

Gary Dominic Hudson



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY – Beth Alexander

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Looking back over 2024, I am continuously amazed and thankful for all that God has done, for the new lives of new believers and the many baptisms we witnessed. As a church we have grown together and encouraged one another in our walks with Jesus. Although we face trials and wade through difficulties, our God is good, mighty, and worthy to be praised.

Oh, magnify the Lord with me,  
and let us exalt his name together!  
Psalm 34:3 (ESV)

### Children's Ministry

Our Children's Ministry aims to support and encourage family discipleship and to give our children a secondary safe space to be taught God's word at a level that is age and developmentally appropriate for them. We have four classes, Nursery (0-2), two- and three-year-olds, Jr. KidZone (JK-Gr. 1), and KidZone (Gr. 2-5). Every Sunday there are on average between 20-30 children spread out between these classes. Although our numbers fluctuate, depending on the seasons, our volunteers are faithfully in these spaces, sharing the love of Christ with their class. Whether that's through holding a crying baby while their parents attend the service, or playing memory verse games and making crafts, this ministry is caring for whole families, and I am so grateful to all who sacrifice their time in the Sunday service to serve these children and their families.

As mentioned earlier, over the course of 2024, our numbers have fluctuated quite a bit. The first half of the year (January-June) had an average of around thirty-plus kids every Sunday. The later half (July-December) had consistently around twenty-twenty five on a Sunday. Some of this is due to the oldest grade aging out in September and moving up to our LIT class. Although we ended the year with lower numbers, our nursery and 2&3s class is often at capacity (for the number of volunteers we are able to have scheduled).

In 2024 I opened a new class for our two- and three-year-olds. They continue to meet in the Nursery but have their own teacher and have a short lesson that corresponds with the other classes. This class has five kids on average attending it. I am really excited about this class, as this age group has learned to sit and participate in the lesson and are being prepared to move up to Jr. KidZone. These young hearts are hearing and understanding the gospel each week, and I am incredibly thankful for my twos and threes teachers who took on this challenge and are so patient with these children as they figured out how to best engage with them.

A major challenge this year has been filling holes in the schedule on a weekly basis. As we attempt to update and accurately follow our Child Protection Policies, and as some of our children's ministry classes have grown, I have had to increase the number of adult volunteers we have in each classroom. It has proven to be difficult, but I am grateful and always in awe of how the Lord provides each time I feel like there is no workable solution. Many people from our congregation have stepped up into these roles of helpers and teachers and I am so incredibly grateful for their service! I have loved seeing all our kids, especially our nursery aged children, grow in their comfort with the church and the volunteers they see each week. Praise God for the love and care of our volunteers who help these kids feel safe and faithfully teach them the word of God.

A big thank you to all the Children's Ministry leaders, and a special thank you to Janet Theunissen, who helps me manage this ministry!

### **Other Children's Ministry Programs**

As I have grown into this role, I have realized the importance of having our children be seen as a part of our church. As a result, I have incorporated Kids' Services into our regular monthly service schedule. The goal of these services is to have our kids regularly seen by the adult congregation, to hear what the Kids' classes are learning, but also for the kids to see that they are part of a bigger church body of which KidZone is only one part. I hope it has been an encouragement to both adults and kids as they see themselves part of our family at Forward.

In September 2024, I also took on leading Jr Youth every month and PA Day Camps (three for the current school year). I've enjoyed having opportunities to connect with the kids who come on Sundays in a different environment and to meet friends that they bring. These ministries have been smaller than in the past but are a fun way to build relationships and to have a space where kids can invite their friends into the church, and to continue relationships made with families we meet from summer camps.

Thank you to Fiona Hudson, Maarten Theunissen, Philip Alexander, and Mark Duiker for regularly helping with Jr. Youth!

### **LIT (Leaders in Training) Program**

This program was mostly passed to Gary when he officially became the youth pastor. It's been amazing to see this class grow and bring out kids from our youth group to participate on Sundays. As grade 6 is a year of overlap between Kids and Youth Ministry, I continue to help Gary with this class and enjoy having opportunities to have deeper conversations with our youth and see them take steps in their faith. They have grown so much in listening to sermons, serving on Sundays and acting as a part of the church.

I so appreciate all those who serve alongside the LITs on Sundays, thank you for patiently training them and investing relationally in them.

### **Above the Beach Drop In**

Above the Beach continues to run regularly with around 40-50 caregivers and children in attendance each week. It has been a blessing to get to know the nannies, grandparents, moms, and dads that come each week with their children. This is such a unique ministry where people come into our church building looking only for a safe place for their child to play and some adult conversation. It's an incredible opportunity to care and love for people who need Jesus. Please be in prayer for this ministry, and for volunteers! We are always looking for more people to sit and chat with those that come each week.

Thank you to Bertha Sharpe for being the ever welcoming face of our program! As well as Mary Deinum, Lisa Hodge and Becky Lambert.

## **Interns**

Working with our Leibenzell and Summer interns is always one of my favorite roles. I have had the privilege of walking alongside four interns throughout this past year as they serve in a variety of roles and grow deeper in their love for the church and Jesus. In 2024, I worked with Jana Ulmer, Autumn Lahey, Meridel Morrison and Graydon Power. These four worked hard and participated in a number of tasks and projects that encompass most of the ministry at Forward. They cover many administrative tasks that help offload some of my work, as well as children's ministry on Sundays, camps in the summer, youth group, young adults, event planning, cleaning projects, tech, music, foodbank, etc. I have enjoyed working with the four interns we were given this year and greatly appreciate the work they have done over this past year and summer!

Of course, this year was a bit different for interns, in that we only had Jana in the second half of the year, and did not receive another pair of interns this year from Liebenzell. Although it is a challenge to have a different year than expected, we have been so grateful for Jana who worked hard, despite being alone, and for all those who have stepped in to fill some of those gaps.

## **Discipleship/small group**

One of my roles at Forward is having the opportunity to meet up with other women for discipleship, both formally and informally to discuss the joys and challenges of life and faith. Often, these are regularly planned times to meet up or they can be one-time coffee meetings. With church interns, this includes a book study to deepen and challenge our faith.

## **Women's Ministry**

A role I took on this year was to help facilitate the start of a Women's Ministry Team. We exist to help equip and encourage women to glorify God in all spheres and stages of life. We have held two Women's Tea events, with the purpose of fellowship and encouragement for our sisters in Christ at our church and have some great future plans to further our friendships with each other as we grow together in Christ. Thank you to Elli Clarke and Rosemary Duiker for planning these events!

This past year has seen God's provision in innumerable ways. It has been incredibly humbling to watch God move and work in his church and bring about his plan for his glory, even when it is so different from my own plans and expectations. I have enjoyed working alongside my church family this year, as we seek to make Christ known in our community.

In Christ,  
Beth Alexander

## **WORSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS – Emma Murphy**

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The year 2024 was my very first year as a member of staff here at Forward Baptist Church - and what a year it has been! This has been an incredibly rewarding year for me, serving alongside you here at Forward. It has been a delight to my heart and a challenge, and God has grown me in so many ways as I have stepped into and learned the ropes of this role. Witnessing the ways that God is always working in His church has been humbling and encouraging. Thank you so much, church family, for supporting me and my family with encouragement and prayer. It has been a privilege to witness the ways that God knits us together in Christ and to each other as we strive to glorify God, grow in Christ, and go with the gospel.

### **Worship Services**

I am so thankful to each of you who participate in services on Sunday mornings. There are so many moving parts in our service, and your willing participation and offering of time blesses our entire church family. I pray we will continue to grow as a family as we spend time together worshipping God through prayer, song, scripture, giving, and teaching!

### **Music Teams**

God worked so powerfully through Forward following Sarah's departure in 2022. I am always amazed to see how His plans for us can be so different from our hopes or expectations but are always for His glory and His kingdom. When I started attending forward, the music ministry had already seen a lot of recent change and there were teams in place under the faithful leadership of a few people. I was blessed with the opportunity to serve as a worship team member, and leader, before formally stepping into my role. I must express enormous thanks to Sarah for her wise, loving leadership and proactive foresight; to Steve for stepping into the role in her absence, and every single individual who joyously served God in this capacity. My role has been shaped by the structural changes that God had sovereignly ordained. I am so thankful that my role has been one where I can step in and observe, support, exhort, challenge, and encourage the musical and spiritual growth of our music ministry teams. This has been my hope for the past year as I have served alongside my brothers and sisters in this ministry.

We currently have four rotating music teams, serving one Sunday a month. This way, every music team member has the opportunity to serve the body through music and other ministries (and many graciously step up to serve and fill in more than this as needed!)

Our church is blessed by the diversity of musical leadership which God has placed here. I have restructured these teams in very minor ways throughout the year, always with the prayerful intention of encouraging our music team members in musical and spiritual growth. I am continually amazed at how the Lord has plans for many a Sunday morning which are greater, and quite different, from my own. The flexibility of our team members continues to be a blessing. It has been especially edifying for me to see how individuals step up with their gifts into gaps that can happen (due to sickness, people being away, etc.). The heart that our church must glorify God and bring Him glory on Sunday is a constant encouragement to me! It is by His plans that we have diverse, whole-hearted worship leaders on the stage every Sunday morning.

And of course, I must give an enormous thank you to our incredible music team leaders: Shawn Freer, Craig Goodhand, Conor Murphy, and Rowena Snieder.

### **Tech Teams**

In the past year, we have continued to be blessed by our Livestream services every Sunday as well as the ability to continue to livestream our memorial services and weddings for those who cannot attend in person. This ministry is an enormous blessing to our church, and I am so thankful to those who make it possible - especially to Mark Duiker, who does so much to keep our Tech teams working in unity and joyful service! We

had a sound engineer come in to work with our speaker system and soundboard in the hopes of optimizing in service sound, which received a lot of positive feedback. There has been a noticeable improvement in the quality and consistency of sound within the sanctuary on Sundays.

### **Christmas Choir**

This year I brought back, on a smaller scale, a church choir at Forward! I arranged a choral medley after ascertaining the skill levels of choir members that we would have and with an awareness of how limited our rehearsal time would be. We met together after church on Sundays for five weeks to learn the music and grow in unity as musicians and God's children. It was a wonderful time of gathering to praise God for the incarnation of His son through worship in song! The choir also gave me the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of and ability to cater to the musical needs and skills of our body. It was a joy to see how this group of faithful musicians blessed our church body with the gift of beautiful song this season! What a gift to be given this little taste of what our time in heaven together will be like.

### **Prayer Meetings with Music**

In September we started to incorporate a time of worshipping through music into the monthly Sunday prayer meeting. This was done in the spirit of Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16; in the hope that we as a body would build each other up by singing songs of praise to God as we bring our petitions to His feet. Thank you, Conor, for faithfully joining me in this endeavour every month since we started!

### **Funeral Services**

I have been blessed by the opportunity to lead music for the funerals of faithful past members this year. God's goodness is always on full display when we gather to celebrate His trophies of grace! I have found this (small, but meaningful) part of my job to be especially encouraging this year as I have been taught about the incomparable value of steadfast trust in Him.

### **Communications**

- **Graphics:** Since Katie's departure, I have taken on creating and updating church graphics for our ministries and events!
- **Bi-Monthly Bulletins:** At Aaron's suggestion, I re-designed and reintroduced the bi-monthly bulletin. This bulletin allows our church to communicate our upcoming events and ministries in a more organized and comprehensive manner.
- **Sunday Bulletins:** In conjunction with the bi-monthly bulletin, I continue to update our weekly Sunday bulletins to keep our Sunday attendees and membership informed. The hope with this bulletin, which also provides space for sermon notes, is that it will encourage our church to be involved in a variety of events and ministries at Forward.
- **Newsletter:** We continue to update our church weekly by way of the "This Week @ Forward" email newsletter. It is our hope that this digital newsletter will effectively communicate upcoming events and ministries beyond the church body!
- **Shut-In Communications:** We continue to send newsletters, prayer bulletins and sermon transcripts to our shut-ins. I praise God for their faithful remembrance of our church and their prayers for us as they continue to participate in the body as they are able.

I look forward to continuing to follow God's will with open hands and a soft heart in the year to come. I am excited to see how He will continue to surprise, amaze, and strengthen our body as we trust in His perfect ways and glorious will!

To each of you who is involved in the worship services, small groups, prayer meetings, administrative tasks, and so on at Forward - the offering of your abilities to God is a blessing to each of us! Thank you so much for your willingness and desire to serve.

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

- Hebrews 13:20-21

In Christ,  
Emma Murphy  
Worship & Communications

## MISSIONS COMMITTEE

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The missions committee of Forward Baptist Church exists to oversee the missions program of our church. It is our job to prayerfully consider applications from missionaries looking for support and decide how to use the funds we have available to support God's mission around the world. We are also responsible to care for the missionaries we support and to promote missions within our church.

As we fulfill our mandate, we seek to follow the guidelines laid out in our **Missions Philosophy**, which was laid out by the Elders in 2021. This philosophy makes clear the definition and emphases of missions given in the Bible. They are as follows:

**Biblical Definition of Missions:** *Missions refers to the mission of the church, which is to be witnesses of the good news of the death and resurrection of Jesus and to make disciples of all the nations. (Luke 24:45-49, Matthew 28:18-20)*

**Biblical Emphases for Missions:**

*Missions is for the glory of God. (Revelation 7:9-10)*

*Missions is accomplished by the proclamation of the gospel. (Romans 10:11-15)*

*Missions is primarily the work of the local church. (Ephesians 3:7-11)*

From this definition and these emphases, the philosophy goes on to give the priorities that Forward has for supporting and promoting missions as a church, as follows:

**Forward's Priorities for Missions:**

When considering and evaluating missionaries, Forward will prioritize missionaries who:

- Are sent out by and accountable to their local church.
  - Especially members of Forward
- See their purpose as proclaiming the gospel and making disciples.
- Are working to plant or strengthen local churches.
  - Or are working closely alongside local churches to proclaim the gospel in a specialized context.
- Are people of character with a passion for the glory of God.
- Have shown fruitfulness and faithfulness in ministry.
- Have strong biblical and theological understanding.
- Align with Forward's Statement of Faith and Mission Statement

Missions Organizations will be evaluated based on the same priorities as appropriate.

**Our Missionaries in 2024**

As stated above, the biblical definition and emphases for missions, along with our priorities for missions serve to guide our missions committee and our church as a whole as we support and promote missions. We are blessed as a church to be able to support a number of missionaries and missions organizations who actively work to fulfill God's mission for the world. Our missionaries are actively sharing the good news of Jesus, baptizing new believers, gathering them into churches, teaching them to obey all of Christ's commands. None of the ministries of our missionaries are the same. Some of our missionaries are local and some are in other countries. Some are planting churches, some are strengthening existing churches, some are in support roles behind the scenes. All of them are dedicated to glorifying God through the great commission.

We were excited to begin supporting Isaac and Nikki Medler in their work with SIM to evangelize international students and new immigrants in Toronto. Isaac and Nikki work to help local churches connect

with people from all around the world who have come to our city and need to know Jesus. We enjoyed having Issac and Nikki and their family come to our missions conference this year, where Isaac introduced us to their ministry. It has been wonderful to partner with them and begin to see how we can be involved in showing the love of Jesus to the people he has brought to our city.

Paul and Georgie McDonald and their family were home in Toronto during 2024, prayerfully considering next steps in their ministry in Serbia. We were thankful to have Paul also speak at our missions conference in October. The McDonalds will be returning to Serbia this winter to move to a new city and begin a new ministry as church planters. We are thankful for how God has protected and led their family.

In 2024, Don Longworth took up a new ministry as Field Director of SIM ministries in Canada. As you may remember, Don, Erin, and their girls came back to Canada in 2023 after a short time in Benin, West Africa and were seeking the Lord's will for the next season of their ministry. Don gives oversight and support to SIM's missionaries across Canada (including the Medlers) and seeks to cast vision for new initiatives for fulfilling the great commission in our nation.

We were also pleased that Liberty Grace Church hired Godfrey Paruthivilai Sundararaj as their pastor. Liberty Grace is a small church in Liberty Village, here in Toronto. They are the only evangelical church in that part of the city and have an important ministry sharing the gospel there. We have supported their ministry for over a decade and are pleased to see how God is leading them.

At the end of 2024, Ray Alary retired from supported missions work after an almost forty-year career. Ray (along with his wife, Sandra) served with Trans World Radio and then Thru The Bible Canada, providing Bible teaching and evangelistic messages to parts of the world where this was difficult to find. We are so thankful for Ray and Sandra's many years of ministry and for the blessing of being able to support them throughout their time.

A similar type of ministry to the one Ray was involved with is SAT-7, which uses satellite television to broadcast gospel teaching into closed Muslim countries. SAT-7 closed their Canada branch at the end of 2024. This makes it challenging for us to support them financially as a church and so (at least for now) we are no longer supporting this ministry.

One final change in our list of missionaries during 2024 needs to be mentioned. Two of our retired missionaries went home to be with the Lord. Vi Mckie and Jo Grimshaw were faithful women who served the Lord as missionaries for many years. Jo was still a member at Forward and we were able to have a memorial service for her in the fall. We praise God for the faithful lives of these women and rejoice that they are with their Lord now.

I am so thankful for all of the godly missionaries and wonderful missions organizations we are able to support as a church. We were blessed to hear from many of our missionaries via short video updates that we received throughout the year and showed during our Sunday services each month. This allowed us to pray for them knowledgeably as a church in our pastoral prayer during the church service, and at our monthly prayer meeting.

Finally, I am thankful for all who served on the Missions Committee with me this year. Thank you to Patricia Overholt and Sandina Sutanto, as well as to our elders, Aaron Woodhouse, and Shawn Freer who serve on the board *ex officio*.

Submitted by

Pastor Steve Lambert  
(on behalf of the Missions Committee)

### Forward Missionaries in 2024

- Ray and Sandra Alary - Ray served as Executive Director of Through the Bible Canada
- Louis and Denise Bourque- Louis serves as Regional Director of AEBEQ (Association d'Églises Baptistes Évangéliques au Québec)
- Aaron & Annegret Bowes - Church Planters, Halle-Neustadt, Germany; Missions3DThreshold
- Daniel & Emily Ford - Church Planter in Hincesti, Moldova; Baptist Missions to Forgotten People
- Bechara & Roula Karkafi - Leading in missions to Islamic people across the Middle East, North Africa, and Canada; FEB International. Now also Director of Church Planting; FEB Central
- Don & Erin Longworth - Don serves as the Canadian Field Director of SIM
- Paul & Georgie McDonald - Training pastors, strengthening churches, and now planting a church in Novi Sad, Serbia; SEND International
- Isaac & Nikki Medler - Evangelizing international students and new immigrants to Canada; SIM.
- Martha Oates - Working with shopkeeper churches in Taiwan; OMF International Canada
- Valera & Laura Strugov - MoveIn Team & Malkutha Church Plant in Toronto, Ontario

### Churches

- Liberty Grace Church (Pastor Godfrey Paruthivilai Sundararaj) - a church plant in the Liberty Village neighbourhood of Toronto.

### Organizations

- Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches of Canada
  - General Fund
  - Fellowship Aid & International Relief (working to alleviate human suffering and social injustice around the world in the name of Christ)
  - Leaders Formation (training church leaders around the world)
- FEB Central
  - General Fund
  - Church Planting
- Toronto City Mission
- SAT-7 Canada (A satellite broadcast ministry to the Middle East)

### Seminaries

- Heritage College & Seminary - Cambridge, ON
- Toronto Baptist Seminary - Toronto, ON

Our Retired Missionaries in 2024

- Jessica Breski Newcastle, ON
- Jean Gordon Burlington, ON
- Hugh & Carol Hamp Carstairs, AB
- Paul & Diane Kerr Barrie, ON
- Gilles & Irene Lapierre Montreal, QC
- Jim & Barb Longworth New Brunswick
- Bob & Nancy Sheffield Colorado, USA
- Brian & Elsabet Taylor Goode Beach, Australia
- Donald Whiteside Barrie, ON

## PROPERTY COMMITTEE

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The role and responsibility of the property committee is to maintain and improve the fantastic facilities and physical properties that God has entrusted to us as a Church community. We are also tasked with ensuring that the facilities are used to further God's Kingdom and bring glory to Him. We have so much to be thankful for when it comes to our facilities.

We thank our custodian team that worked hard in 2024 to maintain and clean our facilities. We are thankful for all the following people who have helped with custodian work in 2023 at various times and in different ways:

**Part-time custodians:** Paul Brason (Started June 2023 and Ron Wilkie (Started March 2023)

**Occasional custodians:** Paul Bowles - During the Fall of 2024, Paul decided to finish his monthly work around the Church. We thank Paul for his many years as our full-time Custodian to provide expertise.

**Volunteers:** Kenneth Chan

The property committee added Brian Hill and Arthur Wrigglesworth this past year. We met as a committee to lay out some of the responsibilities and plans for the Property Committee. The Committee will give direction to the larger picture of ensuring our building is cared for today and planning for the needs of the property entrusted to Forward in the future.

Below are the highlights and items we are working on for the year ahead:

- **Sanctuary Roof Repair/Replacement:** The sanctuary roof structure was built in the 1960s. It is composed of steel truss frames supporting precast cementitious roof deck panels. The deck panels are 3" Siporex – a lightweight cement product that became quite popular in the 1960s but stopped being used when it was realized that they were often dimensionally unstable (warping, cracking) and susceptible to failure (building collapse). For instance, the closure of the Ontario Science Centre this year was blamed on this product. The property committee initially met with someone familiar with this roof system for a visual inspection and discussion. From that meeting, it was suggested that the roof does have cracking and spalling in many places, but Imminent failure is not likely. The recommendation was that an in-depth investigation and recommendations by consulting engineers should be conducted. During the 2025 year, we plan to hire an engineering firm to provide an in-depth report on repairs, decide what repairs are needed, determine the costs, and establish a timeline for repair. We will update the congregation as we get information and ask for continued prayer to address this building issue.
- **Wildwood Parking lot:** Metrolinx continued to use two thirds of the upper Wildwood parking lot in 2024. They began renting the lot from Forward in February 2021. In February 2024, we started a new two-year agreement with Metrolinx for the continued use of the space from February 2024 to February 2026. We have also included options to extend the latest deal by one year in three-month increments.
- **Capital Projects:** In the 2024 budget, the members of Forward Baptist Church voted to approve several capital projects for the next two years. The 2024 Budget has allocated 200K over the next two years for the projects outlined in the 2024 - 2025 budget proposal. A few highlights of these upcoming projects included Updating and creating a Children's Ministry Area, Gym Renovations, HVAC and automation, Electrical updates, and Fellowship Hall updates.
  - Due to the uncertain costs of the Sanctuary roof repair, we will proceed slowly with the various projects outlined in the capital projects.
  - We will be focusing on creating a children's ministry space.

- We will focus on electrical updates and HVAC Updates as these will help us save on energy costs each year.
- When funds are available, we will proceed with our plans as outlined.
- **Church Work Day/ Kitchen Deep Clean:** On February 3, 2024, we had a Deep Kitchen Cleaning and work day. We had 10+ people assist with the cleaning and reorganizing of the kitchen.
- **Wi-fi/network Upgrades:** We upgraded our Church wi-fi and Network this past year. Updates included replacing some wi-fi access points and installing a new “brain” for the Church network, which allows for more manageable controls and remote monitoring of internet outages.

### **Library Resource Center**

The church library is located on the main floor by the sanctuary. The Church Library and its books are available anytime that the Church is open. You are asked to sign out the books and leave the cards on the desk. In addition to the many great physical books in the library, we also have a great digital video library offered through RightNow Media, which has 1000s of video resources available for streaming online. You can request access by contacting the church office or by following this link.

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/ForwardBaptist>

This past year, Pastor Steve looked at Forward's extensive selection of Library books. Upon careful review, it was decided that to make our library more useful, the books in it should be more carefully curated to be more specifically helpful for our church today. The first step in this curation process was to remove many titles from the library. Most of the books that were removed were chosen because they were out of date (for example, books on parenting teenagers in the 1990s), because we had numerous books on the same topic (for example, we had about six different biographies for Billy Graham), or because they were simply not helpful books for our church library (for example, an academic history of all of the high priests of Israel). Most of these books were donated to the Christian Salvage Mission or offered to the church to take. Some other books were removed due to poor theological content or disreputable authors. These, along with damaged books, were disposed of.

A number of new books have also been added, including Christian biographies and books addressing timely topics such as suffering, forgiveness, gender, friendship, and parenting. All these books keep the message of the gospel at their centre. Beth Alexander has also invested in a number of children’s books that are available in the library or can be signed out from KidZone rooms. Pastor Steve has also been making monthly book recommendations from the library, often corresponding to topics covered in the Sunday Sermons. In 2024, after the library clean-up, we have seen an increase in books being signed out. On average there has been at least one book signed out from the library each week since June, as well as books signed out by kids from their KidZone classes.

May we continue to be good stewards of what God entrusted us with in 2025 as we seek to Glorify God, Grow in Christ and Go with the Gospel.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron Woodhouse  
On behalf of the Property Committee

**Property Committee members for 2024:** Brian Hill, Arthur Wigglesworth, Justine Cudao, Aaron Woodhouse.

## BENEVOLENT FUND REPORT

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It is our custom at Forward Baptist Church to take up a benevolent offering once a month following our communion service. People can also designate money for the “benevolent fund” throughout the year by the usual means of donations (mail, offering boxes, and e-transfer).

The primary use of the Benevolent Fund in recent years has been to stock the Food Bank. In 2024, we had a 20% increase in food bank visits. Overall, we had 845 recorded foodbank visits in 2024, up from 704 in 2023. We run our food bank on the second Wednesday of each month. On the day of the program, forty to sixty-four people attend, with the average being fifty-four people. Many people also come on other days throughout the month. We averaged seventy-six visits overall per month, with our highest month seeing 103 visits in Jan 2024.

Our Foodbank meets on the second Wednesday of the month in the fellowship hall at 9:30 am for a gospel message, coffee, tea, cookies, and conversation. A ministry staff or volunteer shares the Gospel message at each meeting. We focus on connecting with our guests relationally, befriending them and having genuine conversations. We also seek to meet people's immediate need for food. We are always aware that people's greatest need is Jesus, and our hope and prayer is that each guest would come to know and trust Jesus as their saviour. Pray for the many ongoing ministry connections, for people to go to Church, and for people to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

We are thankful to our faithful shoppers, who are great at finding deals and helping keep our costs lower than they otherwise might have been. Our overall expenses for foodbank purchases in 2024 were \$26,098, up \$6,097 from 2023, a 30% increase. If you are interested in shopping, let us know. Donations of food or money are always welcome.

Other ways the Benevolent Fund was used to bless our Church and neighbourhood this year were as follows:

- \$6,930 in grocery cards at Christmas, plus use throughout the year
- TTC fare & gas money, and other travel expenses to medical appointments, church, and other important meetings.
- Occasionally, cash for food that was not available through the Food Bank (milk, eggs, meat)
- Christmas poinsettias & cards for our shut-ins.
- Help with purchasing medicine for illness.
- Small gifts for basic needs, laundry, cleaning supplies.
- Christmas community meal.
- assist a congregant with moving.
- assist with rent and phone bills.

Forward Hosted our second annual Community Christmas meal. The goal was to gather people to share a family-type meal, the gospel, and the joy of Jesus coming as Saviour of the World. We had delicious food graciously donated by FoodDudes, sang Christmas Carols, and shared a meal; each table had at least two table hosts from Forward to connect with guests. The dinner was delicious and enjoyed by over seventy people.

The Benevolent Fund started the year with \$11,499 in the bank. Its total income in 2024 was \$28,005, and its Total Expenses were \$39,080.00. The fund finished the year with \$424.00.



## FINANCE REPORT

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We saw God's work in our church through many ways during 2024 with our finances and I trust He will continue to show us His will as we look forward to 2025. I am so grateful to be part of a church where it is evident that, from our giving, putting God first is indeed a priority.

The income for 2024 was \$545,546, which consisted of regular giving and income. Other income included \$421,780 from the Wildwood property being rented by Metrolinx for an additional two years, and a bequest for \$93,391, resulting in total revenue of \$1,007,838. Expenditures for 2024 totaled \$675,751, up from 2023's expenditure of \$598,832 due primarily to onboarding and investing in staff and increased missions giving.

With our cash resources totaling \$1,007,838 at year-end, it is important that we deploy our resources to further the work of God's Kingdom. Our focus for this year will be tackling the list of capital projects previously presented to the congregation, and to repair the church sanctuary's roof; these projects will be prioritized based on immediate need. Ultimately, this will be a long-term investment for the congregation to continue enjoying the physical church building which God has blessed us with for over the past 100 years. Please pray for the church leadership to have wisdom and capacity to prayerfully and diligently put these funds to work.

Aside from upgrading the church building, mission expenditure in 2024 was significantly increased to \$93,320 compared to 2023 where we spent \$58,986. This resulted from our desire to further support various mission organizations. Highlights included \$20,000 to Liberty Grace Church for rent relief and \$10,000 to Christ Church Toronto to support their church building purchase.

While we have enjoyed healthy finances as a church over many years and have been blessed to receive such a surplus of funds from Metrolinx in recent times, a significant portion going forward will be utilized to upgrade and repair our church building. Assuming we utilize the entire allocated funds budgeted for capital projects in the next couple of years, our current levels of regular income would not cover future expenditures in the years to come. Discounting the Wildwood funds and bequest, our 2024 expenditures exceeded income by \$130,204. Let us pray we do not lose sight that we have a faith budget which needs to be supported with prayer and giving without allowing ourselves to become complacent.

I would like to give a heartfelt thanks to all the tellers for their continuous and faithful service in counting offerings and to our bookkeeper, Carol Bain, for her diligent work in keeping our finances properly recorded and presented.

We are deeply thankful for the way God's people have supported the work at Forward Baptist Church. May God bless you as you give cheerfully to the work of our Lord.

Respectfully submitted,

Felix Chau  
Treasurer

FORWARD BAPTIST CHURCH  
 STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE  
 FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	2024	2023	2022	2024 Budget
<b>Income</b>				
Envelopes	8,540	10,709	11,481	10,000
Where Most Needed	220,391	332,835	195,163	200,000
Pre-Authorized Gifts	96,475	88,455	75,430	90,000
Anniversary offering	35,499	40,835	47,254	40,000
Gifts through Charities	75,000	80,852	76,779	80,000
Other gifts	-	-	35	-
Total Givings	435,904	553,686	406,143	420,000
<b>Missions Income</b>				
Envelopes	21,450	25,820	8,097	15,000
Special Missions Offering	28,025	26,708	34,309	25,000
Other Missions Donations	-	-	-	-
Total Missions Income	49,475	52,528	42,406	40,000
<b>Other Income</b>				
Rent - Glenmore	10,200	10,200	10,200	10,200
Facility Rentals	3,600	2,700	2,700	3,000
Government Grants	-	-	4,653	3,000
Recoveries & Fees (mainly camp)	14,050	11,452	8,066	10,000
Interest Earned	32,317	3,586	575	1,000
Total Other Income	60,167	27,938	26,195	27,200
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>545,546</b>	<b>634,152</b>	<b>474,743</b>	<b>487,200</b>

FORWARD BAPTIST CHURCH  
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	2024	2023	2022	2024 Budget
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Staff & Pastoral Costs	457,340	388,164	357,584	464,220
Christian Education	25,650	27,213	19,449	27,000
Worship	2,319	1,557	2,993	2,000
Communications & Fellowship	7,321	10,058	9,694	15,000
Office & General	12,828	16,145	12,514	14,600
Building	73,568	93,714	84,698	96,600
Legal	-	1,589	-	10,000
Capital Items	3,405	1,406	10,402	30,000
Total Expenditure	582,431	539,846	497,334	659,420
<b>Missions Expenditure</b>				
Individuals	36,270	34,040	32,300	36,270
Missions Organizations	41,300	19,700	111,494	21,300
Other, incl. Anniversary Offering Distribution	15,750	5,246	10,000	11,500
Total Missions Expenditure	93,320	58,986	153,794	69,070
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>675,751</b>	<b>598,832</b>	<b>651,128</b>	<b>728,490</b>
<b>Net Income Before Special Items</b>	<b>(130,204)</b>	<b>35,321</b>	<b>(176,385)</b>	<b>(241,290)</b>
Other Receipts (Metrolinx)	421,780	155,807	-	400,000
Bequest	93,391	142,000	-	-
Balance, Beginning of Year	622,871	289,744	466,211	622,871
<b>Balance, End of Year</b>	<b>1,007,838</b>	<b>622,871</b>	<b>289,744</b>	<b>781,581</b>

FORWARD BAPTIST CHURCH  
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURE - LOCAL MINISTRY FUND  
FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	2024	2023	2022	2024 Budget
<b>Staff Remuneration &amp; Pastoral Costs</b>				
Salaries	222,513	215,121	208,309	309,100
Employee Benefits	62,286	45,111	45,979	54,900
Support/Temporary Staff	128,771	89,977	54,267	57,420
Summer Interns	32,541	20,803	31,985	28,000
Book Allowance	1,584	1,283	1,600	2,000
Staff Education & Development	2,831	2,857	3,240	1,500
Travel	820	971	1,011	800
Pastoral costs	880	2,880	1,874	2,000
Long Term Interns	1,929	6,666	6,608	6,500
Conferences - Conventions	3,184	2,494	2,711	2,000
	457,340	388,164	357,584	464,220
<b>Christian Education</b>				
Department Supplies	3,895	2,201	736	2,000
General Ministry Expense	2,029	3,979	3,898	5,500
Library/Resource Centre	305	30	-	100
Day Camp	8,870	10,380	9,492	8,500
Developing Ministries	987	1,545	211	2,100
Men's Ministry	105	222	28	600
Family Ministry	795	414	67	1,000
Youth Ministry	8,669	8,206	4,975	6,000
Women's Ministry	(5)	236	41	1,200
	25,650	27,213	19,449	27,000
<b>Worship</b>				
Organ & Piano Maintenance	606	670	559	500
Worship Expenses	38	-	1,182	-
Special Speakers	392	-	384	-
Song License	836	615	732	1,300
Communion	446	273	135	200
	2,319	1,557	2,993	2,000
<b>Communications &amp; Fellowship</b>				
Communications including Advertising	1,594	1,778	4,057	5,500
Community Outreach	1,274	2,903	2,508	3,600
Church Fellowship & Funerals	3,947	4,943	2,554	5,000
Flowers and Auditorium Decorations	506	435	575	900
	7,321	10,058	9,694	15,000

FORWARD BAPTIST CHURCH  
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURE - LOCAL MINISTRY FUND (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	2024	2023	2022	2024 Budget
<b>Office &amp; General</b>				
Bank Charges & Interest	3,187	2,088	2,422	2,500
Cell Phones	1,778	1,242	1,788	2,200
Postage	9	972	229	1000
Print Stationery & Office Supplies	6,198	9,669	5,130	6,000
Telephone	1,656	2,174	2,945	2,900
	12,828	16,145	12,514	14,600
<b>Building</b>				
Building Maintenance/Repairs/Supplies	11,888	24,761	16,070	22,000
Gas	16,850	24,016	21,907	32,000
Hydro & Water	29,029	30,112	24,943	26,000
Insurance	9,675	8,979	7,930	7,600
P.A./A.V. Maintenance & Supplies	855	1,076	435	3,000
Glenmore Property	5,272	4,769	13,413	6,000
	73,568	93,714	84,698	96,600
<b>Legal</b>				
Legal Expenses	-	1,589	-	10,000
	-	1,589	-	10,000
<b>Capital Expenditures</b>				
Wall Mats	-	-	7,128	-
CAD Drawings for Blueprints	-	-	3,274	-
Pew Bibles	-	1,406	-	-
Picnic Tables/Umbrellas	1,289	-	-	-
Computer for Director of Worship	1,039	-	-	-
Wifi Networks Upgrade	1,077	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	30,000
	3,405	1,406	10,402	30,000

FORWARD BAPTIST CHURCH  
 SCHEDULE OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE – MISSIONS  
 FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	2024	2023	2022	2024 Budget
<b>Revenue</b>				
Envelopes	21,450	25,820	8,097	15,000
Missions Offering	28,025	26,708	34,309	25,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>49,475</b>	<b>52,528</b>	<b>42,406</b>	<b>40,000</b>
<b>Individuals</b>				
Aaron and Anna Bowes (Missions 3D Threshold)	19,950	20,600	19,000	19,950
Don and Erin Longworth (SIM)	2,100	2,100	2,000	2,100
Ray and Sandra Alary (TTB)	2,100	2,100	2,000	2,100
Daniel and Emily Ford (BMFP)	2,100	2,100	2,000	2,100
Louis Bourque (AEBEQ)	2,100	2,100	2,000	2,100
Martha Oates (OMF)	1,800	1,260	1,200	1,800
Valera and Laura Strugov (MoveIn)	1,260	1,260	1,700	1,260
Bechara and Roula Karkafi (FEB)	1,800	1,260	1,200	1,800
Paul & Georgie McDonald (SEND International)	1,800	1,260	1,200	1,800
Isaac & Nikki Medler (SIM)	1,260	0	0	1,260
<b>Total Individuals</b>	<b>36,270</b>	<b>34,040</b>	<b>32,300</b>	<b>36,270</b>

**Acronyms:**

- AEBEQ - Association d'Églises Baptistes Évangéliques au Québec (FEB Quebec)
- BMFP - Baptist Mission to Forgotten Peoples
- FAIR - Fellowship Aid & International Relief
- FEB - Fellowship of Evangelical Baptists
- OMF - Overseas Mission Fellowship
- SIM - Sending in Mission
- TTB - Thru the Bible

FORWARD BAPTIST CHURCH  
SCHEDULE OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE – MISSIONS (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	2024	2023	2022	2024 Budget
<b>Missions Organizations</b>				
FEB: FAIR	720	720	87,874	720
FEB: LeadersFormation	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
FEB National: General Fund	720	720	720	720
FEB Central: General Fund	7,000	8,500	8,000	7,000
FEB Central: Church Planting	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Liberty Grace Church	21,260	1,260	6,400	1,260
Heritage College & Seminary	2,500	2,400	2,400	2,500
Toronto Baptist Seminary	2,500	500	500	2,500
Toronto City Mission	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
SAT-7 Canada	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Pregnancy Care Centre	1,000	-	-	1,000
Total Missions Organizations	41,300	19,700	111,494	21,300
<b>Other</b>				
Conference & Special Speakers	600	2,121	1,100	4,000
Short Term Missions	-	-	-	4,000
Gifts to Missionaries & Retirees	2,950	2,825	5,850	3,500
Special Events/Support	12,000	-	2,850	-
Women's Missionary Fellowship	200	300	200	-
Total Other	15,750	5,246	10,000	11,500
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>93,320</b>	<b>58,986</b>	<b>153,794</b>	<b>69,070</b>

*Abbreviations:*

AEBEQ - Association d'Églises baptistes évangéliques au Québec (FEB Quebec)

BMFP - Baptist Mission to Forgotten Peoples

FAIR - Fellowship Aid & International Relief

FEB - Fellowship of Evangelical Baptists

OMF - Overseas Mission Fellowship

SIM - Serving in Mission

TTB - Thru the Bible

FORWARD BAPTIST CHURCH  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2024

	<b>Dec. 31 2024</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2023</b>	<b>Dec. 31 2022</b>
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash	77,301	248,649	151,392
Investments (GIC)	905,424	354,935	176,349
Petty Cash	151	185	187
Government Rebates	21,141	22,776	11,132
Accounts Receivable	25,134	17,684	-
Prepaid Expenses	4,892	3,007	1,231
Capital Assets	1	1	1
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1,034,045</b>	<b>647,238</b>	<b>340,292</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Accounts Payable	20,581	10,346	1,013
Deferred Revenue	-	-	45,696
Benevolent Fund	425	11,499	1,720
David Barr Fund	5,202	2,522	2,122
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>26,208</b>	<b>24,367</b>	<b>50,551</b>
<b>Fund Balances</b>	<b>1,007,837</b>	<b>622,871</b>	<b>289,741</b>

FORWARD BAPTIST CHURCH  
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES  
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2024

	<b>Benevolent Fund</b>	<b>David Barr Fund</b>	<b>Total Fund Balances</b>
Balance - Beginning of Year	11,499	2,522	14,021
Receipts Received During Year	28,005	2,970	30,975
Disbursements During Year	39,080	290	39,370
<b>Balance - End of year</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>5,202</b>	<b>5,627</b>



## MEMBERSHIP AND BAPTISM REPORT

### Baptisms in 2024 - 9

Mark Vallelonga - February 4	Avery Vallelonga - February 4	Russell Neil - February 4
MJ Javid - February 4	James Theunissen - March 31	Alice Pereira - March 31
Yuhan Deng - November 3	Brian Campbell - November 3	Dennis Brittain - November 3

### New Members in 2024 - 8

Jackson Thulien - March 17	Wlad Figueiredo - March 17	Renata Cunha - March 17
Vitor Pereira - March 17	Andrea Pereira - March 17	Thea Bridger - March 17
Mark Vallelonga - March 17	Ruthann Peralta - June 30	

### Members Removed in 2024 - 15

<u>Deceased - 4</u>	<u>Removed - 11</u>	
Roland Peltier - May 15	Nicholas Freer	Amy Kirk
Catherine Tarr - May 28	Emily Marsh	Bernard Michaud
Josephine Grimshaw - September 27	David Nunn	Katie Nunn
Marianne Potter - November 16	Lester Penalosa	Brian Taylor
	Elsabet Taylor	Shawn Taylor
	Sam Wilton	

### Membership by Category 2024

	2024	2023	2022	2021
Active Members	98	102	106	103
Member Missionaries	2	2	2	2
Inactive Members	9	13	9	16
Shut in Members	13	12	18	12
Total Membership	122	129	135	133