



2018  
Annual Report

# **WESTON PARK**

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## BAPTIST CHURCH

Receiving Grace   Giving Grace



**We believe** in the existence of one living and true God who created and sustains all things by the power of His Word. The only God existed before all things and continues to exist as one God. The one God exists in three persons Father, Son and Holy Spirit. All three persons have the same nature, attributes and perfections and are complementary in the operations of creation and salvation.

**We believe that God the Son** came to earth, born of a virgin, thus fully God and fully man. He lived on Earth. He was tempted in every way as we are - yet He did not sin. He was crucified on the cross, died and was buried. After three days He rose bodily from the dead. Thus He provides through the shedding of His blood the only remedy for the sins of the world. Forty days after His resurrection He ascended to His Father where He forever intercedes on our behalf.

**We believe that the atoning death of Christ** provides justification to believers in Him. This gift of justification compels God's people to works of faith leading to a life set apart in obedience to God's will.

**We believe that all humans** are sinners and that salvation is only through faith in Jesus Christ and that regeneration is only through the Holy Spirit.

**We believe that God the Holy Spirit** prompts the sinner to belief, obedience and repentance. At the point of salvation the new believer is baptized, indwelt, sealed, empowered, set free, given assurance, revealed truth, sustained and given gifts by the Holy Spirit.

**We believe that the true Christ's church** is composed of all such persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the body of Christ of which He is the head. We believe in Believer's Baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper. The local church is a group of baptized believers in Jesus Christ who are associated together in order to acknowledge, declare and submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

**We believe that each believer** is to be involved in the building up of the local church by using their spiritual gifts.

**We believe God has appointed** a time when Jesus Christ will judge the just and the unjust; the resurrection of the righteous unto eternal joy and the unrighteous unto eternal separation from God.

**We believe in the imminent bodily return** of Christ for His church and the establishment of a new order where believers, in their incorruptible bodies, will dwell with and worship Christ forever.

**We believe in the divine inspiration** of the Scriptures, the Old and New Testaments, and their absolute sufficiency as the only authorized guide in matters of faith and practice.

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## Deacons' Team & Pastors

**A**s I writing this report, I am very quickly reminded that the glory for all that has taken place at WPBC over this past year belongs to God. He has blessed us in so many ways, even at times when we didn't initially recognize it.

The Deacons Team is happy to report that the spiritual life of our church is vibrant and growing and through the sermons, worship leading and praise team we continue to broaden our biblical knowledge and deepen our spiritual wisdom.

### What's happening?

#### Round Table Discussions (RT)

The leadership team is excited about the insights and ideas that have come out of the RT discussions. As WPBC moves into this coming year the information from the RT discussions will help us to explore who we are, why we are here and where we are going? There is an increased synergy and movement when we share with each other what drives us, excites us, and energizes us to do what we do here in WPBC. The hope is that this strong sense of belonging will result not just in stronger bonds as a church family but an increased desire to move forward boldly into the Weston community.

#### Youth Director

We were happy to welcome Marcus Singleton to the role of Youth Director. Marcus began in October of 2018 and worked closely with Karen Bruno, our Interim Youth Director, and took on sole leadership in November 2018. Marcus has extensive background in youth ministry both within the church and in various communities. Marcus has a passion to see the current and future generations serve the Lord and has dedicated his life to His service. Please, keep Marcus in your prayers as he walks with our young people who are seeking God's guidance in the next phase of their faith journey.

#### Deacon's Retreat

This year the Deacon's had a strategic planning Retreat. The areas of focus for 2019 were the following:

- Children/Youth/Young Adults
- Community Engagement & Outreach
- Finance/Independence (Generating Income)
- Leadership Potential
- Roundtables

A committee will be created for each area and the designated leader will reach out to others in the church who might be interested in participating on those committees. Committees will create a vision statement and develop a work plan for 2019. Monthly reports will be given at the Deacons' meetings.

### **Thank You to ...**

Karen Bruno your leadership and continued support with the Youth Ministry as we were in transition was a wonderful blessing. Your gift of service and your desire to be a guiding light to our young people as they discover who they are in Christ is priceless and a blessing beyond all measures.

Joy Saunders, thank-you for stepping in as the Nursery Coordinator while Charlotte Williams enjoyed her maternity leave. Joy your willingness to always serve in so many aspects of the church is truly appreciated and recognized.

And lastly, thank-you everyone. WPBC is a welcoming and vibrant church family because of your prayers, time and willingness to serve. There is nothing more powerful when ALL of God's people come together in the name of Jesus. Thank you my Sisters and Brothers in Christ for just being YOU!!

Respectfully submitted by

Darlene Lucas, Deacons' Team Chair

Christian spirituality is about a process of formation, a process in which we are formed by, and in Christ: Christ who, sharing the form of God, assumed the form of a servant. (Kenneth Leech)

I believe that Kenneth Leech sums up well our collective goal as a faith community of knowing, serving and sharing Jesus Christ with others. It is to this end that we meet each Sunday and throughout the week to grow in our relationship with Jesus and to share his goodness in the community of Weston, the city of Toronto, and beyond through our partnering with agencies such as Frontlines, CBM and the Baptist Convention of Churches (CBOQ). Together we make a difference as we shine out the light of Jesus to a hurting and broken world.

Specifically, I want to thank everyone for their faithful and generous support of the ministries at Weston Park – because of your efforts we have been able to support our partners in ministry who reach out to peoples beyond our immediate sphere of influence. Also, I want to highlight the presence of Marcus Singleton, who is now working with our youth. He has been doing a great job of connecting with the youth and families of the church and is hoping to connect with Frontlines as we move forward in 2019. Marcus is a significant addition to the team and we are so happy that he is serving in our midst. We also continue to make headway on the Habar development front, joint ministries with our Spanish and Brazilian communities and partnerships with the ministries of Hopeworks and Frontlines.

We rejoice that together we make an impact for Jesus in the community of Weston and beyond. As we carry on in our own and collective spiritual formation Jesus is seen and exalted for which we give thanks with grateful hearts. May we continue to push ahead in our enthusiasm for God never losing our zeal in journeying with Jesus and spreading the light of his kingdom.

Respectfully submitted by,

Pastor Alan Davey

2018. WOW! What a change has taken and is continuing to take place at the crossroads of Weston. Once it was a dusty crossroads and now it is a reflection of the world beyond our shores. Our property has and will continue to change so that in a few years our children and grandchildren won't believe what it used to look like. Hopefully the efforts we are making will continue to bear fruit for the Lord in this area.

The faces we see on Weston Rd. are changing but the need for friendship, encouragement and support still remains the same. Our church family is still committed to reaching out to our neighbours. And our church family has changed as well. We still have many who can walk to church but a large number commute considerable distances to share in the fellowship, by car, buses or Wheel-Trans. Our nursery continues bursting at the seams and our congregation now has as many baby seats as walkers.

We were saddened by the death of several of our family who passed away this year. Joyce Goodwin and Lenore Frogley had such an important role in the life of Weston Park. They both were faithful workers at WAES for many years as well. They are greatly missed by their families and the church family.

As we continue to welcome our regular church families each Sunday we are also excited by the number of visitors who enter our fellowship. We are planning a New Friends Breakfast early in this year.

The families who have joined us this past year are becoming involved in many areas of service and are such an encouragement to all of us. There is a great opportunity for service within our church family and the need for those willing to serve has also never been greater. We are truly blessed to be part of such a wonderful church family. We have also been blessed by being accepted into God's family.

Respectfully submitted

Dave Saunders



## WPBC - FAMILY MATTERS\* 2018

The text you see in faint print behind this report includes the sermon series and preaching texts week by week of 2018. I am forever grateful for our worship at WPBC. Faithful preachers, inspiring and inclusive and lively worship. Against this backdrop, here are some recollections of 2018.

Our experience of FAMILY begins in the arms of mothers, fathers and grandparents. Surrounded by the Cloud of Witnesses, we gather week by week and month by month, and our experience together as FAMILY grows to include each other.

Francis Morgan Cudipe  
Everton Winter  
Keith Johnson  
Ralford Bailey  
Joyce Goodwin  
Cathy Ansell  
Lynne Frogley

Courtney + Rosie

Our FAMILY changes shape with life events of birth and death, as well as the gift of belonging and finding *place*, finding *home* in one another's company. This year has been rich in God's provision of FAMILY experiences. Some were enlarged by the birth of new lives, some, by including new people.

A committed couple came together to the covenant promise of Marriage.....  
Another couple, already covenanted in Marriage were reunited when immigration paperwork allowed them to share life under the same roof.  
That blessing was multiplied when Marcus Singleton gave his commitment to lead our youth!

Amber + Julian

Venice Avrie  
Kingston Gabriel  
Reuben Abraham  
Adeline Rose

In the personal decision to pursue (finally) the vocational call to Ordination, this year has been full of fresh challenge and great reward. I've enjoyed attending several conferences, entering into the collegial spirit of things -- an unexpected blessing of welcome into membership in the L'Arche Daybreak community.

I look forward to what 2019 holds for our FAMILY.  
May He make beautiful things out of us....

Urbana 2018  
Luke Guldart &  
Yonas Habesh

Respectfully,  
Bonnie

**\*MATTER (mat-er) noun**

**Noun.** Something that occupies space. Something of consequence, importance or significance.

**Verb.** To be of importance, to signify.

## Church Community Ministries

### Nursery

**L**et the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.

As Jesus said in Matthew 19:14, we must always put the children of our church family at the top of our priority list. Teaching them God's word and nurturing their relationship with Him happens primarily in Bible school. The Nursery, however, lays the foundation for our young ones, allowing them to connect with our volunteers and with other children that will hopefully grow up to be their peers and close friends.

We cannot underestimate the importance of this stage of life!

Great thanks to our steadfast, awesome volunteers! Special thanks to Joy Saunders for overseeing the coordination while I was occupied at home with one of our newest members!

We look forward to continued growth, both physically and spiritually, in 2019, and are always eager to welcome new members to our volunteer team!

Respectfully submitted by

Charlotte Williams; Nursery Coordinator

### Bible School

**2**018 has been an exciting year for Bible School. We had 50 children attend our program, which was expanded by starting a Junior-High group for grades 7 and 8 students and there was a consistent rotation of youth volunteers to help out with Bible School.

We have an incredible team of teachers who love our children! They dedicated their time to them. These include: Simon Alfred, Rebecca Davey, Natalie Davey Ward, Christy Edewor, John Frogley-Rawson, Mieke Geldart, Sari Jn Francois, Roshel Kidd, Steve Lucas, Kristy Opoku, Kofi Osie-Bonsu, Bonnie Parsons, Shari Shannon, and Beverly Wilkins. They have shown our children, in a real way, God's love to them. THANK YOU!

This year we continue to focus on maintaining good practices and programming in our Bible School and in the further development of our Junior-High program by concentrating on our goals:

- J That our children and youth become biblically literate, that is, to learn the overarching narrative of Scripture.
- J That our children and youth embrace the Christian faith.
- J That our children and youth have an understanding of how to make ethical decisions based on Scripture so that they know how to make healthy lifestyle choices.

In Bible School we have FUN! We play games, make crafts, sing, bake, experiment, make friends and have snacks, but through it all we teach; we sow; we pray.

*“Start children off on the way they should go, and even what they are old they will not turn from it.” (Proverbs 22:6)*

Respectfully submitted by,

Karen Bruno; Bible School Coordinator

**I**t was a great joy for me to serve the Wave Youth program in 2018 alongside our ever faithful youth leaders Robert and Roshel Kidd. (THANK YOU!)

We learned a lot this year, such as: discussing the importance of knowing what is true and focusing on it as well as examining the lives of Joseph, Moses, and Daniel, among others.

2018 was a year of change. Our meeting times were moved to Sunday after the worship service. We added two more youth to our alumni list—Mark and Jaleem. In November, we gave a big welcome to Marcus Singleton, our new Interim Youth Director. I am so happy that he can have a positive impact on the lives of our youth. They are an incredible bunch! And the biggest change, to me at least, I went on maternity leave.

To the youth...thank you! for letting me be part of your group for the short time we had together. What a joy! Love you all.

Respectfully submitted by,

Karen Bruno; Interim Youth Director

Since taking on the role as the new Interim Youth Director, I have been trying to assess where the youth are regarding their walk and relationship with God through Christ on their personal faith journey.

Discipling and empowering our youth is my mission and goal as the interim Youth Director/ Pastor in order for the youth to discover, recognize and realize their gifts, calling, and purpose within the safety and intimacy of their relationship with God through Christ.

With this mission and goal in mind, we decided to change the name of the Youth group from the Wave to WPBC Youth to represent the church and the community and create opportunities for our youth to serve in the church and the community.

My desires/ goals for the Youth in 2019 are:

1. To walk with them in developing their own personal relationship with God through Christ.
2. To create opportunities for our youth to become leaders at Weston Park Baptist Church as well as the Weston Community e.g. leading worship every 5th Sunday of the month & leading a Saturday service once a month catered to High School and College youth.
3. To create opportunities for our youth to do missions work in the Weston Community, GTA and abroad (Bolivia)
4. To create opportunities for the youth to develop community amongst themselves and Weston Park Baptist Church congregation and the Weston community.
5. To have fun through the process.

Activities we have planned for our Youth in 2019 are:

1. Attending Blizzard (Completed)
2. Family Game Night hosted by WPBC Youth (in planning)
3. Centre Court (coming soon)
4. Hockey Event (coming soon)
5. Summer Outreach opportunities (coming soon)

Francis Chan said the role of the Youth Pastor is to encourage young people to go up the mountain to experience a personal, intimate relationship with God and not settle for just being around Moses/ the Youth Pastor. This is what I believe God is calling me to do in this position.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcus Singleton

The Weston Park Baptist Church (WPBC) Youth Scholarship Program was introduced to the congregation in the Spring of 2018. The launch followed receipt of a generous donation to the church in the amount of \$5,000.

The program is primarily focused on achieving the following two objectives:

1. To help youth affiliated with the WPBC community who are facing financial challenges to pursue post-secondary education.
2. To encourage youth to become actively involved in serving within the church community.

The Scholarship Committee worked diligently throughout the year to be good stewards of the funds entrusted to us. One of the first tasks we faced was to develop eligibility criteria. We settled on the following items:

- Youth between 16 and 29 years of age;
- Who attend or have attended Sunday services and consider WPBC their home church;
- Will attend a registered college/university program in the year of application

Another very important task was to ensure that all potential applicants were aware of the program. A variety of methods were used to get the word out including announcements during Sunday services, information in the church bulletin and on the church website, meeting with the youth group and connecting individually with potential applicants to determine whether they intended to apply as well as provide them with information about the application process.

A third set of tasks involved developing an online application form and a rubric to evaluate the applicants.

Three youth submitted an application and all three were awarded scholarships.

In 2019, our focus will be on reviewing all aspects of the process based on our experience from year one and doing any fine-tuning that may be required. Our mission will continue to be ensuring that the funds are thoughtfully distributed in a way that is consistent with the core values underlying the scholarship program and our church community.

As a committee, we are thankful for this opportunity to serve God and the Weston Park Baptist Church community.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tamara Irons

on behalf of the Scholarship Committee (Natalie Davey Ward, Darcy Mohr, Ron Morrow)

**W**eston Park Baptist Church was so lucky to have Jennie Steenwyk who dedicated countless hours to procuring, cataloguing, advertising, reading and sharing the texts in our library. Her leadership was critical to the growth and success of the collection and the community's access to it.

Since Jennie's departure, however, the library has been without meaningful care. In 2017, Tamara Irons and Christine Mensinga, volunteered, to work jointly to cull and organize the church library with the hope that someone with an interest in making the library a warm, welcoming space, with useful resources that reflect our congregation, would commit to taking on this important challenge. The church is still waiting for the right person to come along.

Some suggestions as we move forward are:

- )] Establish a small committee of church- library stakeholders who will be charged with making decisions about the space in the interim
- )] Survey church congregation to determine whether/how to continue to invest in the space and resources.
- )] Move collection to an open, public space within the church to make texts more visible and accessible.

Even though the library is not technically open, it's also not really closed. If you have an interest in missions, church history, creation and religion, worship or church ministries, or bible concordances and commentaries, there are a number of books available to you. Find someone with a key and check something out using the honor system.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tamara Irons

**I**t was a year of changes – for our congregation gaining babies and yet also a year of losing some of those we've loved and known for a long, long while.

Abe and Karen brought Ruben into our world, and Lenore Frogley left us behind. Also, Norma Bailey's husband Ralford passed. Yes, a year of blessings and pains and blessings. Charlotte and Dwayne brought a precious boy, Kingston. Rob Parsons' daughter Erin, who lives in Hillie, gave birth to a baby girl named Adeline in late October.

In all, we had 45 requests for prayers. Given the call to honor the people's personal privacy, we shall not name those for whom we've prayed. All but one, that is.

Lydia! The new grand-baby of a friend of the L'Arche community... She and Nana live in the U.S. We met 'Nana' one evening at a L'Arche event. Lydia was born with a spinal condition that could well have rendered her unable to grow to full adulthood without being severely deformed. We begged for the chance to put her need on the Prayer Chain. That was in late April.

In May we'd asked, via an email, and learned that there'd been surgery which had... WORKED!! And in November a thrilled Nana sent an email, with photos... Lydia.

As prayers, we've had pain with losses due to death, and concerns for those that remain... in place. And we've seen improvements. Yet it is a privilege that we are permitted to ask God over and over, and along the way... to hope.

Charlotte Williams, San Nolte, and... Bonnie Parsons [who joined us for a time, helping Charlotte with her ultra-busy life!]

Respectfully submitted by,

San Nolte and Charlotte Williams; Prayer Chain Coordinators

**S**he is clothed with strength and dignity and she laughs without fear of the future.  
Proverbs 31:25.

The Ladies Social group meets the third Thursday of every month. The ladies group has enjoyed various outings, games and movie times. Over the last few years we have included different Biblical teachings through hymns, devotionals and scripture. The ladies are connected by the stories they share and the support they give each other.

Comments from the ladies

- ) This group brings us closer in knowing each other
- ) We know that we are being lifted up and in each other prayers
- ) I appreciate the friendships and it's a joy to be around Christian ladies
- ) This is my true family. It's a blessing to be here among family
- ) Here is a place where we can pour out hearts and know that my church sisters are listening. I feel so blessed

- J Sunday's we just have time to greet each other, here we can have personal discussions
- J We can laugh, have fun and just be ourselves among each other
- J Love to see in everyone's faces that they are truly glad to see me
- J Appreciated the friendships and the group brings us closer together
- J We have many sisters, we are ALL feisty ladies and I love it.

We are blessed to have such a sacred space where wonderful relationships can be formed and a caring community that supports and encourages each other.

Join us the third Thursday of every month from 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm.

We would love to see you!

Respectfully submitted by,

Darlene Lucas; Member of the Ladies Social

**T**he second Value (of five) that our church celebrates is; “worshipping God in a celebratory, artistic and vibrant style, meaningfully reflecting our diversity”.

We take this value seriously and intentionally attempt to make it real through our participatory model and practice of worship.

1. **Participation** – Our worship is led at this time by seven different planning teams; Elizabeth Davey & John Maury, Natalie Davey Ward & Tamara Irons, Arlene Huff & Dave Saunders, Olumuyiwa Falope & Alan Davey, Darlene Lucas & Alan Davey, MaryEllen & Steve Rowley, Bonnie Parsons & Cherrylin Roache. Each of these teams design our worship time in conversation with Pastor Alan. We rotate these teams (who in turn seek out other worship participants) to create a shared model of leadership where the congregational makeup is reflected.
2. **Blended Worship** – Our model of worship is a blended style where we combine elements of worship from varying traditions. For example, most services include musical expression featuring both hymnology/organ and band/contemporary praise music. We do this on purpose to reflect the rich musical expression the church has received over the centuries.



3. **Beauty** – Under the leadership of Sharon Tiessen and Pastor Alan art exhibitions are presented in the sanctuary to reflect the liturgical calendar and seasonal changes. We value beauty and believe it has an essential role in the formation of one's spirituality and worship experience. We encourage our people to study these pieces of art to help inform one's spiritual journey.
4. **Excellence** – While we desire a high level of participation in our worship we also seek a level of excellence in our worship offerings. We are blessed with a skilled, trained, organist and pianist in Elizabeth Davey, who creates a solid foundation for our musical expression. We are also blessed with excellent players on the bass, Dave Geldart; percussion, Sam Opoku & Marcus Singleton; guitarists, Simon Alfred & Olumuyiwa Falope and a team of singers including Natalie Davey, Rebecca Davey, Mieke Geldart, Bonnie Parsons, Myeesha Inyang, Rosalina Aliangan, Amber Clarke, Keri Ruel, and others as they are able to participate.
5. **Celebration** – We desire our worship to be vibrant, diverse and celebratory. We praise an amazing God who is worthy of all our adoration. As a result we encourage whole hearted worship which is expressive, joyful, and meaningful. Our worship is most powerful when the congregation fully engages in heart, mind, soul and body. May we worship our Triune God with all of our senses and offer the Divine Family our deepest and heartfelt praise.

Respectfully submitted by,

Pastor Alan

**W**hat a merciful God we serve! He has given us a brand new year to change our lives for the better and to get deeper in Him. The new year of 2019 will be a blessed year for all of us.

We tried hard to demonstrate true Christian love to everyone who came through the doors each Sunday morning. At this moment we say thanks to all our ushers for their hard work and dedication throughout 2018.

It is going to be a great year for all of us at Weston Park as we seek to worship the Lord together. The ushers have tried to be of good service to our congregation during the past year and we are planning to serve you better in the new year through God's amazing grace.

We are called to demonstrate true Christian love beginning with welcoming our friends and members with the bulletins every Sunday. We are humbled and blessed to know that the Omnipotent One takes the time to engrave us in the palm of His hand, to protect us, to provide for us and to direct our steps. So we are resolved to be very diligent in the task before us this year; sharing in His message of love with those we serve so that others will experience the joy of his salvation.

Thanks again to every usher for serving so faithfully throughout the year. All praise and thanks to God, the Father, who loves us so much. May we continue to serve in every aspect of our lives. He is indeed God!

Respectfully submitted by,

Glenda Lloyd; Ushers' Coordinator

Once again we were all able to enjoy coffee, tea and occasionally special treats after church from September to June. It is a wonderful time to reconnect with each other and also meet new friends in our community!

We have such a faithful group of "coffee makers" who quietly go about preparing and cleaning up on a monthly basis. We try to be as socially conscious as we can by using fair trade coffee and washable mugs. Thank you to the following people for their conscientious commitment this past year, it is so appreciated:

Rosalina Aliangan, Sue Bolender, Donnett Davidson, Marc Geldart, Pauline Hamilton, Roshel Kidd, Robert Kidd, Sofronia Maruquin(Nanay), San Nolte, Miraflor Obre, Ingrid Payne, Shirley William

Respectfully submitted by,

MaryEllen Rowley, Coordinator

Those who accepted his message were baptized....” Acts 2:41.

In 2018, we rejoiced with Jennifer Robinson and Job Efejukwe as they publicly expressed their faith through the waters of baptism. We thank God for their desire to know and follow Christ.

Two faithful servants, Joyce Goodwin and Lenore Frogley were promoted to glory. We acknowledge and appreciate their devoted service with gratitude; they are fondly missed.

After relocating to Eastern Ontario, Jennie Steenwyk requested a transfer of membership to Victoria Ave. Baptist Church in Belleville, Ontario. Jennie contributed to the life of our church and we pray that her new church family will also be blessed by her fellowship.

Business meetings were held on January 21<sup>st</sup>, March 4<sup>th</sup> and October 21<sup>st</sup> to attend to the business matters of the newly incorporated Weston Park Baptist Church.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sue Bolender; Church Clerk

Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec known as CBOQ is comprised of approximately 380 churches, large and small, across the two provinces.

Together with the Union of French Baptist Churches of Canada we form a convention to provide shared benefit and do mission work. Each of our churches is autonomous in making decisions relevant to our own congregation.

Together as a body of churches, however, we provide and contribute to pastors and staff benefits plans, insurance and pensions, credential our new pastors, provide funds for church mortgages and loans, church planting, clergy care, youth leadership, camps and congregational development.

Six to seven hundred persons attended the assembly at the Mississauga Hilton Hotel. The theme speaker was Chap Clark who challenged us to be authentic in our Christian living as individuals and churches if we want to attract people, especially young people. Drew Brown

was music and worship leader. The music was very youth oriented – at times almost a rock and roll beat.

The Assembly theme was “Reaching and Engaging the Next Generation.”

We heard reports from our ministry partners, Canadian Baptist Women and McMaster Divinity College, enthusiastic and often humorous reports of camp and youth ministries, a financial report of assets, expenditures, present and future budgets. Lynde Creek, a Baptist Seniors’ complex in Whitby is being sold to Extendicare.

Tim McCoy, our Executive Minister is taking a 6 month sabbatical after seven years of hard work.

Mission work is continuing in South Sudan, India, Myanmar, the Middle East, Africa, Europe, Bolivia and now China. Cheryl Bear of Nadleh Whut’en First Nation is now on staff as Indigenous Relations Specialist.

Workshops were held on Saturday. Topics included Celebrating Communities of Belonging, Small Church Seminar, The Truth About China. Sex, Christ and Culture: A Redemptive Response. This last workshop was led by Sid Koop and was a very loving, kind and scriptural response. Sid has spent many years dealing with the issues now facing our churches.

Please be in prayer for a steering committee (led by Director Tim McCoy) which is exploring and studying LGBTQ concerns with the mandate of reporting its findings to the convention in 2019. Pray for wisdom as the group discusses sensitive issues which impact the life and practice of CBOQ churches and make recommendations and edits to the “This We Believe” document. \*Please see the CBOQ website for further details and background as it relates to this matter.

Respectfully submitted by,

Arlene Huff & Darlene Lucas; CBOQ Assembly Delegates

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## Finance & Property

**H**ere we are again my friends, looking forward while we review what happened in the last year.

I am happy to report that we as a church kept going strongly with some ripples along the way. As with any year we start with a lassitude from the push from the previous year end but this year we started with determination to help the church stay monetarily healthy. We still dipped and waned with the giving's during the spring then again during the summer months.

This is something we have always faced and we on the Finance/Property team sometimes have to look at worst case scenarios, just in case. At the end of the summer we asked the Weston Park Ministries team for a small loan to cover any possible shortfalls. In the end we were blessed to stay on top of monies going out with the giving's coming in and stayed ahead of any shortfalls. By year end we used a portion of the money to top up the cash flow fund. I am happy to report that all expenses and mission funds were covered by you, the congregation of WPBC.

We did have some repair issues this year; some planned, some unforeseen and some that have been put aside to be reviewed again in 2019. One of the bigger issues that came up was the replacement of the air-conditioning at Frontlines. The replacement bill came in at just under six thousand dollars but thanks to the generosity of Weston Park Ministries the church did not have to incur any costs for the replacement.

As always this is a team effort and the team is made up of some amazing people. I must give out a special thanks to Don Barter, our Property Coordinator; Murlene Heron, our Envelope Steward; Arlene Huff; Samson Ogbeide; Roger Primeau, our Cleaning Coordinator; and Marjorie Richards. A special thank you to Anand Sravanapudi for serving with the committee until he had to relocate for work purposes, and to Robert Kidd who had to step away from the committee. Also, thanks to Rob Parson who has joined us this year and thank you to our bookkeeper, Jose Castro, who has helped us navigate the road of QuickBooks.

Finally thank you to you, the people of this church who are the heart and soul of this building on Weston Road, who with God's grace have kept this church going in this community for the last 111 years.

Respectfully submitted by,

Steve Lucas; Finance Property Team Chair

**S**TEWARDS TEAM (Tellers): Ron Morrow & Dave Bolender, Robert Kidd & Samson Ogbeide, Glenda Lloyd & Darcy Mohr, Sue & Dave Bolender, Sari Jn-Francois & San Nolte. These were our Teller Teams in 2018... THANK YOU to each, for your faithfulness, in serving WPBC.

You may ask “what is a teller?”

A teller at Weston Park is one of a team of two people who remain (after the service) each Sunday, to count the monies donated through tithes and offerings. The weekly team is responsible for accurately recording the information required by the Envelope steward, the church Bookkeeper, Treasurer and the church office, plus delivering the bank deposit. This task takes approximately 1 ½ hours.

During 2018, we had a new challenge; an envelope that is not as user friendly as we were used to. Perhaps, you have experienced frustration in filling-in the amount of your donation? Our envelopes have three categories: General, Mortgage and Other. It would be helpful (to our tellers), if our donors would utilize these categories, by filling in the intended \$-amount. The only time Other is applicable, is if you wish to make a specific donation to something not covered by the Church Budget. For example, if we have a death within the church community and there is not a special envelope for a memorial donation, one could use that space, and write in the wish below. Or, perhaps we have a special need that has been introduced and announced, then the Other space would be used to donate to that subject.

We do have a need for one more teller during 2019; if you have an interest in this area of service, please speak to me for more information.

Respectfully submitted by,

Dave Bolender; Stewards Co-ordinator

**Y**our Building Property Committee has had a very busy year keeping the church building in good shape.

I had Judy Duyck approach me about looking after the gardens. They have not looked so good in a long time. Marjorie Richards has been busy with the painting needed inside and outside. I asked Elizabeth Davey and little crew to pick paint colours. We asked Doug Jackson if he would assist us with snow removal and moving the garbage bins in and out on garbage day. Now Doug is keeping the outside clean and doing small jobs around the building. I would also thank Roger Primeau and his cleaning crew for keeping the entire building so clean and tidy.

We are looking at more painting and small repairs for the new year. If you have an urge to give some spare time to the church we would be happy to speak to you.

Respectfully submitted by,

Don Barter; Property Manager

**I**would like to thank all the cleaners for giving their time and efforts on Saturdays to make the church look clean and tidy for Sunday mornings. Also, thanks to the ladies from the Thursday morning group who take the time to clean, straighten up and take care of the pews. They are all doing this for the glory of God.

We have about 15 people coming faithfully to clean the church. There are 4 teams that come one Saturday a month each. The Spanish church also provides workers. It usually takes about 2 to 3 hours. A few of our cleaners also come a second time (on the months with 5 Saturdays). Some have left because of other commitments or for health reasons and we would like to thank each of them for their faithful service.

Sometimes we may be missing somebody, but the teams pull together to complete the necessary tasks. God has always provided enough help.

When the self-cleaning program started about 10 years ago, teams were formed to do the work. If you would like to join a team, please see Sylvia Montague-Gordon or Enroy Bryan or me. Or, if you would like to get a team together to clean, please talk to one of us.

Respectfully submitted by,

Roger Primeau; Cleaners' Co-ordinator

## Outreach

The year began by formalizing the Memorandum of Understanding between the church and Castlepoint Numa. This set the foundation for negotiating a Joint Venture Agreement and a Limited Partnership with Castlepoint.

The Joint Venture Agreement will clearly delineate the parameters of the project. It establishes, the contribution of each partner, the objectives of each partner, the decision-making process, the sharing of the benefits to each partner and a description of the many legal “what ifs” if things do not go according to plan.

During the year, we worked to formulate the Joint Venture Agreement and we encountered many hurdles. We faced large issues related to Land Transfer Taxes, addressed potential corporate taxes due to land development, and how to structure the development in such a manner that does not jeopardize the church’s charitable status. These challenges would have been insurmountable without the expertise of Derek Ballantyne working with our legal counsel in conjunction with the Castlepoint legal counsel.

Castlepoint’s owner, Afredo Romano and his staff have demonstrated nothing but understanding, integrity and respect for the interests of the church. Derek Ballantyne continues to be someone we believe God has sent, to guide and direct us through this project. Several of our church family had the opportunity to meet Alfredo and his wife Moira when they visited the church during our Christmas food drive.

As we look forward to 2019, we expect to establish the project’s financial viability, “the budget”, the design and prepare a development application to the City of Toronto. Please keep the future of our church in your prayers. Everyone is welcome to drop in to the monthly Habar Prayer time on the first Sunday of each month before worship.

Thank you to our Habar development committee who diligently gave of their time and energy to the future of the church again in 2018. Please thank Dave Geldart, Rob Parsons, Jordan Potter-Davey, Steve Rowley, Dave Bolender and Abigail Moriah (ex-officio) for the time and effort they gave to Habar in 2018. “We have not come this way before”.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Habar Committee,

John Frogley-Rawson; Chair



Jesus invites us to ‘be compassionate as our heavenly Father is compassionate’ (Matthew 5:48). To be compassionate invites us to enter into the boots of the other person and really empathize with their needs and felt reality.

It means that we do not simply think about ourselves but are concerned with the well-being of others. As we walk beside people in their lived reality and do our part in alleviating their needs we enter into the compassion and ministry of Jesus.

We are happy to report that as a church family we were able to meet all of our 2018 mission targets. As a result our fiscal commitments to our STEP program in Bolivia, CBOQ programs, and Hockey Ministries were all met. We can be confident that all of the financial gifts were used in practical and helpful ways for the wholistic development of the individuals we serve. Even small gifts make a difference in people’s lives and help to show the compassion of our loving Father.

Respectfully submitted by,

Pastor Alan Davey

Frontlines continues to grow with an emphasis on engaging older youth especially those between the ages of 13-17. While all stages are important in serving children and youth, this age range is where youth can easily be influenced by negative influences and go down the wrong path. We are thankful to God for giving us this opportunity to serve.

We now have an advanced Leaders in Training program for youth 13-17 which allows youth to, not only get their volunteer hours, but to gain valuable training and certification as a result. We also have a program called "In the Line of Fire" which engages youth 13-17 in cooking and discussing issues around violence in their community. The "In of the Line of Fire" program will result in the production of a cookbook at the end of April which will be available for purchase. We also have another program for these youth which engages them in discussing social change called the Youth Place Project.

We are thankful to God for growing our finances, despite external threats to our financial security. We know that God will provide. We look forward to new programs this year particularly implementing STEM programs and for us to engage deeper with schools in the community.

Respectfully submitted;

Stachen Frederick, Executive Director of Frontlines

**A**s I think about words to describe WPBC's Food Drive 2018, I find myself thinking about how the latest version of our food drive delivered a few challenges, but in the end was an overall success.

Thankfully, through lots of prayer, we succeeded in collecting 464 boxes of food and offered much support to WAES. Each year I am impressed by the group effort of the Food Drive Committee, as putting this event together takes so much coordination and passion. The Food Drive Committee has so much passion and commitment and I think they all deserve so much thanks for the long meetings, the several daily text messages and for all the brainstorming done to see our visions come to fruition and ultimately success.

Once again we had several important partners who played key roles in the success. Atlantic Packaging contributed our bags, Molson Coors donated our boxes and Chronos Marketing did a wonderful job with our flyers.

Our parade was again a standout in the Weston Santa Claus parade. To see so many young people in our church embracing their young faith in Jesus in a most wonderful way is always incredible. Rob and Roshel Kidd do such a wonderful job each year, coordinating the floor, the setup, the coffee and hot chocolate and basically are the glue that hold this event together. Watching their passion and talents being injected into this event makes it so easy for me to stay in the shadows and offer my support wherever it is needed.

While the concert portion of the food drive events has come to an end, I am excited at the possibilities that might take its place. In 2019, I will be looking to put together a Christmas Market that will hopefully engage our local community and bring some much needed financial support for WAES.

As I look ahead to 2019, I am thinking that this will be 30 years for the food drive. For three decades we have continually given our support to our community and I will be looking to

really take the food drive series of events to the next level! Along with new events, I am looking to tweak our current events to incorporate the longevity of this great thing we do.

I have already started to meet with several people regarding our events later this year. I expect that this year will be the biggest year for the food drive yet! To see each year our support come together in such a big way provides me hope for our community and it shows that God's love is alive and well not just in WPBC, but also in the community of Weston.

Our church is in the process of making huge investments that will live on well past our generation into future generations and I think that is what this food drive has done for decades. I look forward to seeing what this year brings and the successes we will all share in this year.

I want to thank all of our volunteers who contributed to the food drive in 2018 through prayer, participation and action. Without the collected efforts of us all none of this would be possible. I am so proud to be a part of the WPBC family and being able to serve God alongside all of you is a deep honour. Having the confidence of our church to lead this event is an honour of which I do not have enough words to express my gratitude.

I look forward to us celebrating a major milestone together in 2019 in much the same fashion that has allowed us to have had success for 29 years. Through our passion and our love for Christ I know we will all contribute to make 2019 the best year yet.

Thank you and God Bless our WPBC family.

Respectfully submitted by,

Shawn Watts; Food Drive Project Manager

**W**eston Area Emergency Support (Food Bank) is an important part of the Weston Community. It was originally organized to provide an avenue for all of the area churches to pool resources and offer assistance to those in the community in need of food. Located in the rear portion of Weston Park's Frontlines building it serves hundreds of families and singles each month.

In 2018 WAES helped an average of 700 people each month, of whom 30% were children under 18. With a total of 8,977 client visits, their numbers were down 5% from 2017. This is good news, but it is unacceptable that food bank use continues to be so high.

The community members that access food support from WAES are:

1. Newcomers to Canada (41%)
2. People with disabilities (52%).
3. Education level college or higher (44%)
4. Income spent on rent and utilities (72%)
5. Families with children (48%)
6. 51% of the adults and 19% of the children who get food support are going hungry at least once per week.

Over the years various members of Weston Park have volunteered their time to help in the operation of WAES. Most recently Don Barter, Rosie Clarke, and Bonnie Parsons have been involved. Up until the summer of 2018 Lenore Frogley helped out for one morning a week dividing up bulk food into smaller portions for distribution. The food that is collected at our Annual Food Drive goes to the Christmas food boxes for the clients of WAES.

We thank God that this resource is available in Weston and that we, as a church, are able to participate in this valuable service in the community.

Respectfully submitted by,

Cheryl Frogley-Rawson

**T**IME MARCHES ON! Another year has come and gone and as much has changed around us, much has remained the same. Especially at West Park, where for over 50 years, on the second Sunday of the month – “His eye is on the sparrow Sunday” - a faithful group from Weston Park arrive at 9 a.m. to set up for worship.

Some go to the various rooms and wheel the residents to the chapel. Others arrange the chairs and prepare the music and overheads. Some of our volunteers aren’t able to help out any longer. Many of the residents are no longer with us. People who loved to gather with us to share in the good news of the Gospel. Old age shows up everywhere. Fortunately new faces have come along to help out as well as enjoying the fellowship.

The thirty minute service includes singing of favourite hymns and newer praise songs, prayer, scripture reading and often special music. After a brief message and closing hymn, the passing of the peace ends this special time. Then it is back to their rooms and space is made for those

who are coming for the Catholic service that follows. It is encouraging that a number of those coming for the later service arrive early to hear the lively singing from the Baptist service.

For many years Renford Bailey has been faithfully arranging for the residents transportation down to the chapel and is assisted by Roy Spence, Ron Morrow, Don and Lorraine Barter along with some helpers from other churches. Bonnie Parsons assists in the planning of the services. Jennifer Crawford, Arlene Huff, Shari Shannon and David Geldart have added much to the service with their musical gifts, along with youthful volunteers to help in the singing.

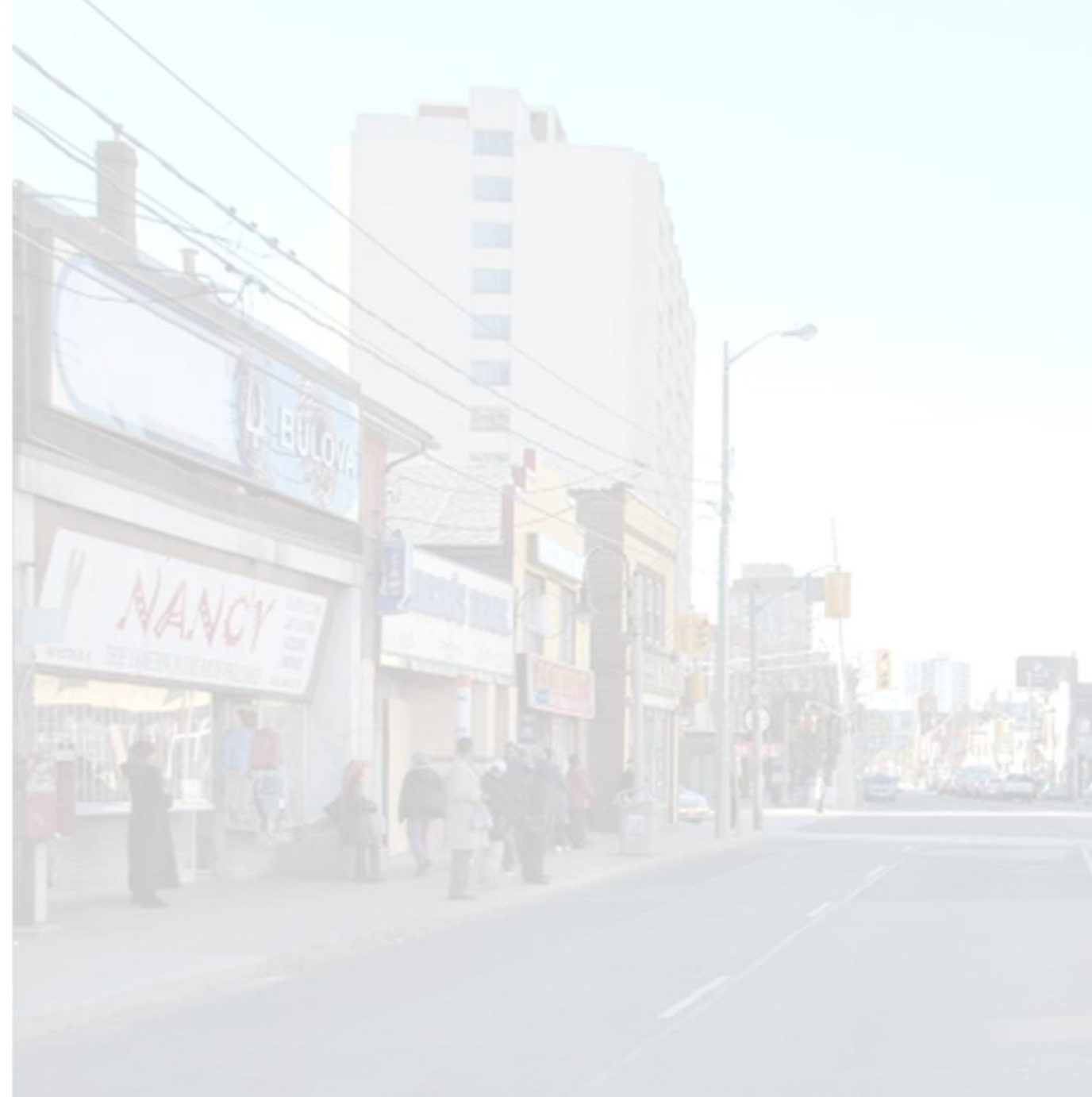
There is an opening for you to share in this wonderful ministry. A smile or quiet thank you from a resident is the perfect start to the day. Please join us. You are most welcome and you will be greatly blessed.

The hymn "His Eye is on the sparrow" has been requested every Sunday by Andre, a long-time resident. It's a special part of our gathering. The faces of the volunteers have changed as well as those of the volunteers, but the commitment and enthusiasm continues to shine forth with God's blessing, making this a delightful start to the day.

Respectfully submitted by;

Dave Saunders

Many thanks to everyone who wrote a report for this 2018 Annual Report.



[westonparkbaptist.org](http://westonparkbaptist.org)

1871 Weston Road, Weston, Ontario M9N 1V9 416-241-3861  
[theoffice@westonparkbaptist.org](mailto:theoffice@westonparkbaptist.org) // [www.westonparkbaptist.org](http://www.westonparkbaptist.org)