

# MAIN STREET NEWS!

## God Keeps Bringing New People our Way

Since January this year, we have seen over 200 first time visitors come through our doors. Imagine. If we were able to retain 30% of our guests that would be 60 new people this year alone. That is before any outreach or invitations have been extended. We give thanks to God for his faithfulness to us.



## Hospitality is Critical to our Mission

If you have always attended church, you have likely forgotten how nerve-racking it is to attend a new church for the first time. First time guests come with fears about where to park, where do I go when I enter the building, will I look out of place, where will I sit, what will they do with my kids, what if someone points them out, etc. The onus is on us to make attending church as comfortable as possible.

What keeps going through my mind is “*Why would an uncharted person come to church on Sunday?*” I’m guessing it’s not in their top 5 social opportunities, “*Should I go to the park, go golfing, see a movie, or go to church?*” But rather, we believe if someone comes to church that has not been before, they have a *heart* reason for coming. Something (or Someone) is directing them here! They have some questions and may be searching for some answers to life’s important questions.

Hospitality, being a welcoming, friendly, an *easy to enter* place, is absolutely imperative.

## First Impressions are Important

Studies show that a first time visitor decides in the first seven minutes if they are going to come back. Not the first seven minutes of the music, or the sermon, the first seven minutes on our property - which means our parking lot. What would your first impression be if you entered our parking lot at 10:55 am on Sunday? Also, studies also tell us that a person needs to have seven meaningful “contacts” before they chose to stay connected with a local church. Seven helpful contacts, seven friendly contacts, seven ‘didn’t expect that’ moments. The great news is, we have an excellent group of people who are ready to provide this! We simply lack the coordination and training.

## Our Facilities Are a Problem

- Our facilities make it very difficult to provide a welcoming environment. Let’s consider the following:
- Our parking lot which has spots for 30 cars, sees over 100 at the 11:00am, so we make it difficult to get here.
- Our foyer which is built to handle 60 people at a time sees 300 at the 11:00am, so we make it difficult to access the sanctuary.
- Our sanctuary, which comfortably seats 300, is full at 11:00am, so we make it awkward to find an ‘*easy to access seat*’

Our SonCity room, which has room for 40, many Sunday’s sees 50 children, so we make it hard for parents to drop off their kids.

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In short, we are operating over capacity in areas that are critical spots where we want to be hospitable. So, we need to work all the harder.

Finally, we know that when a church opens a new facility they can expect an influx of new people who are going to start attending for the first time. It would be our desire to have a well oiled hospitality ministry in place before that happens, instead of a brand new one.

## A New Part-Time Position Starting in January

Therefore, given the importance of this ministry and the number of new people who are attending, the Board of Management has decided to hire a part-time person to give leadership to our hospitality ministries. This person will coordinate our existing hospitality ministries: greeters, ushers, welcome centre, and after church social. They will also put in place a parking ministry that will greet people as they approach our property and help them find a parking spot around our church, and will work to ensure that we make the most of our existing parking spots. (I know there has been a lot of frustration with how our Main Street lot has been utilized). We are also hoping they will help us put together a strategy to connect with new folks so we can follow up with them after a visit. It's a big job!

The Board of Management has decided that our **Christmas offering** go towards the salary and supplies required to have this position in place starting in the New Year. We feel if we can be better stewards of the people God is directing our way, that if we can better coordinate our incredible volunteers, that we can see peoples lives transformed for eternity. We encourage you to consider a generous gift towards the Christmas Offering this year as a response to God's great goodness to us here at Main Street.

## Christmas Outreach Opportunities at Main Street Church

### Christmas Outreach at Main Street Church

**Grocery Carts** - it was our privilege last year to provide Christmas groceries to over 100 needy families in our community through our "Grocery Cart" campaign. The cost of each cart is \$75.00. **Youth at Risk** - this year we have the privilege of providing for 60 "Youth at Risk" who are part of our Hope Mission lunch program or our Prime Time ministry. **You can help** by supporting a family for a grocery cart or providing financially for the youth. Just mark your gift "Christmas Outreach" on your envelope or personal cheque, or call Norine Long at the Church office 642-8060.



Anyone wishing to donate a **Poinsettia plant** for the Christmas Season in memory of loved ones, are asked to call the church office 642-8060 by December 12<sup>th</sup>. The cost of each plant will be \$20.00.



## Capital Campaign

It was a year ago that as a church we took an incredible step of faith. I can still remember watching our church family, young, old, couples, families, & new people walk down to the front to make their commitment to the GreaterThings campaign. It's an image I will never forget. Now that a year has gone by its time to take a look and see if we are on target to meet our individual commitment? If you were not here last year and would like to make a contribution before the end of the year, simply designate it "Capital" on your envelope.

Here are some quick updates:

As of the middle of November we have received, year to date, \$294, 228, for a grand total of \$426, 062.

Our goal for the end of 2010 is to reach \$500, 000. This is within reach and will require each of us to do our part.

Your year-end giving receipt will include an update on what you have given to the campaign in this calendar year.

## 211 – Envisioning the Future of our Community Outreach Ministries

The 211 Team, which is working on a plan for the future of our Community Outreach ministries, has now completed its visioning process. The team will now begin a season of consultation whereby the leadership of the church, the community outreach ministry teams and the entire congregation will have an opportunity to interact and speak into this vision.

After this consultation, the church will need to decide how best to implement this vision. It's at this point that many of our questions as to the future of this facility will be handled. This is such an exciting opportunity for our church, so lets continue to pray for those giving leadership in this area.

## Design & Construction – Looking at the Ministry Environments on Forbes Drive

We have asked Fundy Engineering, through Bird Construction, our project manager, to do some further site tests to determine the exact location and the specific elevation of our site. This is part of our efforts to finalize a building price, including site prep.

## 2011 Offering envelopes & Auto Giving

If you are not using church envelopes and would like to begin using them in 2011 or would like to give through automatic giving, please call the church office 642-8060 and we will add you to the list.

Hello my name is **Karla Harvey** and I am a grade 12 student at Harbour view. Today I want to share not only my baptism with you but my testimony. I have never lived a life without God, my Mom and Dad always took me to church and taught me about him. One summer at Green Hill Lake Camp I sat down with the staff and the pastor and asked some questions about being a Christian, and at that point I asked Jesus into my heart. Through my years I started to drift away from God and only came to him when I needed him. But last year around Christmas he gave me a challenge to pull me back to him fully. So now I am on my Christian path again even though I could slip I know that with the help of my Mom and Dad and Pastor Renée and my church I can keep on it. Being in grade 12 I have my future in front of me and I have chosen to give it all to God. My life is nothing next to easy but I have God to guide me. Here's a verse I would like to share; Philip-pians 4:4-7 because it always reminds me that God is always there in good times and in bad times. "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Thank you for sharing this baptism with me .



## Matthew's Faith Story

My name is **Matthew Morehouse** I am 8 years old. When I was 3 or so I was wondering what it would feel like if I started a relationship with God. So then once I asked him and I prayed to God. I just felt extraordinarily different. I noticed that I was being nicer to people. A couple of days after I noticed I was helping my Mom more, being nicer and reading my Bible more. I was praying before I went bed when I asked Jesus to be part of my life. When I told my Mom she was so excited she screamed. I've wanted to get baptized when I was younger but I was scared of deep water. I want to get baptized now because (I wanted to make sure to get it over with) and I want to show others that I am a Christian. My favourite verse is John 3:16 because it shows how much God loves us by sending his only Son so that we can be with him forever.



## Will's Faith Story

My names is **Will Roderick**. I first started learning about God when I came to church when I was 4 or 5. I didn't really understand about everything then. But last summer when I went to Camp Tulakadik Ben, Brandon and I were down by the lake and Ben talked to us and told us that we could ask God for forgiveness no matter how many times. So I took his advice and asked God for forgiveness after I got home from Camp and asked Jesus to be part of my life. Since this summer I talk to God more and pray to him at night in my bed. I want to obey him and follow him. I had started to think about being baptized but kind of forgot about it – then my Dad told me about the baptism classes that were starting and I knew for sure that I wanted to go and be baptized. My favourite Bible story is Shadrack, Meshack and Abendigo in the fiery furnace because it shows me that God loves us very much-how he saved them from the fiery furnace. I also like the story of when the man is lowered through the roof and Jesus heals him. It shows how Jesus can do miracles.





A PRAISE AND WORSHIP **CHRISTMAS**  
**GOD COMING DOWN**

With Worship Leader and Arranger  
**TRAVIS COTTRELL**

**Main Street Church Christmas Musical**  
**Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.**  
**Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.**

**CHRISTMAS AT MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH**

**Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**

6:30 p.m.— Christmas Musical *"God Coming Down"*

**Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 & 11 a.m. – *Worship Services*

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School For All Ages

6:30 p.m.—Christmas Musical *"God Coming Down"*

**Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**

12 Noon—Neighbourhood Hope Mission Christmas Dinner

**Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 & 11 a.m. - *Worship Services*

9:45 a.m.—Sunday School For All Ages

5 p.m. - Prime Time Dinner and a Show

6:30 p.m. - Children’s Ministries Christmas Program

**Christmas Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 & 11 a.m. - *Worship Services*

9:45—Sunday School For All Ages

**Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup> — 5 & 7 p.m.**

*Christmas Eve Candlelight Services*

**Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**

11 a.m. - *Worship Service*

Please note there will be one service only and no Sunday School for this Sunday only!

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