

# Journey Together

Journey Together  
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## From The Desk of Pastor Barry

### BEEN THINKING ABOUT: FAMILY REUNIONS

This coming weekend Ferne and I, along with my sister have the privilege of attending a family reunion. While some of our relatives have been planning this event for several years it is an unexpected event for us. Dad passed away when we were young. Most of his relatives were living in western Canada and so the relationships lessened. In time, we had become the lost Thiessen branch of the family tree. It has been only recently that we have found out that the particular branch of the tree that holds our ancestors has been bare and relatively unknown for some time.

All that changed about a year ago when one of our cousins "found" us. It wasn't that she was looking for us specifically at the time. She was looking for anyone who had common ancestors with her and in the process she found us; the lost branch, the Thiessen branch. Since that time there have been endless lists of relatives and introductions to other

branches and names and names of relatives. We have found we are related to others in Canada, the United States, Russia, the Ukraine, Brazil and other countries.

With the possibility of hundreds of relatives, (maybe even thousands) there will be the stories of love, hardships, pain and joy from many generations. I am sure that as we attend the reunion we will hear stories of marriage breakdowns and divorce; the loss of parents, spouses and even a child or two. Some will have suffered financial meltdown while some will not likely have suffered mental breakdown. Some will have children in jail or on drugs and some will have suffered cancer or other serious diseases. And as at most reunions where a majority are people of faith, the conversations will undoubtedly turn to the ultimate reunion, heaven.

Heaven is the ultimate reunion because it not only re-unites families but because it unites the family of God. In heaven we will hear the stories of pain,

suffering, joy and love of those who trusted Christ from every tribe, tongue and nation. The predominant theme of those stories will be the same as in our reunion coming next week, the faithfulness of God. Not one of us would be attending the Neibuhr reunion if God were not faithful.

Not one of us will be attending the reunion in heaven if God were not faithful. Every one in attendance will be there because of God's faithfulness in providing a way for sinful man to be clean, the eternal plan of salvation as provided by God in his Son. You see friends, it isn't about who one is related to on earth, it is about what God has done in our lives. It isn't about performance or appearance. It is about love and grace.

Think about it!

## What is a team?

A team is a group of people journeying together. Often teams are centred around a particular service to people inside or outside the congregation. In other words, a team of people share a common desire to serve in a particular way or to a particular group of people.

As they serve together, team members are growing deeper in prayer, worship, community between team members, service and discipleship. These 5 elements are able to prosper in a team for two reasons:

As teams are made up of 3-10 people, deeper relationships can be built with members of the team more easily and that provides the context for community and discipleship, as well as prayer for each others needs.

Teams help prayer, worship, community, service and discipleship to prosper because they can all be growing together at the same time. For example, discipleship develops best when in community with other believers. Discipleship also occurs when we are serving and challenged by the situations we see in service. Service will be weak unless it is powered by prayer. Worship is needs to be central to ensure that everything is done to God's glory. All the elements are interconnected.

## Why join a team?

We were meant to follow God together with other people. Joining a team gives you an opportunity to grow in your relationship with God, to build friendships with others in the church and use your gifts to serve others. We hope everyone in the congregation is part of team.

## What do team members do?

Each team will involve prayer, worship, community life, service and discipleship. Each person on the team is important in helping these grow. Here are some examples of ways team members could contribute:

- Perhaps remind people to stop and pray when no one knows what to do.
- Or perhaps remind people to serve as an act of worship.
- Or maybe invite the team over for supper.
- Maybe share something you learned that week about following God with another member of the team. Or maybe help with the organizing of details to help in your team's service.

Teams need all sorts of different gifts on the same team for the team to function well.

## What do team leaders do?

Team leaders are growing just like everyone else, but they are aiming to:

- seek God for the specific vision for the team;
- find and/or affirm team members;
- provide leadership for the team to be growing in prayer, worship, discipleship, community, and service;
- encourage and pray for team members;
- attend monthly team leader meetings; and communicate to the congregation about the team.

## What do Elders & Pastor Barry do?

With respect to teams, the Elders and Pastor Barry:

- meet monthly with team leaders to encourage, challenge and disciple them;
- provide support and mentoring for team leaders in their area of service;

- provide overall leadership for all teams;
- affirm new teams and help new team leaders start teams; and, facilitate the communication between team leaders and between team leaders and the congregation.

## How do I start a team?

Is there some passion in your heart that you would like to be doing? Can you find 2 or 3 people to join you? Are you someone who has made the commitment to follow Christ? Then maybe God is calling you to start a team! The possibilities for teams are endless.

You don't need any previous experience to be a team leader; just a passion for your team and a commitment to follow God's leading. You will get to be part of a group of team leaders to connect with each other and God for encouragement and challenging. To start a team:

1. Talk to an Elder or Pastor Barry if you would like to start a team.
  2. Provide a short written summary of the team you would like to start to the Elder or Pastor Barry.
  3. All the Elders and Pastor Barry will review the team idea.
- An Elder or Pastor Barry will get back to you and let you know which Elder or Pastor Barry will be your contact.

## How do Ministries fit in?

If multiple teams are serving in the same area, then we often refer to that group of teams as a ministry. In some cases a, a ministry leader may be needed to help coordinate the teams and provide leadership to that area of service.

# Coming Events

## FRBC

### July

26 - Bush League Boyz

### August

3 - Prayer Meeting

9 & 16 - Bush League Boyz

19 - Winnipeg Harvest

23 - Bush League Boyz

### September

2 - Winnipeg Harvest

7 - Prayer Meeting

13 - Bush League Boyz

16 - Winnipeg Harvest

20 - Bush League Boyz

25 - Team Leader's Meeting

27 - Bush League Boyz

30 - Winnipeg Harvest

## Community

### August

18 - Community Fun Day @ Trinity Presbyterian Church (see green poster for details)

### September

11 - SummerFest @ Calvary Temple  
(See Puppet poster for details)

18 - Community Fun Day @ Trinity Presbyterian Church (see green poster for details)

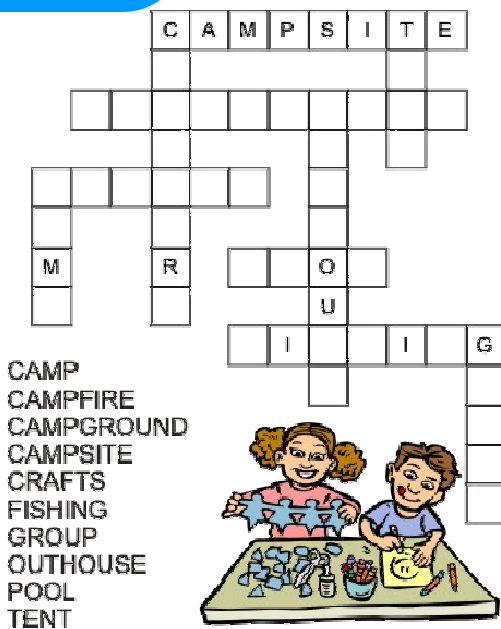
### October

15-16 - MBA AGM at Rowandale.

Brochures & posters available at the back of the sanctuary.

\*there are also various summer camps happening thought the summer months - please see the bulletin board for more details, dates, times & locations.

# Summer Fun Puzzles



[http://www.momsbreak.com/printable/uploads/1/SummerCampersWord\\_Fill-inGame.jpg](http://www.momsbreak.com/printable/uploads/1/SummerCampersWord_Fill-inGame.jpg)





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*Our mission is to assist  
people to become God's active  
servants in our community and  
around the world*

## A Message from Our Leaders:

*By Herb Adam*

At Fort Richmond Baptist Church we are committed to community, service, prayer, worship and discipleship. Each of these is essential and we cannot be what God calls us to be without them. Each of them is interconnected and dependent on the others. Most of the time it will be easier to see them all at work in small groups, we call teams, but they will be throughout everything we do.

Community can't be just the same community as you find in a community centre. As good as that might be, the Bible tells us Christians can have a greater community one where we have one hope, one faith, one God and a deeper unity (Eph 4:3-5). It is a community where each person uses the gifts given by the Spirit in tune with the Spirit to accomplish the purposes of God (1 Corinthians 12). It is a community where each person is constantly growing more like Jesus and helping others in the community to grow more like Jesus. It is a community where worship and prayer are constantly on our lips glorifying God and calling on Him. It is a community where we serve one another and those around us.

Service can't just be the same as any non-profit humanitarian organization. As good as that might be, our service meets people's needs and introduces people to the Person of Jesus Christ so that they might be

saved and have eternal life. Our service involves prayer that sees people set free from the bondages of addictions, condemnation, guilt, shame and so many other lies and burdens from the world. Our service is done in an attitude of worship where everything is to glorify God and show how awesome He is. Our service is done in community so that we encourage one another and help each other to keep going (Eccl 4:9-12). And through our service we grow more like Jesus.

Our efforts at discipleship can't be like a self help group. As good as that might be, we seek to be like Christ – a goal that cannot be accomplished by human effort but only by the power of the cross and the work of the Holy Spirit. We seek to become more like Christ so we can help others become more like Christ. If we are like Christ, we can serve others well, the way Jesus served so many and gave His life for many. We seek to become like Christ so that we worship God and give Him all the glory the way Christ gave God all the glory. We seek to pray like Christ that people will be delivered of demons and healed and that God would feed 5000 from a single lunch and calm a storm instantly. We seek to become like Christ so that we can love one another well and dwell together in community.

Our prayers can't be an obligation, a rote

repetition. Our prayers must be like the prayers of the Bible, intimate conversations with the Almighty God about the most important things in our lives and the lives of those around us. Our prayers must power our service so that we have the joy of the Lord to serve long after our human effort runs out and see things accomplished that can never be done by human effort. Our prayers will help people become more like Christ when the bondages and sins on them come off. Our prayers will give us unity in community as we petition God together for His work in our midst and through us. Our prayers are a partnership with our worship so that God is glorified.

Our worship can't be only a song once a week. Our worship must be a passion and love for Jesus that is evident through our whole lives and that doesn't leave room for passion for any other earthly thing. Our worship must fuel our prayers as visions of who God is awakens our faith to believe Him able to answer every prayer. Our worship must be evident in the motivation of our service so that money, self and any other earthly motive doesn't get in the way of our service. Our worship will draw the community of believers closer together as we draw closer to God. Our worship will keep our focus on Jesus as we become more like Him.