

THE BRUNSWICK BANNER

The Weekly Newsletter of Brunswick Street Baptist Church
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Facebook – Brunswick Street Baptist Church

Dr. Brian MacArthur, Interim Senior Pastor

Rev. Greg Geldart, Interim Senior Associate Pastor

Rev. Jodie LeBouthillier, Associate Pastor to Youth & Young Adults

Pastor Steve Patterson, Contemporary Worship Coordinator



Annual Candlelight Service

As we move closer to December 25 it can become harder to find quiet places for reflection on the Word of God and His "incredible" gift – Jesus Christ. Such a place can be found in our sanctuary as in the stillness of candlelight we embrace the story of God's love in Christ and songs of Emmanuel – God with us. Next Sunday evening, December 17 at 6:30 pm, I invite you and our fellow Frederictonians in from the 'cold' of the 'holiday season' to experience the 'warmth' of Christmas.

Our Youth, Sanctuary and Adult Handbell choirs have prepared offerings for this special evening. Vocalists Beth Snow, David Steeves, Giselle Tranquilla, Julianne Moore and Claire Geldart will offer their gifts; and we'll hear from Scott Kennedy, violin and Maggie Kerr, cello/piano. In addition, we'll welcome as special guest Moncton harpist, Dorothy Brzezicki. At this time of year when many are open to the music of the season, is there someone you can invite into the warmth of our church family?

In his book, "The Finishing Touch", Charles Swindoll writes: *Christmas comes each year to draw people in from the cold. Like frightened sparrows, shivering in the winter cold, many live their lives on the barren branches of life. One blustery day follows another, and the only company they keep is with fellow-strugglers who land on the same branches, confused and unprotected.*

Then as the year draws to a close, Christmas offers its wonderful message. Emmanuel. God with us. He who resided in Heaven, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, willingly descended into our world. He breathed our air, felt our pains, knew our sorrows, and died for our sins. He didn't come to frighten us, but to show us the way to warmth and safety.

Posters for the evening are available at the Connections Centre, gym welcome table and in the vestibule of the sanctuary. Please help us deliver this invitation to our city and pray about who from your family and friendship circles you will invite to join us as we celebrate the gift of God with us.
Pastor Greg

PS – This year, the offering from the Candlelight Service is designated to the work of the Fredericton Community Kitchens.

**What's
Happening**

December 10-16, 2017

SUNDAY

Library is open at 10 am and after morning worship.

- 9:30 am "Reporting Live" Children's Christmas Program (Sanctuary)
- 10:30 am Chinese Worship (3rd Floor)
Contemporary Worship (Church Gym)
Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
Childcare for Infants to Age 4 (1st floor)
KidzTown for Children Grades K-5 (2nd floor)
- 6:30 pm "The Christmas Star" Movie (Church Gym)

MONDAY

- 10:00 am English Second Language (3rd Floor)
- 10:00 am Nominating Committee
(Board Room above Main Kitchen)
- 10:30 am Seniors Exercise (Church Gym)
- 6:30 pm Education Committee (3rd Floor)

TUESDAY

- 9:00 am Pastoral Staff Meeting
9:30 am Praying for Canada (Family Room)
11:00 am Church Staff Meeting (Meeting Room)
12:00 pm Chinese Fellowship Prayer Time
(Board Room above Main Kitchen)
12:00 pm Small Group Bible Study (Family Room)
1:00 pm Myrtle Burden Quilting Group (Quilting Room)
6:15 pm Youth Handbell Choir (Choir Room)
7:00 pm Missions Committee (3rd Floor)

WEDNESDAY

- 10:30 am Seniors Exercise (Church Gym)
5:15 pm Church Family Potluck (Church Gym)
6:00 pm Junior Choir (Choir Room)
6:00 pm Youth Choir (Sanctuary)
6:30 pm Girls Adventure Klub (2nd Floor)
6:30 pm Otters (Fellowship Hall)
6:30 pm Timber Wolves (Church Gym)
6:30 pm Youth Cross-Training (Family Room, 3rd Floor)
6:30 pm Purpose Driven Life Study
(Board Room above Main Kitchen)
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir (Choir Room)

THURSDAY

- 7:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast (Coffee Mill)
Women's Prayer Breakfast (Coffee Mill)
10:00 am English Second Language (3rd Floor)
6:30 pm Worship Team Practice (Barnabas Centre)
7:00 pm Woodsmen (Church Gym)
7:00 pm Adult Handbell Choir (Sanctuary)

FRIDAY

- 10:30 am Seniors Exercise (Church Gym)
5:00 pm Sisterhood (Barnabas Centre)
6:00 pm Friends Are Us Puppets (Puppet Room, 2nd Floor)
7:00 pm Middle School and Senior High
Youth Christmas Party (3rd Floor)
7:00 pm Chinese Fellowship (Barnabas Centre)

SATURDAY

- 10:00 am Badminton (Church Gym)
12:30 pm Worship Team Practice (Church Gym)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 17 Christmas Candlelight Service – 6:30 pm
December 18 Seniors Luncheon¹
December 21 Service of Comfort and Hope² – 6:30 pm
December 24 Morning Worship Services – 10:30 am
Christmas Eve Services³ – 6 and 8 pm
December 25 Church Offices Closed
December 26 Church Offices Closed
December 28 Wedding⁴ –
Pastor Jodie LeBouthillier & Marybeth Clements
December 31 Combined Morning Worship – 10:30 am

MINISTRY FOOTNOTES

¹**SENIOR'S LUNCHEON** – Our December luncheon takes place on Monday, December 18 at noon. This Christmas-themed event will include lots of singing, sharing of special Christmas memories and devotional. Again, we invite you to bring senior friends and family with you. A delicious lunch is served and you're on your way shortly after 1:20 pm.

²**SERVICE OF COMFORT AND HOPE** – Christmas can be a most difficult time for those who are experiencing grief over the loss of loved one. For this reason, we make room in our Christmas calendar for the Service of Comfort and Hope. On Thursday evening, December 21 we'll gather in the sanctuary and share a reflective time of Scripture, poetry, carols and special music as we come to God seeking His comfort and hope. The end of the service includes the lighting of a candle for each person remembered to remind us of the light that our loved ones continue to bring to your lives. A reception will follow. This service is open to the community – you may know people you can invite. Brochures for all our Christmas services can be found at the Connections Centre and outside the church office. To have the name of your loved one added to the roll of honour, please contact the church office by noon on Thursday, December 21 (receptionist@bsbc.nb.ca, 458-8348).

³**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES** – In addition to the 10:30 am morning worship services on December 24, we invite you to join us for either of the two evening services. The first at 6 pm is often more "energetic" as many families with children join us for this service. The 8 pm service is more "reflective" but also includes the carols of the season, reading God's Word, prayer and special music. Please invite your family and friends.



⁴**WEDDING INVITATION** – Pastor Jodie LeBouthillier & Marybeth Clements are getting married on Thursday, December 28 at 6:30 pm here at the church. They would like to celebrate with their whole family... including their church family. So you are invited to join this celebration ceremony on the 28th followed by a standing reception with cake and other food. To help with planning, please RSVP by adding your name to the **RSVP CLIPBOARD** at the Connections Centre.

OUR PRAYER CORNER

Christian sympathy is expressed to Roger & Debbie Kierstead on the passing of Debbie's father and one of our former pastors, Rev. Fred Smith in Hartland on Friday, December 1, 2017; and to Gerry Estabrooks and family on the death of his wife, Joyce in Ottawa on Sunday, December 3, 2017.

Please pray for our senior friends not always able to be with us...Betty Worthen, Jean Young, Curtis Chapman, Freda Anderson, Lester & Mardi Bartlett, Bob & Ardeth Burrige, Dorothy Burt, Jean Cogsley

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

COORDINATOR TRANSITION – The Board of Deacons expresses the thanks of the congregation to Rebecca Keezer who will begin 'leave' as Preschool Coordinator on Monday, December 18 in preparation for the delivery of Baby Keezer in the coming weeks! We ask you to pray for Rebecca & Greg as they prepare for this great gift and give thanks to God for her leadership. We are pleased to announce that Yewande Akalusi has accepted the position of Preschool Coordinator and will serve from December 18, 2017 until June 2018. Please pray for Yewande as she begins this ministry which is not new to her, having served in children's ministry leadership in her home church. Our preschool team of volunteers are asked to note that as of December 17 all emails sent to preschool@bsbc.nb.ca will be directed to Yewande. She looks forward to hearing from you. We continue to praise God for His provision for our needs as a church family.

POINSETTIAS & CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS – We appreciate your support in helping us decorate by placing a poinsettia in honour or memory of someone special. Poinsettias are \$15 each; or you may donate to a specific ministry. We will acknowledge all gifts in the Banner next Sunday, December 17. To place a poinsettia/donation, please visit the Connections Centre or contact the church office (receptionist@bsbc.nb.ca, 458-8348,) **by this Wednesday, December 13.**

SUNDAY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY IN DECEMBER – Next Sunday, December 17 all Sunday morning children's ministries will happen as usual. Please note that on Sunday, December 24 there will be neither Sunday School nor Kidztown; preschool ministries will be offered that morning during the church hour only. On Sunday, December 31 there will be church-time ministries in both preschool and Kidztown but no Sunday School. All ministries resume as normal on Sunday, January 7. Thank you to our dedicated team of teachers and leaders for your ongoing ministry to our children.

CHRISTMAS WREATHS are still available from the 1st Fredericton BPSA scouting groups of BSBC. Following this morning's worship, Dale Wilson will be available at the Barnabas Centre parking lot with wreaths available for purchase (\$10). For more information or to order by phone please contact Dale Wilson (458-1402)

PASTORAL REVIEW – The Board of Deacons is conducting pastoral reviews of the ministry of Pastor Greg Geldart and Pastor Jodie LeBouthillier, in accordance with the requirements in Article 5.1.8 of the Church Constitution. Church members and adherents are invited to contribute to the review process by providing written, signed comments to Deacon Doug Ashfield, Chair, Board of Deacons, by **this Friday, December 15, 2017.** Sealed envelopes may be left in his church mailbox or at the church office. Please mark "Pastoral Review" on the outside of the envelope. Submissions will be treated in a confidential manner.

CHURCH HISTORY BOOKS FOR SALE – Copies of the Church History book will be sold for \$15 each at the Connections Centre and the Church Office. All proceeds will go to the Building Fund. If you have not purchased a copy yet or if you are looking for a gift for a friend or family member, you can obtain your copy now.



KIDZSUNDAY @ BSBC - The Education Committee and the Board of Deacons are excited to announce a pilot project that will begin in January 2018. A 'pilot project', you say? Yes, a pilot project OR you could call it a six-month test flight!

After much consideration, prayer and planning we are going to continue the practice of offering an opportunity for our elementary-aged children (Kindergarten to Grade 5) to worship with their family on the second Sunday of each month. This initiative comes at a time when many parents have provided feedback that they'd like opportunities for their children to experience the contemporary and traditional worship services. Through this we hope our children will be familiarized with what they will experience when their time in KidzTown is completed; in addition, allowing family to worship together and provide an opportunity for our different generations to connect.

Additionally, this pilot will address the gap in volunteers for our elementary children’s ministries. We are thankful for those who have come forward to do ministry with our children; but at the same time, we recognize that we have not been able to raise up the volunteers required to effectively carry out ministry each Sunday. Having one Sunday per month where children attend the service allows us to effectively spread our volunteer base out over the remaining weeks.

So on Sunday, January 11th, elementary-aged children will be picked up by parents directly following Sunday School to be present with family in worship. Children will receive an activity packet to take with them into service which will include activities that will be related to the sermon in an age-appropriate way. Children will be invited forward for their own special time in the service. During this six-month period, the Education Committee will be providing opportunities for feedback and suggestions from parents and non-parents alike about how we can best support you during KidzSunday. We are excited to have our children with us for worship and at the same time, are committed to the continued delivery of the best possible KidzTown program on the remaining weeks of the month.

Let us remember the words of Jesus in Matthew 19:14 when He says, *Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.* It is in this spirit that we bring “KidzSunday” to BSBC!

WHAT HAPPENS IF IT STORMS? Just a friendly reminder that if the weather turns wild you can find out about cancellation of church services and ministries in three ways: (1) call the church office (458-8348) and listen to the recorded message on the main greeting or on the storm cancellation extension; (2) check our Facebook page (Brunswick Street Baptist Church) or the website (www.bsbc.nb.ca); and (3) listen to local radio station cancellation updates.

Decisions about cancelling morning or afternoon services/ministries are made by 7 am; cancellations for evening services/ministries are made by 1 pm. Please remember that if school is cancelled this DOES NOT necessarily mean that church ministries are cancelled. In any event, we always advise caution when making a personal decision about coming to services/ministries in bad weather. Always be safe!

| Financial Countdown | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| (Final 4 Sundays in 2017) | |
| Operations Revenue | |
| Budget Target for 2017 | \$928,000 |
| Giving to Dec 3/17 | <u>-822,623</u> |
| Required by Dec. 31 to Meet Target | <u>\$105,377</u> |
| Building Revenue | |
| Budget Target for 2017 | \$130,000 |
| Giving to Dec 3/17 | <u>-107,929</u> |
| Required by Dec. 31 to Meet Target | <u>\$ 22,071</u> |

COMMUNITY NEWS

2017 ADVENT SERIES – “A Christmas Reset: Finding the DNA of the Holiday Season” will be presented by Bishop Bill Hockin and Dr. Barry Craig tomorrow December 11 at 12:15 pm at Crowne Plaza Hotel on Queen Street. The topic of this final session is *God and the “Generous Gene”*.



The Joyce Estabrooks Memorial Mission Fund

The Joyce Estabrooks Memorial Mission Fund is established by the family of the Late Joyce Estabrooks – her husband, Gerald and children – in honour of her lifetime commitment to Canadian Baptist mission work around the world. It is the intention of the Estabrooks family that the fund be entrusted to the administration of Brunswick Street Baptist Church and that monies from the fund, including the principal and any subsequent gifts be disbursed at the discretion of the Brunswick Street Baptist Church Board of Deacons. Monies dispersed will be solely in support of the work of Canadian Baptist Ministries.

Donations to the fund can be made through the church office.