



**oak park**  
CHURCH OF CHRIST



Volume 9 Issue 1 January 2022

## Infinitely More Campaign

**"Now to Him who is able to do infinitely more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."**

**Ephesians 3:20-21**

So often many of us have read this passage and understood the words but not fully understood what it has meant! As co-chairs of the Infinitely More Campaign, we had the privilege to see this passage come to life in a fresh way.

The campaign was commissioned by the church Board to raise funds, via pledges from the congregation and friends, to be used in support of the building improvements that had been identified by the Long-Range Planning Committee as necessary to fulfill our church's mission. The secured pledges would then be used to secure the necessary loans and move to the next stage of construction. With the strong support of a vote by the church membership, the campaign committee was struck to seek pledges by the end of December.



### C A M P A I G N

We are pleased to say that, as of January 16<sup>th</sup>, we have, together, made pledges of \$852,160.80, with up to an additional 40 pledges still anticipated. At this stage, there is sufficient support for drawings to be started, which will result in accurate construction costs to be brought forward at this year's AGM.

While we are extremely grateful that we were able to raise such a significant amount, behind this number is immeasurably more – the opportunity to connect with each other and share a vision for a church community that is truly a community church. Visits started with conversations about when each person joined the congregation, what is happening in our (cont'd on page 2)

(cont'd from page 1) lives, what areas of the church each of us feels led to be involved in – weaving a picture of the work God is doing in and through the Oak Park church family. Needs were also brought to light and resources mobilized, where possible, for those in need. We got to know each other better, prayed together and had the chance to dream together through the course of our visits. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we were able to connect with almost everyone in the congregation!

What started as a task to raise pledges for a building project has resulted in so much more – a strengthening of our resolve to be part of a strong congregation that is committed to serving one another and our community, and to sharing the good news of God's love throughout the world.

Thanks to everyone who has stepped out in faith with us to support this campaign! If you haven't joined us yet in making your pledge, it's not too late to get in on the excitement!

Your Partners in God's Service,

Robert Beingessner and Julie & Michael Kerr



Robert



Julie



Michael





**Sunday, March 27th  
12:45pm**

**Attend our AGM either in-person at the church or via Zoom!**

**All materials, and Zoom links, will be emailed to Oak Park's voting members\* before our Pre-AGM Q&A Session (via Zoom on March 20th at 12:45pm)**

**\*Not sure if you are a voting member? Please contact the church office.**

## YOUTH JAM NIGHT

JOIN US FOR A YOUTH  
WORSHIP JAM NIGHT!  
BRING YOUR OWN  
INSTRUMENT, MUSIC  
PROVIDED.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 11TH  
7-9PM AT THE CHURCH



# Community Tutoring

AT OAK PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST

As educators, we see first-hand the benefit of students having the opportunity to work one on one with someone, to encourage and help them grow their learning. Unfortunately, with the past 2 years of learning interruptions there is the potential for gaps in learning for many. Also, not everyone can afford expensive tutors. We are reaching out as a church to offer a free tutoring service for students in Grades 1-12 to serve this need. We will require some

supplies but firstly, we could use your prayers as we get started. If you have a wish to serve or are feeling prompted in this regard, please reach out to Laura Rushton at L.C.Rushton@shaw.ca. We could use your help with the tutoring.

We are also looking for donations of the following supplies:

- lined paper
- blank paper
- pencils
- pens
- calculators
- Jump math workbooks (Grades K-9)
- pencil crayons
- calculators
- cm rulers
- erasers
- child safety scissors
- regular scissors
- duo tangs
- levelled readers
- older graphing calculators
- graph paper

## Women's Morning of Prayer & Worship

Saturday, February 19th

10:00 - 11:30am

*Lord,  
Hear my  
prayer.*

  
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CHURCH OF CHRIST

  
JUST  
worship  
at home  
prayer





*Eat Well. Spend Less.*

 **Oak Park**  
CHURCH OF CHRIST

**2022**

**Any one can order one or more  
Good Food Boxes.**

Boxes must be pre-ordered and paid for in cash (exact change) on or before the order by date. You can pre-purchase your next box when you pick up your order. Boxes must be picked up, before 6pm. (Note: Boxes not picked up will be donated - no refunds will be given.)

Good Food Boxes come in the following sizes:

<b>LARGE</b>	40 lbs	\$35.00
<b>MEDIUM</b>	30 lbs	\$30.00
<b>SMALL</b>	20 lbs	\$25.00

**ORDER BY**

January 17  
February 7  
March 7  
March 28  
May 2  
May 30  
June 27  
September 5  
September 26  
October 24  
November 28

**DELIVERY DATE**

January 26  
February 16  
March 16  
April 6  
May 11  
June 8  
July 6  
September 14  
October 5  
November 2  
December 7

For information call Oak Park Church office at (403) 251-5150 or email [office@oakpark.ca](mailto:office@oakpark.ca)

## Oak Park Missions Update

### Ricot and Mandy Leon - Lifeline Christian Mission

On Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> Ricot and his family flew back into Haiti and traveled straight to the home they are now renting in Port Salut. They are **really** roughing it with next to no supplies, ie. no mattresses even! The good news is they can order goods on Amazon who will deliver to Agape Missionary Flights, who will then deliver to Haiti. Fuel is locally available now. They have a small generator for power but plan to install solar when they can get the supplies, as funds are in place. Ricot says life is as usual and security is not a significant problem. Please pray they can get the goods they need to settle in and stay well while they minister to the people there. The family all had a flu bug while in the Dominican Republic but recovered and were thrilled when they all tested negative for Covid.



### Paul and Mary Davis - Healthcare + Ministries



Haiti continues to have very serious political problems with much insecurity particularly in Port-au-Prince. However, in Jacmel, Pastor Ewal and Mona are mostly able to carry on their ministry with the local people. Last summer they were able to construct more classrooms adjacent to their church, so they now have classes for kindergarten to grade 9. Students are in school at the moment and, thanks to Canadian support, they are given lunch at school. Some very needy nursing students receive assistance with their tuition fees. An attempt was made by some local people to claim the school land but after much tension the issue was resolved. Praise the Lord! Donations helped to make their Christmas more special with funds for food and snacks. Over Christmas a number of people made the decision to follow Jesus and a baptism took place so Pastor Ewal was thrilled.

## Oak Park Missions Update

### Norm Weatherhead - Pioneer Bible Translators

Great news! After 2.5 years of work, the Akukem Book of Luke has been completely revised and ready for the final outside consultant. All praise to God who made this possible! Despite the many Covid protocol challenges, Norm was able to return to Calgary to celebrate Christmas with his family. He was very thankful to get his vaccine booster just in time to



return to the International Linguistic Centre in Texas. The plan is for Jill to join him in March. The national translation team in Papua New Guinea are now back in their villages, very happy with the translation progress. They returned with copies of Luke 1-6 and multiple copies of story books which they will use to gather small groups or families together to help them begin to read stories in their own language. WOW! Let's pray they will have much success!




## What Your Giving Can Do: Benevolence Fund

In this year's Park Bench issues we will be highlighting the different places you can designate your financial giving at Oak Park and how that money helps our church family accomplish the mission God has given us. In this first edition, we would like to highlight Benevolence. This account in our Care of the Neighbour Fund is specifically tasked with meeting emergency expenses for immediate needs of those both in and outside our congregation. Requests made to the staff are referred to a Benevolence Team that is currently composed of a staff member, a Board member, an Elder, and a congregation member. The Benevolence Team is tasked with reviewing and vetting the requests and determining how we can help support and care for the folks in need based on several different factors. Sometimes we can help pay for part or all of a utility bill; other times we supply a grocery voucher to Co-op or the fee for counselling help. Emergency childcare, healthcare, and transportation costs are also common requests. Oak Park has always had a healthy and active Benevolence ministry because of our deeply held belief that the Gospel calls us to care for ALL people in tangible ways. "What you have done for the least of these" says Jesus in Matthew 25, "you did for me!" Last year we disbursed more than \$11,000 to families in need – a sizeable increase over years past, largely due to the devastating effects of Covid.

If you would like to donate financially to the Benevolence ministry, please indicate on your giving envelope or in the notes section of your e-Transfer (or PayPal) that the gift – or a specified portion – is to be allocated to Benevolence.

by Pastor Lane



**Get Connected**

If you would like to be included in any of these, please contact the church office:

- phone directory
- prayer chain
- eNews



Did you know Oak Park has an app? Download to your smartphone to access online sermons & event information. You can also follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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