

Moderators Report November 26, 2023

Once again It is great to have a full house for our Congregational Meeting.

MBC has just celebrated its 68th year of Ministry. When you look through old Directories, the first thought is that many people have moved on to other venues or heaven. The first emotion is sorrow and yes we grieve for our losses. In Markham, we used to say IBM stands for “ I have been moved.”.

But just think, how many people have been blessed by being part of this church? And how we have been blessed by them while they were with us.

I have been reading a book by Dr Paul Brand and Philip Yancey. “In His Image” Dr Brand is a surgeon who dedicated his life to the surgical rehabilitation of people suffering from Leprosy. Dr Brand uses the human body as a metaphor for the Church. He says every cell we have in our body has a purpose and each relies on all the others for protection and function. And each cell and organ knows what to do because they are controlled by the Brain.

Do you get the picture? We are all members of the Body of Christ. Each of us has a function that is guided by Christ. The head of the Church. The Brain of the Church. Just as every cell in our body is submissive to our Brain, so we are to be submissive to Jesus Christ.

The Message! We need each other. We need the in-person fellowship of each other. Artificial Intelligence may be great. But virtual fellowship leaves me lonely.

The past months at MBC have been busy. The Social Issues Committee offered 3 Zoom sessions on Grieving and Loneliness. These sessions were timely, We have been saddened by several deaths recently. Even if you have not had these experiences, personally, you probably know someone who needs your love and support. We do not have to look too far to see someone in need of comfort or support. If you missed the sessions, ask Alexandra to send you the link to the recorded sessions.

I want to thank the Social Issue team. Katlyn MacDonald, Friday Ade.... Grace Cabadas and George Williams and Pastor Craig. What a dedicated team.

This Fall, A group led by Lois Fagan initiated a regular "Gathering Place". Offering Coffee and Conversation.

This is a Community outreach effort. And it is growing. Please come and invite your neighbours. Lois will tell you more. ...Karen makes great muffins.

Have you noted, the excitement in the Narthex or in the Parking Lot? Lots of visiting, Laughter and hugs going on. MBC is blessed to have welcomed so many new people, in the past few years. People tell us they found us on the website or walked by and were intrigued. These people have expanded our concept of a multi-generational and multi-ethnic church. We so appreciate the energy and joy they have brought to us. Look how our Sunday School has expanded. If you think you do not know a new person's language Just Smile! Body language is a great communication tool.

If you see someone you have not met before, walk over introduce yourself and perhaps sit with them. There is nothing lonelier than to sit alone in a crowd.

We still need to work on caring for our Youth. You will hear more from Tony. If you can help, please talk with Tony. Between eleven to one PM on Wednesday, we welcome the high school basketball players. What an opportunity to get to know these young people. The potential church of tomorrow.

Two of our families were able to go to a weekend Family Camp at Kwasind, last August. I hear they really enjoyed the trip. Hopefully, more children and families will attend this year. Spread the word. Camp is an experience not to be missed.

I want to thank the Board Members who faithfully served this year, Val, Lois, John, Tony, Paul, Sheila, Marion, and Gihani and Karen. Today, You will vote to elect two new Board members, Lauret Matadi and Liz Wright.

Special Thanks to Pastor Craig for his consistent 24/7 ministry and guidance. We pray for his smooth healing and rehabilitation after his knee surgery.

Alexandra keeps this place functioning day by day. Thank you Alexandra for all you do. What a gift you are.

Thank you to the Tech Team. You may not see them back in the corner, but without them, you would miss the great sound and the slides with the hymns. Those who need to be at home would miss the streaming of the services

Our best plan for the future is to keep on praying for MBC and each other. The Board appreciates your prayer; Pray for wisdom, energy, and the guidance, of the Holy Spirit.

Thank You

Patricia McGee