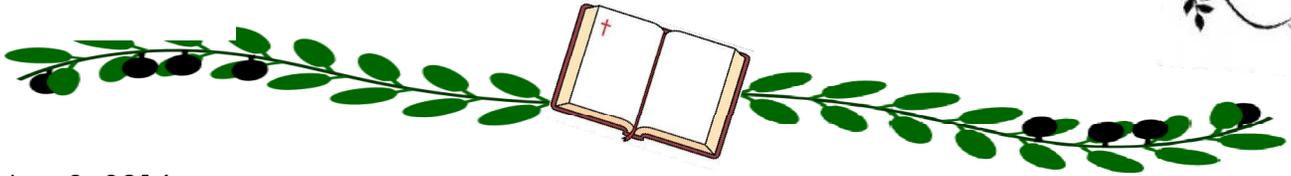


# Heart 2 Heart



October 2, 2016

Dear Congregation,

Welcome to the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Evening of Blessing. This event began on October 6, 2002 and each year we have sought to gather and look ahead to the coming year and emphasize some aspect of our church's vision. We will do that again this year. Here is that vision:

***First Baptist Church is a BRIDGE, connecting the Body  
Of Christ in Wallaceburg and Walpole Island to reach this  
Community with "the whole message of this life" (Acts 5:20).***

***We seek to fulfill this vision through:***

***Bible-based teaching and preaching***

***Relationship-building with other churches***

***Intercessory prayer***

***Disciplined living***

***Growth group ministry***

***Evangelism***

***As we endeavour to work together, we will see our vision come to pass.***

*"Faithful is He who called you, and He also will bring it to pass."*

*1 Thesalonians 5:24*

I looked back on the previous 2 years and noticed a trend: focusing on the Word of God and prayer. Quite frankly, I continue to get that nudge from the Holy Spirit to keep on this path. I will continue to furnish the Bible reading schedules, because I see the value of being in God's Word every day. There is no substitute for the Scriptures. Any Christian not in their Bible regularly, and I would say daily, is not maximizing their potential and is likely an easy target for the enemy.

It has become very apparent to me that we have had an increase in spiritual attacks this past year in the church. Everything from physical illnesses to marriage issues to strife between believers, we have seen the enemy step up his assault. But we will prevail through prayer! I am encouraged by the words of Micah 7:7-8: *"But as for me, I will look to the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me. Rejoice not over me, O my enemy; when I fall, I shall rise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD will be a light to me."*

With that in mind we will pursue 2 specific things. First, we will have a special weekend of training and application of corporate prayer. This will take place the first weekend in November and will include some training time on Friday night and Saturday morning, followed by a lunch together and a worship-based prayer time. We will also have a special message preached in the Sunday morning service. I want you to make attending this whole weekend a priority. Principles shared here will be formative for the prayer times we will share in our church this year.

Secondly, we will make an intentional focus of prayer on the Sunday morning service. Back in January of this year we initiated a "pilot project" whereby some in the church began to pray on Saturday night for an hour or so to pray specifically for the Sunday morning worship service. My goal is see our church have a number of "Saturday evening prayer cells" where folks will attend to pray. The early church met in homes and this is what we will do on Saturday evenings to pray for Sunday. I will launch this soon and ask you to sign up for one of the cells. Since we began doing this in January I have seen a change in the services. I expect even greater things with the growth of this ministry.

The main thing I am asking of you is to come and be a part of this. We cannot expect results without committed participation. Join us Wednesday nights, too. Stuff is happening and that gathering time midweek is growing. Let's do what the great missionary pioneer, William Carey, exhorted: "Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God."

*Pastor Brian*