

MB Women in Focus

Keeping Connections

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing..

1 Thessalonians 5:11

2020 Newsletter



MANITOBA WOMEN IN FOCUS (MWIF)

KEEPING CONNECTIONS 2020

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****DUE TO THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC as of OCTOBER 2020 the SPRING RETREAT AT ELKHORN FOR MAY 2021 HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR APRIL 29-MAY 1, 2022. LOOK FOR DETAILS IN NEXT NEWSLETTER****

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Interim MWIF President's Report

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matt 11: 28)

This past year as your Interim President has been one of missed opportunities to connect with one another due to the Global Pandemic. The New Year began with such promise as we planned our Great Canadian Bible Study, only to find on waking that morning that a snowstorm made it impossible for us to gather together. As time went on into Easter, we could not gather with our loved ones, say our goodbyes, be with our loved ones in hospital.

We could not hug and kiss our loved ones, and our connection to our church family was severed for many of our elderly members, and those who had no connection to technology. There were no in person services at Easter, and it became clear to many that their vacation plans, and travel to see family was not to be. Women in Focus continued to connect but it was evident that our Fall Gathering would not be possible. We held each other up in prayer and prayed for God's guidance and will in our lives as we rested on his promises.

We had hopes that if we social distanced, wore masks, washed our hands and sanitized surely by summer it would be gone – but – as we opened up and enjoyed God's creation it was difficult to maintain social distance and to wear masks and limit gatherings. The virus has again surged. We find we are again limited in our social inter-action, working at home, home schooling for some, in person church services again cancelled, wondering if we will ever again be back to our lives - and we grow weary – but we continue as women to keep the faith and continue to make ways for us to connect, inspire and give hope and spiritual nourishment to our sisters and brothers in Christ.

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. (Galatians 6:9)

Women are the connecting threads of our social fabric – both within our families and our church family. He is making a new creation and renewing others. We may not be able to go back to the old norms – but we are creating new ways to connect, to be together to support one another. We are learning new songs to sing in Zion, hearing and reading God's word spoken to us in giving us hope and a vision of a new and better future. As we navigate our new normal, he gives us hope in the "dark winters of life."

"No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, it will pull away from the garment and make the tear worse." Neither do men pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do the skins will burst. No they pour the new wine into new wine skins and both are preserved" (Matt 9:16-17)

I know sometimes in these "dark days" I forget to look at the miracles that surround me in my family, my church family and my work. It has been stressful, with the drug overdoses, suicides, and relapses – but there are so many successes in the lives of these women who face insurmountable barriers. For instance one woman has been cleared for a liver transplant and there are two possible donors.

No matter what the future holds, at the end of this tunnel He is our shining a light. With the pouring of the new wine in new wineskins – both will be preserved – the new and the old. He is creating a new reality while preserving the old. He is creating opportunities to mend the old. I have faith in his promise that he purposes only good for those who love him. WIF is continuing to embrace the new reality, while continuing to find new and creative ways of connecting, serving and ministering to one another in Christ –our Hope in ages past and today.

Blessings, Colleen Allan

MANITOBA WOMEN IN FOCUS
SLATE OF OFFICERS
2020-2021

Interim President: Colleen Allan

jcallan@mymts.net 204-956-6650

Cornerstone Baptist Church

President-Elect as of May 2021: Carol Parsons

carolparsonswif@gmail.com 1-431-503-0079

First Baptist Church, Portage La Prairie

Secretary: Peggi Talbot

Lptalbot@mymts.net 204-831-9724

Broadway-First Baptist Church

Treasurer: Charlene McAlpin

charmcalpin@gmail.com 204-891-7338

Cornerstone Baptist Church

Members at Large:

Rerie Resendes – Filipino Evangelical

Lesia Andrusyshyn – Ukrainian Evangelical

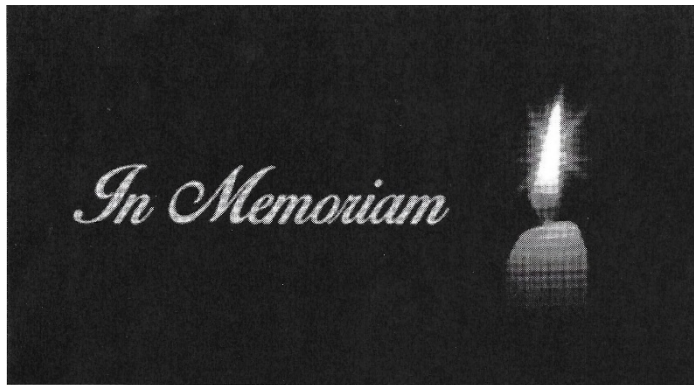
Lyndi Needham – Emerson Baptist (temporary leave)

Janet Buhler – Tabernacle Baptist

Edith Smith – Tabernacle Baptist



Memorial Moment 2020



We proclaim in prayer the following women who rested with the Lord in His kingdom. Please pause to remember those named and unnamed.

BROADWAY-FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Muriel Mears January 8, 2020

Muriel and her husband Don settled in Winnipeg in 1964 to raise their family while she taught at La Verendrye Elementary School. She was also an active member of Broadway-First Baptist Church and joyfully sang for many years in the choir. She was part of the Women's Christian Fellowship and helped out with many church dinners and funeral receptions.

Eileen Pound April 26, 2020 at the age of 97.

Eileen was a faithful member of Broadway for over 70 years and belonged to many Women's circles and groups. She received the Western Life and Dominion Life membership pins for her leadership and work in the groups. She taught Sunday school and, along with her husband, raised three girls.

Roberta York July 7, 2020.

She started attending Broadway about 1974. She served on the Deacon's Board, was Church Treasurer, attended the Women's Christian Fellowship and the South End Study Group. She was a very gifted artist in weaving and a volunteer instructor in the community.

Edna Cameron July 7, 2020 at the age of 92.

She was very involved in many aspects of Broadway. In particular she was involved in the Women's Christian Fellowship, as President and an active member. She organized many dinners, including the Ex-Offenders dinners. Edna also sang soprano in the choir for as many years as I can remember. She served as a deacon for a number of years as well. She volunteered with the Community Clothesline Ministry at Broadway.

UKRAINIAN EVANGELICAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Nina Tereshchenko was born on August 30, 1946 in Ukraine. She was the eldest daughter in the family. From the age of 5, she began to help parents manage the household and take care of their younger children. At the age of 18 she entered an agricultural technical school and became a livestock specialist. In 1966 she married and gave birth to three children. In 1998 she was widowed. All her life she lived in the village and worked in animal husbandry. In 2009 she came to Winnipeg for her grandson's wedding. Here she heard the truth about the Lord, repented and received Holy Water Baptism in the Ukrainian Evangelical Church on June 27, 2009. For 11 years Nina served in a prayer ministry and was responsible for the library. She constantly prayed for the salvation of her large family and told everyone she could about the Lord. Despite the big health problems, she did not relax her prayers. On the morning of March 15, 2020, she suffered a third stroke from which she did not come out and died on March 17, 2020

DAUPHIN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Wendy Petersen January 20, 2020

She was a blessing to many people. She volunteered to numerous things around town not wanting any glory for herself. We only found out some of those things after she passed. She nursed for many years. After she retired if we had a meal for a funeral at church, she was one we could count on to help until she was unable.

PORTAGE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Clara Barkley November 27, 2019

Our dear sister Clara went to be with her Lord late November 2019. Clara was very active over the years in women's ministry, children's ministry and music ministry. She played the piano beautifully and always played for her son Barry's solos. She was a member of the Women's

Christian Temperance Union for many years and a church member for over 70 years. She was also an accomplished seamstress and made her own clothes. She always looked like she just stepped out of a magazine. She was in her 90's.

NEEPAWA FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Jean Cassells October 14, 2019

Jean was a well-loved member of our church family since 1977 when her husband Herb became our pastor. They served in the ministry in Neepawa for 18 ½ years. A mother of four, she loved children, serving as a kindergarten teacher, Sunday school teacher, nursery class and church nursery volunteer. She loved children and was loved by them.

Margaret Doerksen December 17, 2019

Margaret was a capable farm wife and mother of five. She became part of our church after retiring to Neepawa and passed away at age of 87 after spending a few years in care.

Elaine McQueen February 5, 2020

Elaine was a much-loved prayer warrior and quiet friend. She was a thoughtful part of our group and blessed many with her delicious baking.

Erna Buhler May 7, 2020

Erna was a loving wife and mother. When dementia began to rob her of her independence, she came to live with her daughter. We appreciated her faithfulness even in failing health.

1 Corinthians 15:55-57

“O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ. (NLT)



2019 MANITOBA BAPTIST WOMEN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**October 5, 2019, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
Cornerstone Baptist Church, Winnipeg, MB.**

WELCOME/OPENING PRAYER

At 10:25 am Colleen Allan (Vice Pres) opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking Cornerstone women for hosting this Gathering and providing morning refreshments and lunch.

Miranda Ward announced a children's Christian coloring book that she published and was being distributed to children at Garden Hill Reserve and is available to purchase with 50% towards MWIF.

Attendance: 23 women from 10 churches (two outside Winnipeg)

Carol Parsons (WIF Pres) opened in prayer. She brought greetings from Women in Focus for Western Canada. She asks for prayer as she will be in Ontario at the end of October for Canadian Baptist Women's meetings.

Rhonda and Charlene lead the women in "Praise and Worship" with two selections, Praise My Soul and King of My Heart.

MEMORIAL MOMENTS

Peggi Talbot led the women in the Memorial Moments recognizing the women, named and unnamed, who have passed away over the last year from our churches. A red rose was placed in the vase as each woman was remembered with a short tribute. Peggi closed with a prayer and everyone joined in with the hymn, "Find Us Faithful" by John Mohr. Carol Seburn played the piano.

BUSINESS MEETING

In the absence of Lynne Billings (MWIF President), Colleen Allan (Vice Pres) chaired the meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

MOTION: Rhonda Spurgeon /Nellie Biger(Cornerstone): that the Agenda as printed in the docket be approved.

CARRIED

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF THE 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MOTION: Donna Kosheluk (Cornerstone)/Lesia Andrushyshyn(UEC): that the Minutes of the September 29, 2018 AGM be accepted as printed in the docket.

CARRIED

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Colleen Allan presented the President's Report for the women to review.

MOTION: Janet Buhler (Tabernacle)/Ellen Giesbrecht(WLB): that the President's Report be accepted as printed in the docket.

CARRIED

TREASURER'S REPORT

Rerie Resendes reviewed the financial statement with the women.

MOTION: Carol Seburn (Cornerstone)/Miranda Ward (KCC): that the Treasurer's Financial Report be accepted as printed in the docket.

CARRIED

MISSION PROJECTS FOR 2020

Peggi Talbot explained the Bolivian project being led by Kallie and Tim Hutton CBM field workers. A CBM Video called "On Eagles Wings" was presented showing the work that is being done at the Casa de la Amistad project and how grateful the Bolivian women are to learn a life skill in sewing and be able to provide for their family. The Bolivian women are raising funds to sustain their project and CBM is asking WIF to raise \$8000. which would be a 4:1 match to show our support and encouragement to these women. The total commitment to the Casa Project from CBM in 2019 is \$70.050

There is an opportunity to go to Bolivia and serve in this project and at the same time attend the Baptist World Alliance Women's Conference in Brazil in July 2020.

OFFICERS 2018-2020

Colleen Allan called for nominations for the position of Secretary and Treasurer. Rerie Resendes has stepped down as acting treasurer due to health reasons.

SECRETARY Rerie Resendes (FEC) nominated Peggi Talbot (B-FBC) who has been acting Secretary to the position for 2019-2020. Janet Buhler seconded. All in favor. **Carried.**

TREASURER Sol Quizan (FEC) nominated Charlene McAlpin (Cornerstone) to the position as Treasurer for 2019-2020. Colleen Allan seconded. All in favor. **Carried.**

The list of MWIF executive positions as listed in the docket remain the same until 2020.

LUNCH

Carol Parsons gave the grace for the food and also prayed for Arlene Milton from Flin Flon who is not well as reported by Carol Seburn. A delicious lunch with soups, sandwiches, salad and desserts was served by the Cornerstone women. It was a great time to mingle and meet others from different churches and share. Door prizes of books from Lyndi Needham and Miranda Ward and CDs from the music ministry "The Stone" at Cornerstone were handed out.

WORSHIP and MEDITATION

After lunch, the women were led in Praise and Worship by Rhonda and Charlene singing "How Great is Our God".

Colleen Allan introduced our guest speaker, Charlene McAlpin who spoke on Psalm 1 "Living on the Promises of God" She said we should all "marinate" on the word of God and His promises. "If you marinate on the Word, your fruit will prosper and you will find joy." Charlene closed with prayer.

SHARING MINISTRIES

Colleen Allan had the women look at the reports from the churches (10) listed in the docket and they were accepted.

MISSION CHURCH UPDATES

Lesia Andrusyshyn reported on the **Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Church** activities and their annual family camp at Camp Arnes in September. Their fellowship provides opportunity for newcomers from the Ukraine and elsewhere to be part of a Christian community as they adjust to a Canadian lifestyle. With members coming and moving on, their membership fluctuates but is a blessing to many and also to their online ministry that is broadcast around the world.

Karin Regehr spoke on behalf of **Bethlehem Aboriginal Fellowship** that share space with Living Word Temple on Manitoba Avenue. Even though they are without a pastor, many of our CBWC pastors offer to preach for them in the afternoon. Jo-Anne Swenson, a very active leader for many years, is missed since her passing. She was a great blessing to BAF. Karin is starting up a ladies' bible study this fall and the men meet bi-weekly at Robin's Donut for study and fellowship.

As Elizabeth Kibwaa could not attend, Peggi Talbot reported on **Faith Evangelical Mission Church**. They continue to meet at Knox United downtown in the chapel for worship every Sunday with mid week prayer meeting and fellowship. Newcomers to Canada from Africa are assisted in adapting to a new life in a Christian environment. A recent baptism at Bird's Hill in the lake by a young adult was a blessing to the group. They have many picnics in the summer at Kildonan Park.

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR MISSION CHURCHES

Rerie Resendes explained the receiving of the offering for our three mission churches that the women of Manitoba have supported for the last few years; Bethlehem Aboriginal Fellowship, Faith Evangelical Mission Church and Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Church. The offering was received and Rerie led in prayer. The offering collected totalled \$663.60

UPCOMING EVENTS

Colleen Allan announced the opportunity to apply for a grant for women and children's ministries from the Baptist World Alliance Women's Department Day of Prayer project

grant. Some of our groups have received grants in the past. It was also announced that the date for the **2019 DAY OF PRAYER** will be held **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4** at Broadway-First Baptist Church.

Next **FALL GATHERING** will be held **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2020**. The location is yet to be determined. As it was in the city this year, next location could be outside Winnipeg. Colleen Allan will be following up.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS and BENEDICTION

Colleen Allan presented Charlene McAlpin with a Thank you for her meditation and participation in the music along with Rhonda Spurgeon.

Ginni Hart, the past secretary from 2011-2019 was recognized and a card was circulated for everyone to sign. As she was not present, the Thank you gift and card would be delivered to her.

The kitchen help was acknowledged and the use of the facility at Cornerstone and all those participating were thanked for coming. More door prizes were drawn. Two scarves were sold and three books of Miranda Ward's.

The ladies joined hands in a circle and closed the meeting with singing "Blest Be the Tide That Binds". Carol Parsons prayed for the group and for Rerie Resendes as Outgoing Treasurer. We gathered around Rerie to uplift her in prayer. She was given a beautiful bouquet of roses as a Thank you.

A group picture was taken before we departed at 2:15 pm.

Submitted by

Peggi Talbot
Secretary MWIF





2020 Mission Church Report

Bethlehem Aboriginal Fellowship

Here is exciting news from the fall newsletter of Bethlehem Aboriginal Fellowship:



The Board Report

Hello Folks! It's been a long time since you've heard from us. But despite COVID, the church closing for a time and not having the technology to keep in touch with one another, the Lord has been at work in our church in some exciting ways.

After our dear friend, mentor and prayer warrior Jo-Ann Swenson died last summer, the Board began seeking the Lord on what He wanted for the future of Bethlehem. We set up a "What is the Future of BAF Committee" comprised of Karin Regher, Jeremy Zehr, Alan Edward and myself; all of us attenders at BAF. What we thought would be about 4 meetings turned into a nine-month journey.

We started out seeking input from our congregation. What was important to them about BAF? If we closed, how would that affect them? If we stayed open, what would they like to see changed? Then the committee set about looking at their answers, seeking the Lord for scripture and examined where we were at as a church. Throughout many meetings, we considered all possibilities. We gathered together to seek the Lord on each option with an individual prayer time first, then coming together to share.

At the beginning of each meeting each of us spent time relinquishing what we wanted and also what we didn't want in order to hear what the Lord wanted. This was a very important part of the process and not always an easy one.

In time, unanimously we felt the Lord wanted us to stay open. From a human viewpoint, this seemed a silly decision as we are so small. But we weren't responding to a human viewpoint. Then the process began of what we were to look like, what needed to change if we stayed open? Again, after much relinquishing and prayer we unanimously felt the Lord was leading us to hire a part time pastor. But who? For the last 7 years we had wanted to hire a pastor but had more or less given up as we couldn't find anyone for the position.

Then, somewhat like our eyes were opened, one of our own came into view. He has quietly attended the church for years, has some training, has volunteer pastored at some Main Street mission churches as well as some others and has preached for us a few times. Most of us did not know him very well. After a series of interviews where he shared about his life and how recently he felt the Lord was prompting him to something new but didn't know what, we invited him to be our pastor for 10 hours a week. (all we can afford at this time), conditional on the congregations' approval. The church family agreed with this suggestion with much handclapping and hollering!

Lyle Blackbird is indigenous, (our congregation expressed the desire for more indigenous leadership), spent some years growing up in Winnipeg's North End and experienced some turbulent times in his boyhood. He understands the pain and brokenness of the people in our community. He is able to contextualize this in his sermons and in caring for our people. We are excited to have him as our pastor, even though it is just for 10 hours a week. His main job will be to preach on Sundays so that we have continuity. But he has a huge heart for outreach so we will see where the Lord leads us with that. We have much for which to thank the Lord!

Beth Wilton for the BAF Board

Meet Lyle Blackbird, Our New Pastor

Here is a brief interview with Lyle:

Tell us a bit about your childhood:

I grew up in the North and West ends of Winnipeg which included a CFS group home for a few years. I often went to the reserve in summertime to be with my grandparents as it was a safe place. My mother was a residential school survivor. She had struggles with alcoholism and led a dysfunctional life that was the residue of that "legacy". That sometimes made home life chaotic with its violence and alcohol.

How did you become a believer?:

My fiancé started to go back to church and invited me. I went out of curiosity. By then I was struggling with alcohol and wanted to stop. I asked the minister to pray for me to stop which he did. A few months later I realized something had happened but I couldn't explain it. The desire to drink was totally gone. It got my attention that the Lord would touch me in this way. That drew me to continue attending church at the Indian Metis Pentecostal Church on Main St and I slowly got into the church culture.

How did life change?:

I began to teach Sunday school, helped out with Bible Studies and filled in when the pastor wasn't there. Then I became an assistant pastor. So I started to preach when I was 30 years old at various churches. Now I am 56. I got married to Nancy and had a family. We have 2 grown boys, 3 teenage daughters and 2 grandsons. I was drawn to ministry but struggled with that because I often felt that ministers were cut from a different bolt of cloth than the rest of us. I thought I wasn't good enough for that. I also had a full time job so had to work at balancing that with full time ministry.

How did you end up at BAF?:

A number of years ago we moved close by the church and I started to attend. Four years ago I started assisting with the men's Bible study at BAF and gradually took it over. In the last year or so I have been a guest preacher on Sundays as well.

Lately I'd felt a strong push from the Lord to be in ministry with the people from the neighbourhood but I didn't know where or when. Then I got a call asking if I'd be interested in the part time pastor position at BAF. About the same time, we found out we had to move – in 3 weeks. I prayed that if God wanted me in this position then he would open up a place for us to live in the neighbourhood as I felt that was really important. Three weeks later we moved into a really nice apartment in the neighbourhood! After talking a few times with the committee, we felt this is where I was to be.

What now?:

It's been 3 months since I started and it has been a very positive and supportive environment. But it is also heart breaking because of the condition of the community. There are a lot of addictions, drugs and poverty and everything that goes along with that lifestyle, not the least being how it humiliates people. My dream for the church would be that we all become full participants of the gospel in serving our neighbourhood.





FALL 2020

Manitoba Women in Focus

Keeping Connections

The churches were asked how they were handling the COVID restrictions and their services during this difficult time. Here are some responses:

RURAL CHURCHES:

Kleefeld Christian Community (KCC)

Our church is doing well during this COVID pandemic. We rent a rec center but now only use it for our midweek meeting. For Sunday we had to rent a bigger place and so now we meet in the basement of the EMC church close by in the afternoon at 3:30pm and mid week group on Wednesdays. All other programs have sadly been sidelined. Hopefully we will soon be able to once again do the programs that we like as a church.

We have a great group of people. Some are more afraid than others to attend. Personally, I refuse to live in fear. I prefer to read Psalm 91 and then trust God to keep me safe. My lifeline is in God's hands. When my birth certificate expires, I'll be home. In the meantime, we live as unto Christ.

We do however try to take care of those not well. We once again took on the meal program for any that are not well.

God Bless you all and hopefully this will be over before we get to meet the next time.

Miranda Ward

First Baptist Church, Portage La Prairie

How are things going with our lady's group?

We are back meeting after being shut down last March. Some of the ladies have been knitting

baby caps and prayer shawls all summer. We are meeting the 2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings in the month. We are still tying quilts for those in need. In the last year we have added a few ladies from out side our congregation. So that is also a blessing.
As a congregation we are meeting on Sunday morning with the chairs spaced appropriately. I appreciate the work you girls are doing in Winnipeg.

Thanks for keeping in touch
Audrey Bender

Dauphin First Baptist Church

As of October 2020, we are still doing zoom church with some attending in person at the church. We had one woman pass away just before COVID (see Memorial Moment). It's hard not to go to church. But then you get used to it as you don't have to get ready and travel. Zoom is convenient. But we miss connecting in person.

Eva Purdy

Neepawa First Baptist Church

The NFBC ladies are quite inactive along with everyone else for the last few months! We had our Christmas supper and program but nothing since. (We should have all lost weight by now since we stopped eating – right??) Funeral lunches had been planned for “better weather” in the spring but have yet to happen.

We do have much to be thankful for as our new Pastor and family began serving September 1st and our interim couple moved to the area so are still with us. Truly a double blessing!! The usual fall activities are either on hold or partially happening under restrictions. Our main connections are by phone or computer – all safely distanced.

We are thankful for generally good health in our congregation and even a 100th birthday celebration for a favourite gentleman.
Let's continue to uphold each other in prayer and give encouragement when possible.

Joy De'Ath

Strathclair Baptist Church

The Lord is faithful. We took our church services online. We have been using our Facebook page and doing the services live 🗣️ I have been doing short, daily devotional videos as well. Just small ways we can stay connected and encourage the congregation. We are now allowed 30% in our building...which isn't that many in our tiny building. Who knew our biggest problem would be having too many people in church!

We missed getting together with all you ladies this year. We haven't had any of our ladies pass away in the last year.

Praying that next year this virus will be gone and we can all get together again! Take care and God bless.

Wendy Thom

WINNIPEG CHURCHES:

Broadway-First Baptist Church

Our church has been having services by Zoom live and YouTube video services can be watched later. A Sunday evening prayer time has been held and includes praying for the neighbourhood around the church since WHY books have been distributed. A mid week bible study is ongoing by Zoom. Hampers have been distributed to families and individuals in need. We have been involved helping families in the neighbourhood through CarePortal. CarePortal is an online platform that brings the needs of hurting children and families in the community to our attention. Caseworkers uncover the needs. **CarePortal** makes local churches aware, giving them a real-time opportunity to respond.

Peggi Talbot

Bethlehem Aboriginal Fellowship

As for how we've been handling the pandemic, we didn't have the technology to keep the services going in any format once the churches closed, but on our Facebook page we had a link to Tabernacle Baptist for people who wanted a service. The Board visited people once taking donated food to just about every household and had a social distancing visit then. On Mother's Day we visited each of our women, giving them a flower and had a good visit with many of them. We set up a phone list where each of our congregants was phoned a number of times throughout the time the church was closed. The church opened up again early June when indoor gathering numbers went up as we are so small - a perk of being a small church! Since then, we have hired a part time pastor, **Lyle Blackbird** and are enjoying having one pastor as our preacher again.

Beth Wilton

Filipino Evangelical Church

In February, Women's celebrated Valentines Day with almost 100 participants which was held at the Filipino Evangelical Church.

On the same month, the Women's group had a breakfast fellowship at the church basement

with almost 20 attendees.

March breakfast fellowship was cancelled due to pandemic.

June 2020, the Women's group had a short fellowship followed by devotional at the Assiniboine Park with 11 attendees.

Activities accomplished adhering to Manitoba Health protocols with this Pandemic.

Kind regards,

Mellanie

FEC Women's President

Tabernacle Baptist Church

All is well so far at our church and there have not been any deaths of women this past year.

The women have started a prayer time on the 3rd Sunday of the month to meet for a short five to ten-minute prayer time: Women's Circle of Prayer. Prayer requests are sent out as they come up and we are praying for each other. We are becoming closer to each other and to God.

At the beginning of the pandemic our Pastor Dave divided the members/attendants into groups between the deacons to contact if they required help and that is still on going. Our pews were labeled for social distancing. Pastor Dave had started a podcast in October 2019 because the Sunday school teachers wanted to hear the service and it really was beneficial when the pandemic set in and this is now a constant part of our ministry. Pastor Dave @ Tabernacle Podcast (<https://www.buzzsprout.com/701347>)

We continue to see God's blessings as people from Canada & international areas tune into the podcast. Through God's mercy and grace no one has been diagnosed and we continue to pray for the health of each one and all our frontline workers.

We continue to follow the public health guidelines.

This week (October 25), I will send out an encouraging email to keep spirits lifted. COVID is an exhausting time and we all need encouragement.

It's Pastor Dave Heinrich's 10th Anniversary at Tabernacle, so we are organizing a small celebration.

Take care and God's protection over everyone.

Edith Smith and Janet Buhler

WillowLake Baptist Church

Even though there have been COVID restrictions in meeting for the weekly bible study by a group of women from the church, they have found a way of meeting over the phone to study the bible in a group call. Many of the women are older and not able to get out so this works for them.

Ellen Giesbrecht



2020 MWIF Resources and Links

Manitoba Women in Focus (MWIF) is a branch of Women in Focus (WIF) which is part of the Canadian Baptist of Western Canada (CBWC)



Copy and paste these links below to your internet and view the resources.

Keeping connections through ZOOM when we can't meet in person (instructions how to):

<https://baptistwomen.com/new-tech-guide-from-baptist-women/>

~ Women in Focus (WIF) – Faye Reynolds bi monthly devotional:

October 2020 Focussing in... https://mailchi.mp/1080cace6f4b/focusing-in-october-2020?fbclid=IwAR2_ZOz9dPIIdAts8bfHS_tF8ESx1Y1w18MHfUh5_qMVevAhK2Kwyj5voKKgin

~ Website for Women in Focus in Western Canada (WIF):

<https://womeninfocusatcbwc.wordpress.com/>

~ Women in Focus CBWC – Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/Women-in-Focus-CBWC-121192427983306/>

~ Manitoba Women in Focus – Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/manitobawomeninfocus/>

MISSION

~ Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM):



1. Mosaic magazine (free online or hard copy):

<https://www.cbmin.org/mosaic/>

2. Weekly Prayerline ministry:

<https://www.cbmin.org/prayerline/>

3. Hopeful Gifts for Change – CBM Gift Catalogue:

<https://hopefulgifts.ca/>

**** PROGRAM FOR DAY OF PRAYER NOVEMBER 2, 2020**

The website for Baptist Women of North America (which produces the program for Day of Prayer in November):



<https://www.bwna.today/>

Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer – November 2, 2020

The program and format are different this year. Share this with a friend over the phone when you cannot meet and pray together.

<https://bwawd.org/day-of-prayer-this-year>

Carol Parsons, the Women in Focus President of our CBWC churches, suggests these 2 magazines as a resource as they have been encouraging to her and ways to continue to give. These are great ways to keep connected Locally and Globally; there are great resources we can burrow into and run with it and keep connected. So pass this along to more women in your reach:

1. "Live" produced by Canadian Baptist Women of Ontario and Quebec

<https://baptistwomen.com/live-magazine/>

2. "Tidings" produced from the Atlantic Baptist Women

<https://www.atlanticbaptistwomen.ca/tidings>

