

A HISTORY OF PARKLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

As of April, 2009.

Parkland Baptist Church had its beginnings in the spring of 1970, when a small group of people from the Spruce Grove area initiated a home Bible study. About a year later on June 6, 1971, they organized Parkland Baptist Church. The name was selected to reflect the area of the County of Parkland. On June 27th of that same year, about 71 people met for the initial service in Broxton Park School. From that time until August of 1973, the infant assembly invited individuals from the North American Baptist College (known today as Taylor University College and Seminary) to serve as guest speakers.

Within two years, the church had grown to a size that needed a full-time pastor. On August 16, 1973, the church invited Rev. Harold Weiss to serve as our first full-time Pastor.

In November 1973, the decision was made to start a church building on the currently occupied property and on March 23, 1975, construction was started. On November 7th of the same year, the church building was completed.

As the congregation grew in size, the need for an additional education and administration facility to care for the needs of our congregation became apparent. In 1994, the \$100,000 new wing of our church was completed, largely due to the volunteer help of our men within the congregation. Today our church is mortgage free.

In September of 1996, Parkland Baptist Church celebrated its silver anniversary. The motto chosen for that joyous event was, "Celebrating the faithfulness of God for over 25 years".

In 2006, we celebrated our 35th anniversary. We had the privilege of having a former Pastor Lyle Richards, as our quest speaker. Ruth Weiss, the wife of our first full-time pastor, Harold Weiss, was also with us.

Our church has been served by four Senior Pastors: Rev. Harold Weiss (1973 - 1981), Rev. Lyle Richards (1982 - 1987), Rev. Doug Bittle (1988 - 1994), and Rev. Lorne Trudgian (1995 - 2008).

Presently, we have the privilege of being served by an interim pastor, Rev. Randy Radke.

Parkland Baptist Church has experienced many joys and victories over the years along with several challenges that have left us at times feeling somewhat discouraged.

Some of the challenges have been the issue of starting a Christian School, charismatic influences, and an economic down turn in the mid eighties, causing families to move away. Also, some families left due to pastoral issues. Further, one of the more recent challenges has been the forming of a Council of Elders.

After some years of prayer and a close study of Scripture, a group of members put together a new constitution. This constitution consisted of a Council of Elders to oversee spiritual fidelity and a Board of Deacons responsible for church ministries and programs. Even though the constitution was voted on and approved by the church congregation, we did lose some members and adherents that were not in favor of the new constitution. This too, concerns us. However, we do feel this constitution is more in line with Scripture.

Our congregation consists of people from Spruce Grove, Stony Plain and the County of Parkland. On Sundays we have morning worship services, Family Bible Hour, and an evening ministry at a local senior centre on a monthly basis. During the week we have a women's ministry, a men's ministry, a youth ministry and small group Bible studies. Other monthly ministries include a pot luck lunch and a hymn sing ministry.

Our women's ministry consists of a weekly morning Bible study, as well as several special events throughout the year, which includes a White Cross ministry.

The men meet once a month on a Saturday morning for breakfast, a devotional study and prayer.

Our small group Bible studies meet in homes each week, plus one at the church on Wednesday night.

Our Mission Committee keeps in touch with our missionaries, local and abroad, and also is in charge of the senior centre ministry.

We are excited by what **the** Lord is doing for us now and will do in the future and praise Him for His protection and love for us over the past years.

**Parkland Baptist Church Exists to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ,
Because Of Our Ever Deepening Devotion to God and Love for One Another.**

Parkland Baptist Church

Church Survey

This survey is a necessary and important tool in assisting the Pastoral Search Committee work toward finding a Pastor who will best fit the needs of the congregation and God's work. This survey is an integral part of the Search Committees need to find out what you, the current congregational members, feel about our church and our direction. Please fill out this survey and return to the church by February 15, 2009. The Search Committee will be reviewing the results February 16, 2009. Thank you for your participation in this important first step. (A computer version of this document can be obtained from Neil Barton by e-mailing: neild_barton@yahoo.com).

1. Share how you sense God's presence in Parkland Baptist Church

People care about the church and want to see it grow and change for the better. There are passionate, gifted people here who love the Lord and want to see His children grow. As long as biblical teaching, recognition that Jesus Christ is the head of our church and we consciously love Him and each other, God's presence will always be in our church. I sense that God is glorified and revered among the church body. I feel that God is bringing in new people He wants here to worship Him in spirit and in truth. I see it in the love and caring of people who love the Lord and study His word, through worship, preaching of his word, the congregation, the moving of God's Spirit. I sense God's presence by the love that people in this church have shown me and my family in a time of crisis. I have been overwhelmed by the personal attention and prayers of not only my close friends in the church but also those people that I do not know so well. I love music and the way God uses that ministry to bring us into His presence Through individuals in the church that have taken a person interest in my family members, instructing, mentoring and loving them.

2. Describe a worship service that had particular meaning to you

Pastor Lorne's' last sermon warned us to beware of wolves in sheep's clothing, even amongst our own congregation. Watch and beware. We can't allow the enemy to gain a foothold in P.B.C. I really get a lot out of Pastor Radke's messages as well.

The service focused on the exaltation of Jesus and led us to focus our thoughts and attention on Christ throughout the coming week. The worship songs were beautifully selected to underscore the significance of Jesus, both hymns and modern songs

One's where God's Spirit has been allowed to move and various people have come to the front to be prayed for, including myself.

Specials service: Thanksgiving service (individuals sharing, giving thanks and testimonies of how God is at work in peoples lives), Fathers Day service (my husband got baptized), Baptism services, Cantata services, especially with the Sunday school children involved

The most recent has been a few sermons about how we need to believe the bible is God's word and that we need to prayerfully go to it for answers and instructions

3. How are conflicts resolved in this congregation? Provide an example where you and other people were involved in a problem at church and how it was handled.

Those I have seen and or been involved with were done with first: research and consultation with other leaders as to the best approach. Second, the persons are brought aside to try to understand their side and finally the person is coached biblically and in one case I was involved with was told the person's behaviour was unacceptable. Sometimes depending on the person or situation I believe we have tried too hard to accommodate everyone and end up hurting the greater to accommodate the few. We should, where possible, try to accommodate individuals but only if their

request is spiritual and in line with the direction of the Church. I have observed individuals in the past who tried to side swipe the church agenda for their purposes without being approved by leadership or the majority of the congregation. People leave (flight), they've given up on some issues or conflicts in the church and go elsewhere.

4. What concerns do you have about the future of Parkland Baptist Church

People leaving - Unbiblical theology (i.e. emerging, seeker sensitive movements) - Lack of young people - Low attendance and aging congregation - No or poor leadership. - lack of biblical knowledge by the congregation itself - New people are not connecting with others in time to show we care – not enough volunteers – lack of growth.

5. Describe the leadership (church board and elders).

Caring, prayers, encouragers, bible followers, loving, concerned, listeners, followers of Christ. Not enough of them. Need more proactive people that will take action quicker and be more dynamic. The church board and elders have a love for the Lord and follow and serve him. They study God's Word and have a good knowledge of it. They and their wives follow the instructions given in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1: 5-9. They are strong in their faith and look to God's word for direction and focus. Effective leadership - Approachable - Good Communication - Concerned about spiritual growth - encouraging.

6. What does the Parkland Baptist Church congregation need to do to make a Christian impact on our community?

Evangelize. Reach out to others in love and those in need. Not just within our own church body. It is very possible that unbelievers are present; therefore a warning to be saved should always be presented. Bring back boys and girls clubs, Daily Vacation Bible School, and 5-Day Clubs to attract young people and families. Continue reaching out to seniors and visitation and hymn singing at St Michael's

7. Describe this congregation to a new person and tell how they would be nurtured here.

PBC is a warm, welcoming and friendly church. This is a place where you can grow as a believer. The church stands on the truth and does not follow every wind of doctrine that blows through Christendom. The Holy Spirit works here through the living Word to help us grow in grace and holiness. Our people here love God and want to share his love with you

8. What would be missing in our community if Parkland Baptist Church ceased to exist?

The community would be missing an open and friendly church that is strong in biblical teaching. We're A conservative Baptist church, Non- charismatic with strong bible teaching. We appeal to people who want to belong to a smaller group where almost everyone knows everyone.

9. Tell the ways the people participate in the life of this church.

People in the church get involved and work together to encourage the life in the church. This is accomplished through, women's ministry, men's ministry, fellowship groups, teaching Sunday school, being a greeter, taking collection, counting, and social convenors. The life of a church consists in its worship of God its love for Jesus, The care of its members for one another and the recognition there is great urgency the proclamation of the gospel. Meeting and praying together. Encouraging one another and Helping each other.

10. What type of Pastor would best suit Parkland Baptist Church Congregation and the needs of the community?

Someone who is approachable, and qualifies scripturally according to 1 Timothy. A man of integrity who does not compromise the teaching of Scripture. One who puts God first in his life, his family second, and the congregation third. Is lead by the Spirit of God to deliver powerful sermons, bible studies, and be gifted in family ministry. Parkland needs some "young blood" if we're going to continue and these younger families need a pastor who they can relate to. Parkland needs someone dynamic who is passionate about preaching the word outside the walls of PBC and can really inspire the congregation to live the life that God has called them to. Someone who is transparent, honest, and hardworking. Who is comfortable around all age groups, is encouraging, patient, light hearted, fun and truly called to be a pastor.

11. Tell about the opportunities that exist for people to learn and grow into the character of Jesus.

Family Bible Hour and other various Bible studies are great opportunities to grow outside the service. Small group studies, Wednesday night bible study, ladies time out Thursday. mornings, prayer time Thursday, men's ministry and Sunday morning service.

12. What suggestions do you have to help Parkland Baptist Church grow and have a meaningful impact on this community?

The people repent of their worldliness, and turn to God. Continue our strong emphasis on the bible through the preaching on Sunday morning as well as the various bible studies. Equip the saints to do the work of the ministry. Train the congregation in evangelism and reach out to the community.

What Presently Has the Most Influence in This Church?

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Optimism | <input type="checkbox"/> 17. Family life | <input type="checkbox"/> 33. Responsibility |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Well-mobilized volunteers | <input type="checkbox"/> 18. Recognition of God's grace | <input type="checkbox"/> 34. The Lordship of Christ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. Bible-centered Preaching/Teaching | <input type="checkbox"/> 19. Praise and worship | <input type="checkbox"/> 35. Tradition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Desire to serve the disenfranchised | <input type="checkbox"/> 20. A Christian self-image | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 36. Loyalty of long term members |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Creativity and innovation | <input type="checkbox"/> 21. Desire to meet community needs | <input type="checkbox"/> 37. Team spirit |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6. World Missions | <input type="checkbox"/> 22. Commitment | <input type="checkbox"/> 38. Need for the best in electronics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Children's ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> 23. Giving/tithing | <input type="checkbox"/> 39. Previous failures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Attractive grounds/facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> 24. Debt | <input type="checkbox"/> 40. Deep faith |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Desire to be debt-free | <input type="checkbox"/> 25. A few families | <input type="checkbox"/> 41. Enthusiasm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10. The status quo | <input type="checkbox"/> 26. Christian Education (all ages) | <input type="checkbox"/> 42. Discipline |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11. Attracting visitor | <input type="checkbox"/> 27. Celebrating new life in Christ | <input type="checkbox"/> 43. Fear of change |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12. Cultural relevance | <input type="checkbox"/> 28. Vision | <input type="checkbox"/> 44. Youth ministry |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13. Prayer | <input type="checkbox"/> 29. Compassion | <input type="checkbox"/> 45. Authenticity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 14. Sustained excellence/quality | <input type="checkbox"/> 30. Growth | <input type="checkbox"/> 46. Life-change |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 15. Genuine Fellowship & Interpersonal Care | <input type="checkbox"/> 31. Volunteering in community | <input type="checkbox"/> 47. The Great Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16. Evangelism | <input type="checkbox"/> 32. Pessimism | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 48. Godly Leadership |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> 49. Flexibility |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> 50. Other |

Congregational Profile

Demographics

1. **Numbers:** Indicate the approximate number of persons participating in congregational life.

Age	Male	Female	Total
0 - 9	3	7	10
10 - 14	0	3	3
15 - 19	0	1	1
20 - 29	7	6	13
30 - 39	6	4	10
-	-	-	

Age	Male	Female	Total
40 - 49	5	7	12
50 - 59	8	6	14
60 - 69	8	17	25
70 - 79	10	10	20
80+	7	2	9
-	-	-	

2. **Multicultural makeup:** Check off the ethnic groups represented within your congregation

Region of Birth			
North America	X	Africa	
Europe	X	Caribbean	
Asia	X	Other	
South America			

CURRENT MINISTRIES

Community Impact

Small Groups

Nursing Home Ministry

Winter Shelter or Inner-city Mission (2x/year)

Short Term Missions – in Canada and Romania

Ladies Bible Study

Social Functions (Christmas Banquet; Winter/Summer Church Picnics; Women's Social Events).

Programs (Approximate Number of Participants)

Young Adult Bible Studies (10)

Men's Group – Monthly (10 - 20)

Women's Group – Social Functions (30-40)

Sunday School (20)

Children's Church (8)

Nursery (6 - 8)

Camp Ministry – Camp Caroline (3)

Ladies Bible Study – weekly (15)

Midweek Bible Study – weekly (20 - 25)

Hymns by the Hearth – monthly (20-25)

Grove Manor Service – monthly (8 - 12)

Church Fellowship Luncheons – monthly (80)

Post Service Prayer – twice monthly (10)

Evening Prayer Service – monthly (5)

White Cross Missions Project – twice annually (8 – 10)

Operations Christmas Child (75)

Financial Realities

Fiscal year: September 1 to August 31

1. Budget

Year	2008-2009	2007-2008	2006-2007	2005-2006
Budget	\$243,982	\$242,981	\$241,481	\$223,791
Expenditures	\$ 159,657	\$165,645	\$228,821	\$208,152

Note: 2009 – 2010 budget at \$190,500

2. Pattern of Giving

Year	2008-2009	2007-2008	2006-2007	2005-2006
Total Revenue	\$ 199,488	\$242,517	\$294,263	\$224,047
Average Attendance	90	108	136	141
Giving Per Attendee	\$ 2217	\$2246	\$2164	\$1589

3. Debt

There is no outstanding debt other than current expenses.

Community Profile

Demographic Survey Analysis

Parkland Baptist Church is located 25 km west of Edmonton, AB in the community of Spruce Grove. The majority of the congregation resides in the city of Spruce Grove and town of Stony Plain (two-thirds) and approximately one-quarter reside in the surrounding Parkland County. The remainder is from west Edmonton. As such, the community of Parkland Baptist Church consists of both urban and rural components, stretching in an approximate 25 km radius from the church.

1. In which category is our church most unlike the community?

- a) Fewer youth (in the 8 to 15 age group)
- b) More seniors (55% of congregation over the age of 50)
- c) Church has grown at a slower pace than the communities of Spruce Grove and Stony Plain.
- d) The community itself seems to have more programs/services for the general population than we as a church do, which impacts our visibility as a church

2. What kinds of ministry will help us meet these people where they are?

- a) The obvious answer is additional pastoral staff in youth, family life, and senior areas.
- b) The less obvious answer is that although we are generally considered a caring church we need to do a better job at reaching out and connecting with and integrating new people. Younger couples with children moving into the community, check us out as a church, worship with us for a period of time, and then move on for a variety of reasons. Retention is an issue more so than attraction. The impact is fewer youth, fewer young families, retention of the longer term members, cyclical growth, challenges with respect to programming and hence, less community impact. Effectively assimilating and integrating new people into the church would help alleviate the critical mass necessary for programming.

3. Which of these ministries do we have the resources to begin this year and next?

The resources are present in the current church body. It is a matter of spiritual maturity where the servant attitude becomes prevalent and each member utilizes their spiritual giftedness for Gods glory and the building of His church. It is personal motivation and commitment to God's work at Parkland Baptist Church by each member of the Church.

Reference: www.SpruceGrove.ca

Preferred Attributes of an Incoming Pastor

Following a careful study of the list of gifts in this chart, prayerfully choose the **three** indispensable attributes that you believe your incoming pastor must display. It is understood that the other attributes will be provided through other believers within your congregation.

Gifting, Passion and Skill	Description	New Pastor
Effective Communication	<u>Romans 10:4</u> – Communicates God's Word and reveals the person of Jesus Christ with clear relevant preaching and teaching	1
Evangelism	<u>2 Timothy 4:5</u> – Reveals God's Good News, both practically and verbally, to people of all cultures inside and beyond your church facility	
Visionary Leadership	<u>Romans 16:7</u> – Reads the culture well, lays the foundation for new ministries, clearly communicates vision to encourage partnership, is committed to seeing large numbers of people trust and live for Christ	3
Shepherding & Pastoral Care	<u>1 Peter 5:2</u> – Attentively provides pastoral care to and counsels congregation	2
Ability to relate to people of all ages	<u>Luke 2:52</u> – Respected by each generation, able to relate in a healthy manner with those inside and outside congregational life	
Worship Leadership	<u>Romans 15:16</u> - Effectively communicates sense of awe and praise before God, committed to the ministry of prayer and intercession	
Administration	<u>Ephesians 3:2</u> – Provides stewardship of gifts and resources, displays ability to turn ideas into reality, organizes people and enables results	
Training and Developing Leaders	<u>1 Timothy 2:7</u> - Equips others for service, effectively disciples followers of Christ, one on one, and oversees discipleship groups	
Servant Leadership	<u>Acts 6:5</u> – Notices and responds to those in need, in the congregation and beyond, with a generous spirit	3
Spiritual Oversight	<u>Acts 20:17 & 28</u> – Maturely models and teaches godliness and Christian commitment, protects of the church from error and wrong	

Compensation Plan

Senior Pastor

The compensation plan for the Senior Pastor of Parkland Baptist Church includes the following elements:

- Salary
- Benefits
- Vacation benefit
- Expenses for work-related charges
- Training and development.

The salary is established annually by the Board and is included in the recommendations from the Board to the congregation during deliberations for the annual budget. The salary is paid on a monthly basis by deposit to the personal account of the Pastor. Those arrangements are made by the Pastor in conjunction with the Church Treasurer and our financial agent. The salary is a factor of:

- What the Board believes the position to be worth
- What the salary review by the Alberta Baptist Association advises
- Current salary
- Capacity of the church to expend those funds
- Church policy
- Annual adjustment.

The employee benefits are provided to the Pastor as per his choice and will either be taken or not, as it suits the personal circumstances of the Pastor. If the Pastor believes other arrangements would be more suitable, he is entitled to discuss that with the Board. The final decision will be that of the Board.

The benefits will include:

- Health
- Dental
- Pension.

The expenses are provided by policy to the Pastor and are provided to ensure that the actual costs of the Pastor carrying out his responsibilities are not a burden to the Pastor. These expenses that the Pastor is expected to bill PBC for on a monthly basis will include:

- Meal/coffee expenses wherein the Pastor is hosting a member(s) of PBC
- Meal/coffee expenses wherein the Pastor is hosting a visitor to PBC

- Mileage for trips to visit congregants, attend meetings, tour visitors of PBC, attend conferences/seminars, attend meetings of the ABA, etc.
- Overnight lodging expenses while attending approved conferences/seminars
- Other expenses that the Pastor has cleared in advance with the Chair, Council of Elders or the Chair, Board of Deacons.

Deductions:

- PBC is authorized to make such deductions as are required for the Pastor's contributions to any benefit plans.
- PBC is authorized to make such income tax withholdings as may be required of them from the Pastor's regular monthly salary cheques.