



News & Views

Fall 2026

May the God of hope fill
you with all joy and
peace as you trust in him.
Rom. 15:13

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RAINFOREST FALLS

Exploring the Nature of God



FROM THE OLD TO THE NEW

Pastor Steve Amarin

“From childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” – 2 Timothy 3:15–17

One of the things that has struck me as we have journeyed through the Bible together this year is just how much Bible there is!

When Paul wrote these words to Timothy, the New Testament had not yet been collected into the 27-book canon we have today. When Paul spoke of the “sacred writings” Timothy had known from childhood, he was referring primarily to what we call the Old Testament—the 39 books of Scripture from Genesis to Malachi. And what an incredible collection of books it is!

By the time we complete our Walk Through the Word journey this year, approximately 75% of our time will have been spent in the Old Testament. For some of us, that may have been a little intimidating; difficult names, lengthy books, unfamiliar customs, complicated political situations, wars, genealogies, and prophetic visions can sometimes make the Old Testament feel like hard work. Perhaps some of us have even experienced a little “Old Testament fatigue” along the way.

But have you ever stopped to ask: why did God give us so much Old Testament?

The answer is not simply that the Old Testament contains the background information we need before getting to the “main story” in the New Testament. The Old Testament is part of the main story. In its pages we see the faithfulness, patience, justice, mercy, and steadfast love of God displayed across thousands of years of history. We see a God who repeatedly calls His wandering people back to Himself. We see Him speaking through patriarchs, priests, kings, prophets, and poets. We see His promises being made, tested, remembered, and progressively revealed. And above all, we see Jesus.

The promises, patterns, sacrifices, priesthood, kingship, temple, prophetic hopes, messianic expectations, and great themes of Scripture are all preparing us to understand the person and work of Jesus Christ. The Old Testament creates the theological landscape in which the gospel makes sense. Jesus Himself taught us to read the Old Testament this way. After His resurrection, He explained to His disciples, “beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.” (Luke 24:27).

FROM THE OLD TO THE NEW (cont.)

Pastor Steve Amorin

That is why the Old Testament matters.

As a pastor, one of the greatest joys of this year has been seeing our church become stronger students of God's Word. We live in a time of significant biblical illiteracy. Many people are increasingly formed by short videos, social media personalities, online influencers, and quick takes rather than by the patient study of Scripture. But God's people need something deeper; we need to recover the time-tested practice of reading, studying, understanding, and applying the Word of God.

I have been encouraged by what I am seeing among us. I have heard about a young person who took on the challenge of reading through the entire Bible this year. I have seen a woman show me her carefully organized collection of sermon notes, with insights and observations faithfully recorded throughout the journey. I have talked with a man who is reading through the entire Bible for the first time. I have watched small groups grow together in faith and fellowship as they have been rooted in the Word together. These may seem like small things, but they are not small things.

Paul tells Timothy that Scripture is “breathed out by God” and is profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness. The goal is that God's people would become mature and “equipped for every good work.” That is what we want for our church.

On September 30th, we will make a significant transition in our Walk Through the Word journey as we move from the Old Testament into the New Testament. As we do, I believe we are going to discover something exciting. All that time spent working through the history, poetry, prophets, promises, kings, kingdoms, sacrifices, and complicated events of the Old Testament is going to help us see the New Testament with fresh eyes. We will see how the Old Testament is fulfilled in the New.

The messianic hope we have viewed from a distance will come into focus. The promises will begin to unfold. The patterns and themes we have traced through the Old Testament will converge on the person of Jesus Christ.

FROM THE OLD TO THE NEW (cont.)

Pastor Steve Amarin

The prophecy points to Him.
The promises point to Him.
The sacrifices point to Him.
The kingdom points to Him.
The temple points to Him.
The suffering servant points to Him.
The hope of redemption points to Him.

What may have sometimes felt like a long and complicated journey through the Old Testament will begin to look increasingly like a carefully woven tapestry, with Jesus Christ at its centre.

If you have not yet joined us for Walk Through the Word, Pastor James and I want to graciously encourage you: there is still time to begin. If you are unable to catch up on everything you have missed, simply start fresh with us in the New Testament. We invite you to take these final three months of 2026 and establish—or re-establish—a daily pattern of being in God's Word. Open the Scriptures each day. Read slowly. Ask questions. Take notes. Talk about what you are learning. Pray through what you read. And reap the reward of building your life on the Word of God.

Jesus said that the person who hears His words and does them is like a wise man who built his house on the rock (Matthew 7:24–25). That is what we want to be as individuals and as a church: a people built on the solid foundation of God's Word.

As I look ahead to these final months of the year, I am excited—not simply because we are nearing the finish line of a reading plan, but because we are going to see the story we have been reading all year come together in Jesus.

So, let's keep walking through the Word...

From Genesis to Revelation.
From promise to fulfillment.
From anticipation to arrival.
From the Old Testament to the New.

And ultimately, from every page of Scripture to Jesus Christ!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Children's Ministry Report

This summer has been very exciting for the Children's Ministry department here at Banwell Community Church! The summer students and I have been hard at work preparing for and running our summer camp, planning our midweek summer drop-in, and getting things organized and cleaned up in Rooms 4 and 5. A huge thank you to Malina, Ethan, and Nathan for all their hard work and dedication to our Children's Ministry. The summer could not have run as smoothly as it did without their help. We are so thankful for the time, energy, and creativity they brought to our programs. We pray that God will bless each of them as they begin their courses again this fall at the University of Windsor.

Weekly Summer Drop In

As mentioned above, this summer we ran a midweek Summer Drop-In for families. It took place each Thursday from 9:30–11:00 a.m. in our Community Outreach Centre. Each week, Ethan and Nathan came up with fun games and activities for the children to enjoy in the gym, while Malina prepared a new and creative craft. The children had an opportunity to spend time with their friends, play, and have fun, while parents were able to enjoy some much-needed “grown-up time” with other parents. We were excited to see approximately 30–35 children attend each week. It was wonderful to see this ministry opportunity provide a place for children and families to connect throughout the summer.

Rainforest Falls VBS

This summer we also spent a great deal of time preparing for and running our Rainforest Falls Kids Summer Camp/Vacation Bible School (VBS), and it was a huge success! We had 95 children registered, with an average of approximately 85 children attending each day. Throughout the week, the children focused on learning about the nature of God and discovering why He is worthy of our trust.

On Thursday, the children were given an opportunity to respond to what they had been learning and to accept Jesus as their Saviour and forever friend. We were so encouraged to see many children make that decision and begin or continue their journey of faith.

The church also looked incredible throughout the week! The decorations truly gave you the feeling that you had been transported into a rainforest and that you might encounter a wild animal around the next corner.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY (cont.)



We had an incredible decorating crew who spent countless hours preparing the church in the week leading up to VBS and then helping take everything down and return the church to normal afterward. A special thank you to Danijela Kralik for her incredible creativity and leadership with the decorations. She truly brought the rainforest to life here at Banwell Community Church!

We had approximately 45–50 volunteers who showed up each day to help make VBS such a success. Whether they were leading a large-group session, serving as a small-group leader, preparing food, signing children in, helping with activities, or staying late to clean up, every volunteer played an important role. We could not have run such an amazing program without them.

We are so blessed to have so many people who are willing to give their time, talents, and resources toward investing in the children of our church and our community. It was truly a team effort, and we are so thankful for everyone who played a part.

Looking ahead to the Fall

As we look forward to the fall, I want to draw your attention to a few exciting things happening in Children's Ministry:

Kingdom Kids

First, Kingdom Kids will be launching on September 10, 2026, from 6:30–7:45 p.m. This program is for children in Grades 1–5. Each week, we spend time learning from God's Word while also having fun in the gym, playing games, and spending time with friends. If you know of a child who would enjoy being part of Kingdom Kids, or if you would like your child to attend, please email me at Heather@banwellchurch.org. This group runs every Thursday evening from 6:30–7:45pm.

Homeschooling Group

We are also continuing our Homeschooling Group for homeschooling families at Banwell Community Church. This group will be launching on September 11 from 10:00–11:30am. This group provides an opportunity for children to come together on Friday mornings to do a fun craft, play in the gym, and spend time with other children who are being homeschooled. It also provides an opportunity for moms to connect with, encourage, and get to know other moms who are in a similar season of life. This group runs every Friday morning from 10:00–11:30 a.m.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY (cont.)



Sunday School

We are also hoping to add another Sunday School class to our existing classes: Nursery, Little Lambs, Early Education, and Middle Education. To make this possible, we are looking for people who would be willing to serve as a teacher or helper in this new class. This would only be a once-a-month commitment, as our teachers and helpers will only be scheduled in the classroom once a month. If you are interested in helping or would like more information, please speak with me on Sunday morning or contact me at Heather@banwellchurch.org.

Family Events

Finally, we have an exciting family event planned for the fall! We are excited to be working together with the Men's Ministry during their annual Pig Roast to create a fun family event on October 3. This will be a great opportunity for the whole family to come out and enjoy an afternoon together! Families will be invited to play carnival games, make a fun craft, and then enjoy the delicious pig roast prepared by the men of our church. Make sure you mark your calendars and plan to join us for this fun fall family event! We can't wait to see you there!

Final Thoughts

As always, please continue to pray for all the children's ministries here at Banwell Community Church. Please pray that the hearts of our children will be receptive to the words spoken by our teachers and volunteers. Pray that our children will continue to grow in their relationship with Christ and that we will see many more children come to know and accept Jesus into their hearts for the very first time.

Thank you for continuing to support, encourage, and pray for Children's Ministry at Banwell Community Church. We are excited to see what God is going to do in the year ahead!

Heather Amarin
Children's Ministry Director

SMALL GROUP UPDATE

Our Small Group Ministry is preparing to resume for another season of discipleship and shared life in Christ. Groups will begin meeting again in the second and third weeks of September. Please speak with your small group leaders directly for exact meeting dates, times, locations, and rhythms.

If you are not currently part of a small group, sign-ups will be available after the worship service on Sunday, September 13. Small groups remain one of the best ways to build meaningful Christian friendships, grow in knowledge of Scripture, and walk through life with others who are seeking to follow Jesus faithfully.

As we continue our Walk Through the Word Bible reading plan, this fall offers a wonderful opportunity to join in, whether through the Full Version or the Selective Stream. If you haven't started yet, now is an excellent time to begin and experience the camaraderie that comes from reading Scripture alongside your small group community. We will be entering the New Testament by the end of September, making this a perfect moment to join us and engage with the story of Christ together.

This is a grace-filled challenge. If you fall behind, simply start anew with today's reading. If the volume feels overwhelming, switch to the Selective Stream. The goal is not perfection, but the steady formation of a daily habit of reading God's Word. As we enter this new season of small group ministry, receive the goodness of God's Word:

"The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;" (Psalm 19:7a)

"You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart," (Jeremiah 29:13)

Grace & Peace,
Pastor James Krasinkiewicz





YOUTH GROUP



This fall marks the beginning of a new ministry year. Our first gathering will be Friday, September 11, in the Church Outreach Centre from 6:30 – 8:45 pm. As always, parents will need to complete a new Youth Group Registration Form for the 2026 – 2027 school year, either on paper in-person or in advance online (<https://www.banwellchurch.org/youth>). This helps us keep information current and ensures we can care well for every student who attends.

One of the greatest blessings this year is our expanded leadership team. With double the number of leaders serving, our youth will experience stronger mentorship, deeper connection, and a supportive environment where every student is known and welcomed. I'm grateful for each leader who has stepped forward to invest in the next generation.

Each Friday night will follow a familiar and fruitful routine: worship, sword drills, Bible teaching, small-group questions, and prayer, snacks, and games. Students will have the opportunity to sign up for snack preparation, giving them a chance to contribute to the group and practice serving one another in Christlike love.

Our teaching schedule for the year is rich and intentional. We will begin with a study through the Torah—the first 5 books of the Old Testament—laying a foundation in God's story of creation, covenant, and redemption. Near Christmas, we will transition into the Gospel of John, exploring the beauty of Christ's life and gospel. Later in the year, we will spend time in 1 John and the book of Revelation, helping students see how God's story moves toward hope and the promise of Christ's return.

We are also welcoming a large group of young people moving up from Kingdom Kids into Youth Group. This is an exciting transition, and we ask you to pray that these students integrate well and feel at home quickly.

I'll leave you with the purpose statement of John's Gospel to consider the goodness of studying the Word of God:

"Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name..." (John 20:30-31)

Many Blessings
Pastor James Krasinkiewicz

PASTORAL CARE & WORSHIP

As this is my initial publication as Chair of Pastoral Care and Worship Committee, I want to take this opportunity to thank the past Chair, Aaron Blata, for his leadership, and the outgoing committee member, for their dedication in serving the Lord in this capacity.

Summer is coming to an end, and we are preparing for a new season. Part of this preparation is with our Care Team headed by Paul Marcotte. The Care Team plays an important part in the ongoing ministry of Banwell Community Church, and as such is vital to the well being of our congregation. This being said, the Care Team is looking for additional volunteers. If you feel this is an area in which you would like to serve, please reach out to Paul at care@banwellchurch.org.

Going forward, the Committee will be holding a 4P (Prayer, Praise, Pizza) meeting on September 16th to plan and formalize our worship time at Banwell Community Church. One important goal will be to ensure that we continue to create an atmosphere of worship and praise where our Lord will be magnified. As the hymn says, we are, “[To] worship the King, all glorious above; O gratefully sing His power and His love.”

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the members of our Praise Teams and our Worship Leaders who are actively keeping the atmosphere of worship uppermost in our services.

In Psalm 100:2 we read these words: “Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful singing.” May this be our goal as a congregation going forward into the future.

In closing, I want to encourage you to pray for our Committee as we continue to seek the Lord’s direction as we plan for the ongoing ministry of our church. I would also ask that if anyone has any suggestions/comments as to how we can better serve our congregation, to reach out to our Committee.

Psalm 29:2 “Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before Him, all the earth”.
Grace and Peace from our Lord Jesus Christ.

Garry Billings
Chair Pastoral Care and Worship Committee

SUMMER INTERNS

Our Community Organization Workers have completed a full and fruitful summer of ministry at Banwell Community Church. From June 30 to August 23, they poured themselves into the life of our congregation and our neighbourhood, serving with joy, creativity, discipline, and a genuine heart for Christ's mission and people.

Over these 8 weeks, they contributed to nearly every corner of our ministry. They reorganized classroom closets, labeled tables in the gym, and planned and ran our Thursday community drop-in, helping create a welcoming space for families and neighbours. They planned and taught Sunday School, giving our regular teachers a meaningful and well-deserved break. Under the supervision of Heather, our Children's Ministry Director, they planned and ran several elements of our Vacation Bible School, prepared thank-you bags for kids, created summary videos, and then undecorated the church once the week was done. Their work impacted over one hundred children and helped them to hear the gospel in a vibrant, Christ-centred environment.

Their service extended beyond children's ministry as well. They helped install the new cross in our sanctuary, created a volunteer video, organized the outreach centre mezzanine storage room, and designed promotional fliers for Kick-Off Sunday. Their fingerprints are on countless details that strengthened our ministries and blessed our congregation.

A unique highlight of their summer was joining Pastor James on a tour with MP Kathy Borrelli, where they shared about their positive experience serving at Banwell. This rare "claim to fame" helped demonstrate the breadth of our community involvement and the meaningful impact our church is having in Windsor-Essex County.

We celebrate their dedication and the Christlike character they displayed throughout the summer. Their work has strengthened our ministries, encouraged our volunteers, streamlined our procedures, blessed our youth, and helped us continue building a church that loves God and loves people.

Pastor James Krasinkiewicz



MP Kathy Borelli with Nathan, Ethan & Pastor James

Meet the Team



Summer Interns Nathan Wagner, Malina Klassen, and Ethan Phinney

Once again this year, we were able to appoint students to assist with our Vacation Bible School and summer activities. The appointments were made possible with the assistance of the Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) 2026 program.

Our Director of Children's Ministry, Heather Amarin, selected three excellent students who were a pleasure to have on our staff. The Interns were supported by numerous volunteers from the church, creating a great, committed team.

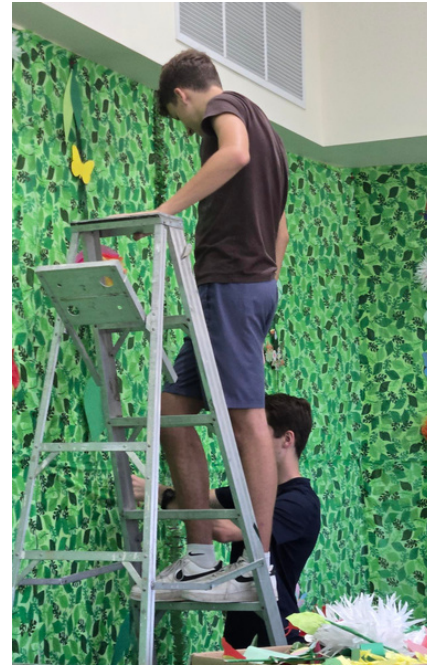
The following is a brief introduction to our Student Interns:

Malina Klassen

Returning for her second summer as one of our Student Interns, Malina brought her special creative talents to our VBS program and Summer Drop-In activities held each Thursday in our Outreach Centre. She noted that having the opportunity this year was special and very enjoyable. During VBS, Malina looked forward to her morning arrival when she would be welcomed with the enthusiasm that comes from excited children waiting for their special friend. Malina is a graduate of Maranatha Christian Academy and a member of Heritage Park Alliance Church. She will be returning to the University of Windsor to begin her second year in Computer Science.

Nathan Wagner

After receiving a word of encouragement, Nathan decided to apply for this position. As a result, he became one of our Student Interns. Nathan is active in his home church, Parkwood Gospel Church, where he has gained experience volunteering in various capacities. Nathan enjoyed the challenge of working and interacting with the kids. Connecting with the kids at VBS as well as at the Summer Drop-In program was a special experience. He specifically noted how much he enjoyed working with his fellow interns. Nathan graduated from Maranatha Christian Academy in June. He is headed for the University of Windsor majoring in English with studies in the Faculty of Education to prepare for a career in teaching.



Ethan Phinney

Enjoying kids having fun is how Ethan described VBS and the summer programs stating, “It was an amazing experience.” Ethan also volunteers with the Kid’s Programs at his home church, Parkwood Gospel Church. Ethan graduated in June from Maranatha Christian Academy and will be attending the University of Windsor in September, studying Mathematics and Computer Science with the goal of becoming a teacher. Like his fellow Interns, Ethan enjoyed the challenge of working with the VBS kids and the Thursday Drop-In program, which provided the opportunity for those in attendance to learn about God’s love while joining others in having a fun experience.

We were truly blessed to have our team of summer interns, Malina, Nathan and Ethan, helping to conduct our special summer program. To our Student Interns, God bless each of you as you begin your studies and thank you for your commitment to the Lord’s work.

Jim Wheeler



YOUNG ADULTS

Our Young Adults Ministry will be shifting to a lighter schedule this year. Rather than gathering twice a month, we will meet less frequently, with a focus on special events that serve the unique needs of adults ages 18 - 35. Our first gathering of the fall will take place on Wednesday, September 9, meeting in the Chapel from 6:30 - 9:00 pm. This will be a great opportunity to reconnect, worship God, study the Scripture, pray for one another, and begin the new ministry year together. Please keep an eye out for announcements throughout the year regarding additional gatherings, teaching nights, and fellowship opportunities.

Even with fewer formal meetings, we want our young adults to remain rooted in Christian community. I strongly encourage everyone in this age range to consider joining one of Banwell's Small Groups. These groups provide consistent fellowship, prayer, and discipleship that are essential supports for navigating work, school, relationships, and the many transitions that often characterize this season of life. Staying connected with other believers is one of the most important ways to grow in faith and remain anchored in Christ.

Thank you for your continued prayers for our Young Adults Ministry. May this be a year where young adults at Banwell deepen their walk with God and find joy in serving Christ together. As you step into a new season, may this Scripture be your encouragement: "[Be] filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God." (Philippians 1:11)

Kind Regards

Pastor James Krasinkiewicz



Some of our youth and young adults helping wash cars alongside "Captain Carwash" at the Men's Ministry annual Car Wash event in June.

Josiah's Guatemala Missions Trip

For two weeks this summer, I had the opportunity to travel to Guatemala as part of a ministry team serving a Christian school and the surrounding community of El Tizate. Our mission trip had two main parts: to meet the physical needs through medical care and to help people bring the things that were weighing on their hearts to Jesus through prayer. We cared for the body medically while also teaching people how to pray through wounds/traumatic experiences, troubling thoughts, sin, and generational things like occult activity (lots in this area): all things Satan uses to leave a person feeling spiritually trapped.

From the beginning, the trip came with unexpected challenges. On our first day, one of the doctors leading the team was bitten by a dog and had to receive treatment for rabies. Later, we experienced unexpected problems during prayer times, including power outages. These situations meant that we had to adapt quickly, trust God, and keep moving forward even when things did not go according to the plan.

What I did not expect was how much I would be involved in the prayer ministry. I had gone expecting to serve more in the background, but when we arrived, I quickly realized that I would be **LEADING** many of the prayer sessions! At first, this was intimidating. I felt I did not always know exactly what to say, or how I was supposed to lead, but I learned to step forward in faith and trust that God would provide what was needed – not me. And he did!

There were many moments during our prayer sessions when I felt the need to share words, thoughts, and pictures without knowing why I got them, later discovering that it had a significant impact on people in the prayer rooms: God provided for these people! Students opened up about things they had been carrying, and there were times when people were moved to tears as they brought things to Jesus. With a



Josiah administers an allergy test

Josiah's Guatemala Missions Trip (cont.)



A prayer session with the grade 12 class

lot of the people you could visibly see the amount of healing Jesus brought to their souls in their facial expressions and the ways they interacted with others afterwards.

There were a lot of moments on this trip that taught me that I did not need to have everything figured out. I simply needed to be willing to listen, step forward in faith, and allow God to work through me. What I thought would mainly be a trip where I served others through medical help became

an experience where God also challenged me to grow in faith and dependence on him.

In summary, I went to Guatemala to care for the people physically and spiritually, but I came home reminded of something simple: when we make ourselves available to God, he can use us in ways we never expected. I'm very grateful for this opportunity to serve in El Tizate and to witness what God is doing in the lives of the people in this country.



Josiah conducting spirometry and feno tests, which test for asthma and inflammation in the lungs

CHRISTIAN GROWTH & NURTURE

At our last committee meeting, in August, we reflected on how well the Kid's Summer Bible Camp program went this year. It was our second summer where we had upwards of 90 children attending during the morning portion of the day. The children were engaged and enthusiastic while taking part in various activities. Several of our children who have aged out of the program still wanted to be part of the event and took on roles as helpers with the various activities. The volunteers were attentive to the children and took time to build relationships with them over the course of the week. Thank you to the staff and volunteers at Banwell for a successful event!

We are now looking forward to the start of our various ministries following a restful summer break. These areas include Youth Group, Kingdom Kids, Small Groups and Young Adults. We plan to showcase these areas and the volunteer opportunities available during our annual Kick Off Sunday on September 13th. Following the service, we are looking forward to a time of fellowship, celebration of our various ministries and opportunities for connecting individuals with areas where they can get involved. There will be opportunities to talk with our committee chairs and some of our current volunteers. Information and sign-up sheets for our small groups will be made available as well. We hope you stay and enjoy some cake, coffee and fellowship!

We are also looking forward to our seasonal and holiday family events coming up in the new year. Stay tuned for announcements!

Blessings,
Christa Braccio
CG&N Committee Chair

LIBRARY

As we look forward to the fall I want to mention that I am stepping down as lead librarian, and Bev Penner has agreed to fill this position.

We would be willing to train some new volunteers to assist in a library rotation. Our library is open on Sunday at 10:10 a.m. until 10:25 a.m. and after the service for twenty minutes.

CHRISTIAN GROWTH & NURTURE (cont.)

LIBRARY (cont.)

I want to highlight two books that I read this summer that are in our church library:

Anyone who has read “Pilgrim’s Progress” by John Bunyan might be interested in reading the historical fiction titled “The Preacher’s Bride” by Jody Hedlund. This is set in 1659 when independent pastors were refused licence to preach and some were put in jail because they continued to defy the injunction put into law by Bishop Oliver Cromwell. John Bunyan wrote “Pilgrim’s Progress” while imprisoned for ten years. “The Preacher’s Bride” is about the woman who came alongside at the time of John Bunyan’s bereavement over his wife’s death in childbirth, leaving him with a newborn and another child to care for. I got a fresh look at what these men and women suffered for the glory of God and the preaching of the gospel.

The second book is “New Life in Serbia...the Novi Sad Christian Fellowship Story”, relating how a work of God was begun during a time of personal distress and war, written by Vera and Danny Kurangi. Some of our own church members know about this powerful testimony and I felt it would help us to understand the work of Jan, Ana and Ben Franka, missionaries Banwell supports in Serbia.

Come in and browse or look us up online at banwellchurch.org/library. You will see our list of almost 2000 books for all ages and a collection of DVD’s for those who still have that technology.

Marlene Hambly,
Library Custodian

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Friendship Circle will continue to meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:30a.m. in the library. We always welcome new friends as we share our lives with each other. There is always a lot of interesting conversation as we share our love of the Lord and each other. Please join us – it’s a great way to make new friends.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

A MISSION PARTNER: ABWE JAN & ANA FRANKA and BEN

(taken from their July email update)

We are having a very hot summer over here in Serbia, and we are managing to survive.

From July 17 to 29, we will be visiting 11 Serbian cities, together with the international music group Adonai. We will collaborate with them; they will be doing public concerts, and we will set up our stand and communicate with the audience. Our goal is to give out many Bibles and Christian booklets. Our last collaboration was very successful.

During this trip, we will also promote the Radio Sinaj ministry. Every Bible and booklet we distribute has a Radio Sinaj QR code that people can scan to listen.

This year, we are planning to publish a book, “With the Bible Throughout the Day”, which is a devotional from Zarko Dordevic, our Radio Sinaj narrator. This book will be a great tool for street evangelism. It is not only an encouragement for believers but also geared to seekers.

The Radio Sinaj station is broadcasting 24/7. Every week, we record new programs and add them to the schedule. So far, we do not have a LIVE program, but Lord willing, we are planning to make the first attempt in the fall.



How You Can Pray for the Frankas

1. The dedication of the renovated broadcast studio will be November 21st. Please pray for us as we prepare this humble event to introduce this facility and the ministry to Christians in Serbia.
2. Pray for us to finish the building and studios.
3. So far, we have not had an iOS app, and recently lost our Android app. Access is only through a web page. Ben is working very hard to create iOS and Android apps. Please pray for Ben in this matter.
4. Last week, Ben finished uploading the New Testament onto YouTube. Please pray for a good online campaign.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH (cont.)

GUATEMALA UPDATE



New Generation Church is a church plant in a Mayan region of Guatemala, in the village of Chichicastenango. It is pastored by Pastor Juan and his wife Evelyn, who also both serve as official chaplains to the local police force.

Banwell Community Church has recently supported, through our partner organization, ABWE, the installation of a steel frame and roof for an temporary meeting facility. Last year their church building was deemed unsafe for continued use, though it had been sacrificially constructed primarily by Juan himself several years ago. We were able to contribute \$5000, which was almost half of the cost of the new structure, since our volunteer team was not needed for this project.



FINANCE

As we head into a new year of ministry at Banwell Community Church, the Finance Committee is looking forward to how our God will provide through the faithfulness of His saints. Two major volunteer positions have turned over, with Dave Hammond having completed a three-year commitment as Committee Chair and with Victor (Vic) Hawkeswood having completed two three-year commitments as Treasurer. If you get a moment, please take the time to thank these two men for their faithfulness in administering fiduciary oversight of the church's finances!

The incoming Committee Chair is Aaron Blata (the author of this report), who has "shuffled" over from being the Chair of Pastoral Care & Worship (PC&W) to serve a one-year term, while the incoming Treasurer is Danielle Gadoury; she is committing to serve, at minimum, a three-year term. New to the Finance Committee is Rob Adlam, who has previously served in major roles at the church (and will be serving a three-year term), while Jeff Mackenzie returns to the Committee to continue in his three-year commitment. The Finance Committee is blessed to have the collective knowledge and faithfulness of Danielle, Rob, and Jeff in administering financial oversight at Banwell Community Church.

Please pray for the new leadership team; we can certainly use wisdom from above in the next year of budgeting, navigating, and communicating the use of our financial resources. At the "surface level", the Finance Committee has one of the smallest volunteer pools but one of the most significant budgets and mandates, so if you'd like to pray with specificity, we kindly request that you pray for the Finance Committee to apply wisdom in managing the potential trade-offs associated with financial controls and improved efficiencies. As we read in the biblical accounts of the Early Church, the distribution of financial resources is of utmost importance to how we gather and how we worship, so we pray that we would be found faithful in stewarding His Kingdom resources.

At Banwell Community Church, we put a great emphasis on how the Gospel can transform lives, and one of the most tangible ways is through the faithful giving of the local church. Independent research (pioneered by organizations like Partners for Sacred Spaces and the University of Pennsylvania) shows that, for every dollar a church spends, it generates several dollars in economic and social value for the wider community; this includes open spaces,

FINANCE (cont.)

hosting local events at below-market rates, and local spending. The data suggests that up to 90% of the people who use a church building during the week are non-members participating in community programs, childcare, recovery groups, or cultural events. Finally, churches often provide social safety net services (such as food pantries, suicide prevention, employment assistance, and crisis response) that would otherwise cost local governments immense sums to replace; the research largely defines these spin-off benefits as a “halo effect”. With the opening of our Community Outreach Centre (COC), we pray that Banwell Community Church is faithful in the giving, receiving, and distribution of financial resources to Kingdom efforts in Windsor-Essex, Ontario, Canada, and around the world.

In 2 Corinthians 8:1–3 and 2 Corinthians 9:6–8, we read about how the Macedonian churches demonstrated extreme generosity out of joy (despite their affliction); believers were encouraged to give voluntarily and cheerfully rather than reluctantly. At Banwell Community Church, we hold a similarly high regard for “cheerful giving”, and in the year ahead, we hope to emphasize and illustrate just how trustworthy and effective our Lord is in multiplying our faithful givings. Stay tuned!

Blessing upon you all,
Aaron Blata

Ways to Give

- E-Transfer: Send your donation to donate@banwellchurch.org. Ensure notification is sent to this email so your gift is properly recorded.
- Offering envelopes: Available in the pews. Ask for weekly or monthly numbered envelopes for convenience.
- Offering boxes: Located on the wall at the back of the sanctuary.
- Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD): Automatic withdrawal of a fixed amount at your chosen frequency. Ask at the Welcome Desk for a form to get started.

MENS MINISTRY

Men's Annual Bar-B-Q

Sixty-eight hungry men attended our annual barbeque filling their stomachs with a sizzling steak or chubby chicken. We were very fortunate that Ed Gilmore and Randy Van Wagner arrived just in time back from their appearance at the New York City Music Hall. The music presentation from their dueling banjos reverberated throughout the gym and they were fantastic. During a serious moment we were very thankful for the thoughtful devotion shared by Vladimir Kralk. Thanks to our chefs Ed Gilmore, John-Paul Begin, Mike Lauzon and the set-up/clean-up crew. To the men of Banwell, thank you for your support.



Corn Sale

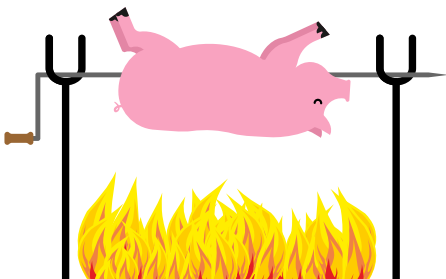


Thanks to Nortera Foods for once again providing corn at no cost to charitable organizations. All proceeds received by our sale of corn assist our school snack program. Stop by and purchase a dozen corn cobs.

Saturday, September 19th – 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Sunday, September 20th – 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Pig Roast



Our family Pig Roast was so popular last year that our executive chefs Blair and Justin Holman have convinced Porky Pig II to join them at the cooker very early in the morning (3:00 am) and all day so the flavour is perfect. When? **Saturday October 3, 2026. Dinner at 5:30 pm.**

Once again, we are fortunate to have Heather Amarin planning a fun filled family time prior to dinner.

Sign up will be required – Limited attendance – Free will offering.

Details Coming Soon

MEN'S MINISTRY (cont.)

Men's Conference

Save the date of Saturday February 13, 2027, when the men and their guests are encouraged to attend what will be a very challenging opportunity. Guest speaker, Pastor Brian Horrobin, will be speaking on the theme "Fathers Investing in Your Family." Beside the speaker, there will be small group discussions, and lunch will be included.

Reserve this date and attend, expecting to be challenged.

Breakfast Schedule

- Saturday September 26th – Speaker – Pastor Chuck Wilson
- Saturday October 24th – Speaker – Dave Ferrato
- Saturday November 28th – Speaker – Randy Van Wagner.



Members of our Men's Ministry food delivery program presented our grocery donor partners with plaques of appreciation, thanking them for their ongoing support. They also presented the stores with posters of appreciation that the school children had created to say thank-you.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Work at the front of our sanctuary continues with the installation of the new wooden cross. Painting of the south wall has already been completed. The rest of the sanctuary will be painted when the construction has been completed.

Our new projectors have arrived, but the bracketing to affix them to the pillars in the sanctuary has not! The projectors will be installed once said bracketing arrives.

Adjustments to the west doors continue to improve accessibility with an electronic unlock system. Next year we hope to apply for a grant to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities. We are also in the process of adjusting our Outreach Centre doors to stop water ingress during heavy rain.

Toilets and sinks have been changed / repaired around the church and Outreach Centre as required.

Appeal for volunteers: Help is needed to maintain our building. If you would like to assist please reach out.

Thanks to the rest of the Property Committee and all our volunteers / helpers.

Ed Gilmore

Student interns, Nathan and Ethan, along with Pastor James, help Daniel Blata and Tom Holmes install the new cross. Thanks to Mirko Plahcinski for constructing this beautiful addition to the front of the sanctuary.



AGE UNLIMITED

Age Unlimited meets on the second Wednesday of the month, at 11:00 a.m., from Sept. to Dec. and Feb. to June. Lunch follows at 12:15 p.m..

On Sept. 9, Ian and Lois Smith will share about their April 2026 cruise. None of our presenters get as many laughs as this pair as they openly share about problems they encountered like missing the boat, missing the plane, bumping up the rental car, etc.

On Oct. 14, Gord Hambly will be sharing a wide range of financial information and everyone will learn something and it may even be very profitable! For example, the Disability Tax Credit for most eligible people will put about \$2,000 back in their pocket every year but only an estimated 13% of Canadians with disabilities claim it! Gord is planning to cover 8 financial topics with a particular focus on the Disability Tax Credit.

On Nov. 11, Remembrance Day, Cathy Reiha will share about the trip she took 2 years ago visiting some of the famous World War sites where Canadian soldiers distinguished themselves. Although applied to a different situation, Winston Churchill's quote is very appropriate: "Never has so much been owed by so many to so few".

On Dec. 9 we will have a quiz/game time, sing many Christmas carols and enjoy a banquet.

At our meetings we have a devotional, sing 2 or 3 hymns and always have a great time, particularly over the lunch our hospitality team prepares for us at 12:15 p.m. We normally have about 50 to 60 people, including the hospitality team, attend. As our name indicates, people of all ages are welcome, including friends from outside our church.

Gord Hambly, Shirley Knowles,
Garry Billings, Linda Currie





Sincere thanks to all our contributors for
keeping our church family informed.
We are blessed.

News Team:
Jim Wheeler, Bev Penner and Barb Kyte-Stephens

Lead Pastor, Rev. Steven Amorin
Banwell Community Church
2400 Banwell Road
Windsor, Ontario N8P 1X9
(519) 735-2654

A member church of the Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec