

Northview Community Church's 100th Anniversary

1920 - 2020

Reflecting over the last 40 years

Additional Resources:

The on-line Flipbook contains pictures and reflections from 1920 to 1980, copied from the publication celebrating the Church's first 60 years.

A video shows all of the locations that the Regina Free Methodist Church has been over the past 100 years, along with what is at each location today.

A video showing the work involved in building the addition to Northview in 2000.

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Sherwood Drive First Impressions - Rev. Steve Lougheed

My first experience with Northview was in 1981 when it was still the Sherwood Drive Free Methodist Church. Free Methodist youth from Western Canada rallied at Sherwood Drive FMC before venturing to Estes Park, Colorado, for a North American Free Methodist Youth Conference. My wife Pam and I were dating at the time and Pam's parents drove Pam and me to Regina in their motorhome the night before we left for Colorado early the next morning.

I was accustomed to churches with steeples and pitched roofs but my first impression of the Sherwood Drive church was this church looked like a warehouse. My young mind queried, "Is this architecture theologically legit? Would Jesus approve? Where's the steeple? Why is the building so red in colour? Is it because red is symbolic of Jesus' sacrifice or was there a great sale on red paint at Glidden's? Or am I just overthinking things?" Most importantly, though, Sherwood Drive FMC was a rallying point for Jesus-seeking young people and the youth conference in Colorado ended up being wonderfully unforgettable.

I attended Aldersgate Bible College in Moose Jaw and then Canadian Theological Seminary in Regina. I came on staff in 1987, prior to the church moving to the Northview location.



Sherwood Drive staff:
Steve & Pam Lougheed,
Shauna & Tim Archer,
Bonnie & Gord Hallett

Sherwood Drive Mural – Rev. Steve Lougheed

Sherwood Drive Free Methodist Church had a spacious, inviting lobby with a fireplace gathering area. One of the earliest bible studies I led as a pastor was around that fireplace with a group of young adult/college and career people.

Another striking feature of Sherwood Drive FMC's entry way was the "Giant Jesus" portrait painted on the wall, greeting you just before you entered the sanctuary. Once in a while I couldn't help but think this was "Zombie Jesus." Somewhat ominous, to say the least, and although the painting was no Michelangelo, it did remind worshippers of the centrality of Jesus in our worship gatherings.



In 1974, Cathy Brandhagen painted this large wall mural of Christ in memory of her father, Guy Cudmore.

Healing Memories - Rev. Steve Lougheed

Northview has this knack for making people feel welcomed and loved. Over the years, many have come and gone but I cannot help but think the Holy Spirit leads people who are broken and in need of healing to our church. I found healing and restoration in our church for which I will be forever grateful. I have always felt the love of Jesus here.

When I was Northview's Lead Pastor, a surprise 40th birthday party was planned in my honour. It was a lot of fun. Our church's young people made birthday cards for me. Many gave words of affirmation. Even the rock-band "Kiss" performed "Rock and Roll All Nite" (thanks to Brett "The Cat" Leibel, Darryl "The Star-Child" Dozlaw, Klint "The Spaceman" Harder, and Pat "The Demon" Kossman). The performance was awesome. People were dancing in the aisles (everyone's inner-Pentecostal came out of the closet)! It all conveyed to me that I am loved.



Fifteen Years of Highlights - Rev. Gord Hallett

Gord was the Church's Lead Pastor through many exciting events from 1986 until 2000. Some highlights from that time include:

- ✓ Donating the old church on Sherwood Drive to Arlington Beach Camp.
- ✓ Purchasing the new church in Argyle Park.
- ✓ Renovating the existing church in Argyle Park.
- ✓ Having two capital campaigns. One to purchase the new property and one to add the addition.
- ✓ Starting a Seeker Service and seeing the attendance grow to 200.
- ✓ Having 75 children attending Discovery Land.
- ✓ Working with an amazing Leadership team: Pastors Steve Lougheed & Barry Taylor, Bonnie Hallett, Shauna Archer, Belinda Liebel, Darryl Dozlaw, Amanda Eldred.
- ✓ Having each person on the Leadership Team develop their own team of committed volunteers.
- ✓ Seeing people come to faith in Christ and watching them grow in their Christian walk.



The Halletts: Bonnie, Josh, Jessica, Jeremie & Gord

Seeker Music - Rev. Darryl Dozlaw

In the nearly 30 years that my wife Vonda and I were at the church now called Northview, there was always something special about the music.

In the early 1990's, the advent of the 'Seeker Service' concept was begun under Rev. Gord Hallett's leadership.

The Seeker Service involved a weekly thematic message that was presented through not only the spoken word of the preacher, but also through an introductory homily presented by a lay person, a scripted sketch-drama, and live music. I was provided with the opportunity to lead bands that were challenged by the direction of our Sunday morning gatherings to present music that was not only 'thematically tight' but also artistically ambitious.

The Northview band gig was initially intense because most of the people involved had never played in a band or even performed on a stage. Some musicians were quite young and were learning their instruments at band rehearsals, which took place on Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings in preparation for a Sunday morning run-through/sound check. While it began with only four or five instrumentalists and a handful of singers who often sang to cassette accompaniment tracks, the Band eventually grew to a music program that would, at its peak, consist of over fifty instrumentalists and singers, performing all the music live.



*Darryl (left) and
Band outside
Winston Knoll
Collegiate*

Approaching church music to fit the “Seeker Service” concept, the demand for songs that fit the weekly themes often exceeded the availability of such music. Much of the programming work we were doing was at a time when the internet was still a dial-up thing and there was no Christian bookstore in Regina, so we often found that it made more sense to just write something rather than to try to find (or worse- adapt) something to fit. Throughout the seeker period, I wrote music with Rev. Barry Taylor, Mike Dynna, Christine Haider and others, but my happiest songwriting memory was with Rev. Steve Lougheed in the summer of 1992. While this was fairly early on in the Seeker gig, it whispered of the direction Northview music would head by the end of the decade.

Steve was not only preaching often at Northview by this time, but was also becoming a regular vocalist with the band. However, something changed when Steve began to learn guitar, primarily as a personal worship tool. Having a vehicle for his own musical ideas, he had begun to write worship songs. He invited me to join him on a weekend songwriting retreat at the Kinney Cabin. I packed up a keyboard (because I had not yet begun to take guitar seriously) and we drove to Arlington Beach.

There was lots of Bible reading; lots of sharing, life on life; lots of prayer and a rich outpouring of the Holy Spirit. That weekend, we wrote at least ten worship songs over the course of a day and a half. While, in time, many of those songs would run their course and be set aside, I know of at least two of those songs that are still being sung today.

It would be seven or eight years before I would again experience such a creative, Spirit-driven surge of this kind - just as Northview music moved into its ‘worship band’ identity.

Graffiti on a Church? (Part 1) - Rev. Darryl Dozlaw

It began when some neighbourhood punk tagged the building in spring 2004. The punk in question would probably be pushing 30 now. I was an associate at Northview at the time and was driving south on Sangster one day shortly after. I thought 'Jeez- if I were a vandal, I'd paint on that huge white wall too.' That's when I decided to petition the board to pay for materials to do something on the back of the building.

My original idea was to ask Kris Jan - in high school at the time - to do it. He was artsy enough and was already demonstrating a leadership bent... I had done murals all over the school I taught at in Pilot Butte using students as the painters of these giant 'paint by numbers' pieces I designed. I figured Kris could do the same thing at Northview.

Kris said he didn't feel 'good enough' but knew someone who was. Kris introduced me to Mikha- a young newcomer artist from Russia who had already been commissioned by his school and a couple businesses in town to do work. I pitched the idea to him and he agreed to do the work for free because I was offering such a huge space upon which to create. We were without a concept, however, so he got to work reading a Bible and making preliminary sketches.

In the meantime, I presented my idea to the Board as a neighbourhood landmark that would invite Northview's neighbours to rethink their defaults about churches and the Jesus that churches serve. I told the Board it wouldn't cost any money - that we would raise the money for the materials through selling hotdogs at Sobeys or something, so all I needed was a blessing. I showed them photographs of Mikha's finished works, and presented some preliminary sketches that storyboarded the tale of Jonah. Incredibly, they gave us the green light even without finished concept art. I guess they trusted me and I trusted Mikha.

Graffiti on a Church? (Part 2) - Rev. Darryl Dozlaw

The artist Mikha and I met many times over coffee to discuss new concepts and directions for the mural before finalizing the design. In the end, there was to be a central character- whom he assured me was not a caricature of myself- suspended between two worlds, rendered in fisheye perspective. The one world- described in the Bible held in the character's hand- was to be a depiction of paradise: creation before the fall, with the Tree of Life in the centre. The other world- finding realization in a spray coming from a spray bomb in the character's other hand- was a post-fall urban cityscape, with the steeple of a church mirroring the tree of life. There would be grass, vines (more vegetation=life metaphor) pushing up from underneath the sidewalks, cracking pavement etc. The idea was that people live in the tension between the God-created paradise described in scripture and the humanity-created city- we read this and create that- but the essence of the Creator's work is essentially present, and is slowly reclaiming the space in God's ongoing effort for the renewal of all things.

The artist painted the entire work by himself one week in October of 2005. Mikha was not, at that time, an active believer in, or follower of, Christ. However, he was significantly different in his perspective than his spray painting peers. I believe it was the time we spent together that meaningfully shaped his outlook and ultimately his self-concept as an artist.

Mikha took me out for coffee a year later and thanked me and Northview for giving him the opportunity to do that work. He said that it had inspired him to think bigger, and had readied him to move to Alberta where there were opportunities that he was excited to pursue. He also thanked me for challenging him to think about God in ways that he never had before. Then he drove away and I never saw him again.

I'm very proud of that work, and am exceptionally pleased that it has been deemed as relevant enough to both the church and the surrounding neighbourhood to be retained and intact a decade and a half later.

For me personally, I see the character suspended between realities as very much who I have become, living in an urban Saskatoon neighbourhood and seeking to participate in God's

renewal of all things here. While Mikha may not have been intentionally creating a caricature, the neighbourhood minister that I have grown into since having those early conversations has been recognizably informed by them. It is said that life imitates art, not the other way 'round.



Eight Years of Memories - Rev. Barry & Tracey Taylor

As a newly married couple, who met at Aldersgate College in Moose Jaw, we moved to the city of Regina in August of 1990, so Tracey could complete her education degree at University of Regina. With that move, (from Moose Jaw for Tracey and Ottawa for me) we were starting our lives together as a couple.

We began attending Northview Community Church and were warmly welcomed into the church family. Getting to deepen our relationships with prior college friends and make new ones with those who called Northview home, helped ease a young couple dealing with so many changes.

It was while at Northview that we began some big steps as we bought our first home (from Tim and Shauna Archer, who attended Northview), had our first child (Hudson), and I started serving there in pastoral ministry.

While our time at Northview only lasted eight years (moving to an Ontario church in 1998), we have often reflected that the way God used our time there was hugely impacting on us. The different churches we have served at have all gifted us with great friendships. Northview friends have a special place in our hearts, we still love to stay connected and worship there when we are able.



*The Taylors:
Dalton,
Lyla,
Hudson,
Tracey,
Barry*

Drama Ministry - Rev. Barry & Tracy Taylor

Pastor Steve Loughheed approached me, after a few months of our attending Northview, about starting a drama ministry. The intent was to have short sketches (7 to 10 minutes in length) each week to present issues that the preacher would then deal with through the sermon. I attempted to deflect Steve's request with a caution of my inexperience. I had been acting since I was in high school and college, but I had never directed. He affirmed that he and others saw that I had the gifts to get this ministry going.

Those first few years Tracey and I were the primary actors in the ministry as we scoured every drama source we could find for two actor sketches to have something to use each week. Gradually we began to build up our talent pool, offering drama workshops and small parts to build skill levels, and seeing those with creative writing gifts write sketches to be performed.



Tracey & Barry Taylor attempt to "Pump Up" Monty Verhulst, Coleen Borgares & Melissa Verhulst

Seeing the church reclaim art and artistry through creative expressions like drama, even a little dance, and song writing was

a powerful encouragement to many people that took part or watched the performances done to glorify Christ.

Where simply explaining a point can help someone gain insight from God, watching a scene play out that felt like being in someone's home broke down walls. Just as in life, not every drama had a happy ending and that is what helped the Lord speak into people's lives.

Northview “Flatbed” Concerts - Rev. Barry Taylor

Northview’s desire to help the church move outside the walls was a strongly missional move that is in keeping with God’s working in our world. One of the exciting parts for me about my time serving at Northview, was the music ministry’s inclination to reach out.

As someone who loved taking part in the music team, I was greatly encouraged by the gift of being part of the team. To be able to write songs with them, to play songs live – the Sunday morning service at Northview gave a great degree of room. A key part of the Sunday service planning was to have songs that were taken from current radio airplay so that people could hear spiritual truths in music they might know.

Over the years people would comment positively on the caliber of musicians at Northview.

One suggestion that led into a different idea, came from Colleen Borgares. She thought it would help attract more community people to have speakers outside on the church walls so the community could hear the good music inside on a Sunday morning. That morphed into the idea where the music team would play a concert outside in the church parking lot. One of the musicians, Mike Dynna, worked in trucking and offered to get a flatbed semi-trailer for the team to use as a stage. That is how the Flatbed Concert came to be, which was a great outreach success.



The Northview band playing outside at Winston Knoll School

Northview Love - Christine Daigneault, Staff Member

Northview and their friendship and guidance have always been, will always be, a favorite time of my life. The open doors and welcoming people made such a difference to what it means to have a relationship with Jesus.

My great time was creative openness. I started a job with them as a maintenance person, and hearing all the creativity on the “other side of the doorway”, I was given the opportunity to participate in drama and music and multimedia. It made a huge difference in my life to live and learn with incredible people. My position evolved to the Programming Director with all of us learning as we went.

Barry and Tracey were already doing a tremendous job at drama, and let me in. Barry and Darryl and Steve, AMAZING musicians and singers, let me in. I also had the chance to learn and do all the multimedia from sound and lights all the way to computer projections. Putting together the equipment we needed to “project” video was so dynamic. Thank goodness time has made technology easier!! Belinda began by looking after and teaching the kids in Discoveryland and look at her now! What a wonderful time to grow as a Christian, become closer to God.

I really should recount everything and everyone I got to know and become dear lifetime friends with. We really laughed and sometimes cried. It would sound like a long acceptance speech at the Oscars! You know who you are and the love you gave, not just to me but, to everyone who attended and came through the doors for the first time.

I was part of the time we spent preparing for and undergoing construction, expanding the building itself to have room for more people who were drawn to the church on the corner. Sweeping the slag in the parking lot until it was paved, building a garage, taking on new staff, changing the sign every

week with a new fun title, being part of the arts and adding to the inside walls, being part of the Board, seeing change and accepting all of these, were times of purpose and growing.

I'm far away now but I know I could still walk through the doors and feel at home. I have always loved the history of the church and felt so blessed to participate in the continual thoughts of change and growth. What a remarkable time to look at today, recall yesterday and be excited for the future.



Learning about Transparency - Tressa Bosley, Staff Member

My family and I started attending Northview in 1997 and I can remember that so clearly because the day we walked through the doors our oldest daughter, Jordyn, was only 6 months old and we were cheerfully greeted by Belinda!

We immediately felt a part of the Northview Family! As I grew in my faith, I wanted to join a ministry and soon became part of the Multimedia Team on Sunday mornings.



Belinda Leibel, Tressa Bosley, Steve Lougheed and Christine Daigneault. Bullwinkle's antlers provided by Darryl Dozlaw.

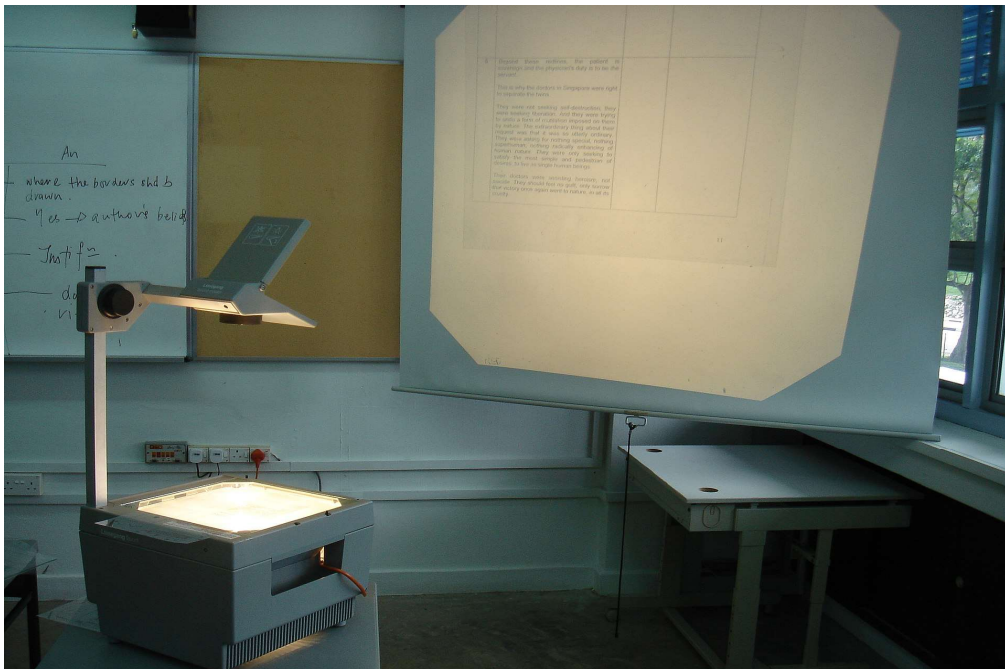
Shortly after I joined this Ministry, we had to temporarily relocate to the Community Centre next door because Northview was building an addition. That meant, for me, that Sunday morning multimedia would be an overhead projector and about a dozen or more of those slippery transparency sheets with the lyrics to the songs and hymns.

If you know anything about an overhead projector, getting the transparencies to move in the direction you want is no easy task! Especially for someone who can't read a map unless I physically turn it in the direction we are travelling!

Two things I learned very quickly so that the congregation didn't realize I was having a mild heart attack:

- 1) DO NOT drop the transparencies because they will slide everywhere on the floor.
- 2) DO NOT panic when trying to pick up all of the transparencies that are now scattered all over the floor.
- 3) Quickly look for the next song in the set because that is your immediate need.

I loved every minute and now consider myself basically a professional in all things related to overhead projectors. I am still working on my map-reading skills!



Northview First Impressions - Chris Fisher, Partner

In the Fall of 1990, Carol and I moved our family from Moose Jaw to Regina. We had been attending First Free Methodist Church, pastored by Reverend Keith Alford, and decided to seek out its Regina equivalent.

It took some hunting to identify Northview Community Church, but we were not bothered by the lack of Free Methodist branding. We had both been raised in the United Church, more drawn to relationship and a relevant message than theology. It was annoying, though, to discover that the church was in the far north end of the city, with the advertised “north view” being of smoky Ipsco.

The building was small, but again we weren’t worried. We were both from small towns, where the churches were never very large.

The building did not look like a church. It was a box that ran north to south, with the roof slanting up from west to east. It looked like half of a Ready to Move building, patiently waiting to be rejoined with the other half.

We were enthusiastically greeted at the door by a stream of hand-shakers. A bit too happy, for our introverted liking. Still, not too worried as we entered the sanctuary.

We chose chairs in the back row on the left. I noticed the pot-lights hanging down from the ceiling, and the words for the first song projected on the front wall.



After everyone stood for the first song, some people across the aisle leaned forward, then slowly straightened up. When they did it again for the second verse, I nudged Carol and nodded at them on our right. Her eyes expanded and she clutched my arm. No one else seemed bothered by this strange ritual, which went on through every song. For the rest of the service we were poised to bolt, but we observed no other weird behavior.

Pastor Hallett delivered a great message and we did return the next week. We learned to ignore the “leaners”. One Sunday, we were talking with Bob Kardynal in the foyer. He mentioned in passing that he wished the pot-lights didn’t hang so low. Tall people like him couldn’t see the top row of the projected songs, unless they leaned forward.

Riders Who? - Rev. David Schuchardt

After several Skype interviews surrounding the possibility of my becoming Northview's lead pastor in the Fall of 2014, the next step in the discernment process was to come to Regina to meet the congregation. During that weekend, Shelly Kainz and Sheryl Church (members of the Pastoral Leadership Task Force) took me and my wife Sarah on a tour around the city. As we drove through one particular section (near the old stadium), I kept noticing signs in windows supporting the Riders. This area seemed to be a little rougher than others, so I asked the women if the Riders were a bike gang here in Regina.

This led to hysterics on the part of Shelly and Sheryl and dismay on the part of Sarah. As it turned out, the Riders were the city's CFL football team. They were very popular and many people around the province were quite proud of them. Sarah was fairly convinced that I, at that moment, had blown the whole opportunity to become the new lead pastor. Fortunately for me, grace was extended and I now firmly know who the Riders are!



First Sermon - Rev. David Schuchardt

Preaching is a major component of being the lead pastor of a church. I have had the privilege, even though I've never been an associate pastor officially, of preaching regularly in a variety of churches. However, nothing prepared me for the experience of preaching as part of the discernment process for becoming lead pastor at Northview.

Preaching is a dialogue between the Lord, the preacher, and the congregation. So, it is very difficult to stand in front of a congregation that you do not know at all and "preach a good sermon." On top of this, all of my old habits that result from my nervousness, were trying to come to play. I desperately wanted to not look at anyone, not have anyone hear my monotone voice, and I wanted nothing more than to read from my notes.

I thought that to successfully preach my first sermon to an unknown congregation, I should let Northview know what I was all about. So, my first sermon was about the call to the new life in Christ (I think). My main image was from the movie *The Matrix*. We talked about the need to see the world as it is (Jesus as Lord of the Kingdom) and to respond appropriately. I purposefully outlined my notes so I would not be tempted to read. And, most importantly, I rehearsed, rehearsed, rehearsed! Then I had to face the Q & A...



Financial Generosity - Rev. David Schuchardt

Finances and the life of the church go hand in hand. It is no different at Northview. When I first arrived at Northview in January of 2015, we had gone through a time where giving was down. We had recovered through a bequeath and some generous giving. So, it was very exciting when Chris Fisher (then our Board treasurer) reported a surplus built up in our bank account. The Board decided to pay off an outstanding loan to our denomination (used to pave our parking lot) and also to put \$25,000 against our outstanding mortgage.

This blessing in our financial situation was certainly a gift from God. That prosperity did not stop there, however. Not long after that event, we were approached by Sasktel to purchase a small portion of our land to erect a stealth pole. Standard to their deals, they let us know how much land they were required to purchase (more than they needed for the pole and boxes) and said they were willing to pay over market value. As a board, we discussed what might be reasonable to ask for and we drew on the expertise of Shelly Kainz (real estate) and Chris Fisher (City of Regina) to guide our decision. We settled on asking for \$70,000.

Once we decided this and Sasktel indicated they were willing to pay that amount we took it to our Society in a special Society Meeting. The sale was approved and we held a second special Society Meeting to approve a spending plan for this money. With the money, we purchased the new chairs in the sanctuary, we remediated the mould in the garage, and we replaced the ceiling tiles in the basement. We limited the number of projects because we wanted to put as much against our outstanding mortgage as possible, which we did.

It wasn't long after this that we were informed by the denomination (who our mortgage was arranged through) that the remainder of our mortgage had been paid in full by an anonymous donor. This made Northview debt-free for the first time in its life. As well, because we no longer needed to pay a loan and mortgage payment (almost \$2,000 per month), we were able to increase both ministry and staff. We have been incredibly blessed by the generosity of the Lord and his people at Northview.

In the Company of Women - Rev. David Schuchardt

Prior to the 2017 FMCiC General Conference, Jared Siebert (head of church planting) presented a conference on the theme, In the Company of Women. This was an inspiring day of hearing from deeply formed Christian women and men about the biblical importance of women in the church and ministry. As we left General Conference, that stayed with me and I kept thinking, how can we bring that to Northview?

When I was at Family Camp at Arlington Beach that summer, I noticed how many female pastors we had in Saskatchewan. I wondered if it would be possible to gather them together to preach a series on the biblical importance of women in the church and ministry. I reached out to several of those pastors with the idea. Some were able to participate and others were not. In the end, we had Rachel Runnalls (Moose Jaw), Amy Bratton (Saskatoon), Jodi Pfeifer (Weyburn), Tiffany Lougheed (Northview), and Carol Smith (in Toronto at that time) preach in this series. I had originally envisioned all women preaching, however, it was said that a series on the importance of women would be incomplete without hearing from a man, so I also preached.

It was clear that the series was powerful for the people of Northview, especially the women. The series was also noticed by other churches inside and outside of Northview. We hope to do this sort of series again.



Connecting with our Neighbourhood – Rev. David Schuchardt

One of my diagnostic questions for the church is, “if we were to disappear from here tomorrow, to whom would it matter?” If the answer is just the people on the inside of the building then we have a mission problem. With that in mind, one of the things I wanted to focus on was finding ways to connect with our neighbours in positive ways. I wanted to send the message, *we exist for you*.

We had to be careful that we didn’t think about these connections as a means to an end; we were (and are) not trying to increase weekly attendance. Rather, we want to build a relationship with our neighbours.

People connect over food. So, an easy way to begin was to host an outdoor BBQ. This had a double effect. It brought the people of Northview outside of the church to meet their neighbours and it began to communicate to our neighbours that we aren’t trying to trick them into coming inside.

Another easy place to connect with our neighbours and give them the same type of message was at Halloween. Some churches understand Halloween to be a demonic celebration and get caught up whether or not to allow their children to participate or not. We think that Halloween is a reality of our culture and is an opportunity to positively engage our neighbours. We make our building a place where families and children have access to light, warmth, and bathrooms.

This also created relationships, but was closer to ministry. The truth is that we could offer these things because of the gospel. The truth is that Jesus is Lord even on Halloween. We do not need to fear the darkness or the powers (both have been defeated). We can declare the Lordship of Christ and invite others into his protection through us.

These community relationships continue. Our landscaping projects were about being a good neighbour. We have added a Christmas event and clothing giveaways. This has all been about helping our neighbours have a foretaste of the kingdom of God. If we were to ask to whom our existence matters today, I believe that the answer would be not to just our worshipers, but the people of Argyle Park, Englewood, and Hawkstone.