

PASTORAL CARE

Once again, Pastoral Care was a significant and growing part of my schedule in 2023, and at times could be overwhelming when considering the heartache and brokenness of families and individuals facing crisis that is sometimes unimaginable. I had well over 100 one-on-one interactions this year; including home, hospital, office & coffee shop visits, plus phone calls. Pastoral Care has been something I've always enjoyed and will personally miss connecting with the people.

Weddings and funerals are a part of Pastoral Care ministry. A great aspect of Pastoral Care is that often I've been invited to visit families in the hospital and lead funerals for those within our community, giving opportunity to share the Gospel message.

MEN'S MINISTRY

Since June of 2012 I have been overseeing Men's Ministry. In January 2013 we began our Ironmen group based on Proverbs 27:17, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." Our Saturday morning meetings are very well attended. Our Thursday night men's group, Men Who Win, had a transition in leadership as Brian Van Arragon and family moved to northern Ontario to pastor a church there. Since then, Rumer Samonte has been giving leadership to that Group. Stephane Therrien leads Band of Brothers, and hosts Men's Breakfasts twice each year. We had our 2nd annual Men's Retreat in September with an even greater response than the previous year. It was a fantastic weekend. We have already booked the retreat and speaker for 2024.

GOLDEN LIFE

Golden Life... they have too much fun! I have always loved hanging out with this fun-loving, encouraging group of Seniors. We endeavour to meet monthly throughout the year. Some highlights this year were meeting under the tent during the summer, strawberry social, BBQ, playing shuffleboard, and our Christmas Banquet. To inform our Golden Life group, we continued our "Life Series" and hosted the Alzheimer Society of Simcoe County who gave a presentation for the Golden Life, and their family members, on Dementia and Alzheimer's. The previous "Life Series" meeting was a presentation by the Barrie Police Service regarding Senior and Grandparent Frauds and how to avoid being scammed. We also started doing monthly midweek coffee/tea/treat times in our cafe at the church.

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT SEMINAR

In April we hosted a 1-day Marriage Enrichment Seminar, as we invited Family Life Canada to lead us through some reminders and tips of strengthening our marriages. We had a great response, registering almost 100 people.

BENEVOLENCE

Jesus told us that we would always have the needy amongst us. We have served dozens of families from both our community and our church family in 2023. Thank you for your continued generosity in giving food items as well as financial resources. The need truly is GREAT!

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POLICE CHAPLAINCY

I continue to feel honoured, favoured and privileged to serve in this role. The Barrie Police Service is very appreciative of Mapleview Church, and will often use our facility for various functions, like Graduations and Annual Awards ceremonies. Please do not stop praying for God's protection for our Officers here, and across the country!

A PERSONAL NOTE

In September of 2023 I returned to a University Masters Program (MACP), and resigned from Mapleview, one of the hardest decisions I've ever made. I will deeply miss my role as a staff member of MCC. I've been so privileged to work alongside so many great Staff Members over the years, especially with Lori-Lynn and of course working with Pastor Jay and Jody as they give Leadership to MCC. I'll still be a member here for years to come. We all have lots to be thankful for in being a part of great church family; express that to someone this week. Thank you church family for being so kind and encouraging to me and our family over the past 21 years!

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Craig Head
Pastoral Care