

FIRST NEWS & NOTES

August—September 2025



**FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH**
PETROLIA ONTARIO

The One Who Counts and Counts on Us

We live in a world that counts everything.

Banks count money. Social media counts followers and likes. Businesses count profits.

We count birthdays, anniversaries, and sometimes even the calories we eat.

How good are you at counting? It's absolutely astonishing how many things we count in our lifetime. From our earliest days we learned how to count.

How important we felt when we could make it to 100. Farmers count livestock and how many bushels to the acre. Governments have a census to count people, and on and on we could go.

I vividly remember in Freemantle, Western Australia, watching in awe as around 60,000 sheep were being loaded live on a huge multi-decked boat destined for the Middle East. I think my mouth dropped open seeing those thousands of sheep being counted manually as they ran up ramps onto the boat.

Even in Bible days they were counting. We find recorded in Luke 15:3-7, Jesus telling a parable about a farmer who had one hundred sheep, but when he did the head count, there was only ninety-nine.

"He leaves the ninety-nine in the open country and goes after the one that is lost." (Luke 15:4)

What a message to us that to Jesus, every sheep matters. It tells us something powerful: Heaven counts differently than we do. It's a good thing for us to remember that God counts – He even knows the number of hairs on our heads! (Luke 12:7).

We may count crowds. We may measure success by how many are present. But Jesus is moved by the one who is missing. And his mission is still the same - to seek and to save those who are lost (Luke 19:10)

You may think no one sees you or values you. But heaven sees you. Heaven is counting you in. You're not just a number—you are a name, a face, a life that Jesus was willing to die for.

When the shepherd finds his sheep, what does he do? "He lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing." (Luke 15:5) Our God is not only a seeking God, but He is also a celebrating God.

Jesus says, "There is more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine who don't need to." (Luke 15: 7)

This parable tells that God Is Counting on Us to Join the Search. He's counting. Not just how many come through the doors. He's counting how many we are willing to go after.

~ Pastor Alex Craig

Calendar of Events

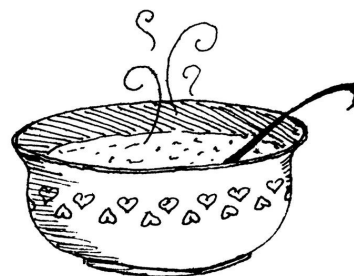
August

- 3 Church in the Park (St. Paul's) - 7 pm
7 Terry Willis
10 Church in the Park (First Baptist) - 7 pm
11 - 15 Intergalactic Voyage Bible Camp—9:30-noon
14 Harald Rust
17 Church in the Park (St. Andrews) - 7 pm
20 Earle & Bev Woolaver Anniversary
24 Church in the Park—featuring “The “Chapelaire” - 7 pm
31 Fellowship after worship



September

- 2 Judy Baker
2 Sharon McGrail
9 Bill Baker
10 Marlie White
10 Joe Ainsworth
14 Earle Woolaver
16 Deacon's Meeting
18 Seniors' Lunch & Hymn Sing—noon
18 Wanda Pratt
20 Millie White
23 Lois Dennis
23 Business Meeting—7 pm
28 Missionfest Soup Luncheon
30 Ken Girard



CBOQ ASSEMBLY 2025



WHAT was I getting myself into!

I had just signed up for CBOQ Assembly. This year's 137th Assembly was held June 5-7, 2025 at Brock University in St. Catharines. I had never been to CBOQ Assembly or as I refer to it, the Annual Meeting. I was expecting lengthy meetings, long-winded speakers and business details but it was so much more!

There was worshipping, fellowship, guest speakers, learning new information, Bible studies, question and answer sessions about what would be discussed in the AGM and of course meals to enjoy. There were 489 attendees from 294 churches. It was a time for me to better understand what CBOQ can do for our church. You see, CBOQ provides the structure and support for our family of churches to help us in our ministry. They are our partners, providing financial assistance, resources, encouragement, and leadership development just to name a few services.

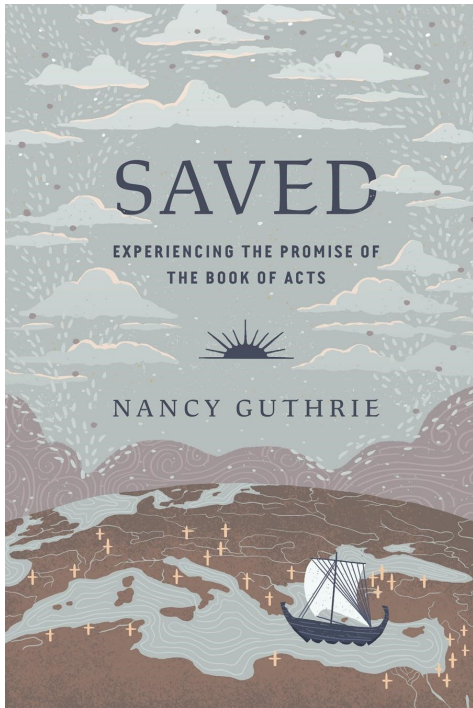
The theme was "Sharpen Your Pencils". Preparing to receive God's word for us is inspired by Habakkuk 2:2: "Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it". Just as a pencil must be sharpened, we are called to sharpen our focus, prepare our hearts and await direction from God, then act on it. At Assembly, we gathered together to worship God and be united as a family of God.

There were many examples of how God is at work in our CBOQ churches but there are also many challenges facing us. What's next?

We will face these challenges together. There is a Strategic Plan that is revised every 3 years and we were able to review and ask questions about this. The Board believes we need to identify our ministry priorities with God as our guide. We must be people of prayer and discernment. What leadership we have with CBOQ!

I can hardly wait to return next year. I highly encourage you to seriously consider attending and join me to connect with fellow Christians.

Donna McAuslan



Ladies Bible Study

Saved: Experiencing the Promise of the Book of Acts by Nancy Guthrie is what we will be studying starting in September. Nancy is the same author who wrote the study book about Revelation and is very thorough in her study and insights.

All ladies are welcome to join us Wednesday mornings.

Sara will have more details shortly.

Your smile for the day!

I WANT TO BE
SO FULL OF
Christ
THAT IF A
MOSQUITO BITES ME
IT FLIES AWAY SINGING
THERE IS POWER IN
THE BLOOD



Thanks to all who volunteered to provide snacks for our Vacation Bible Club.

And for your prayers for a successful outreach to children in our community.



PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT - January 1 – July 20, 2025

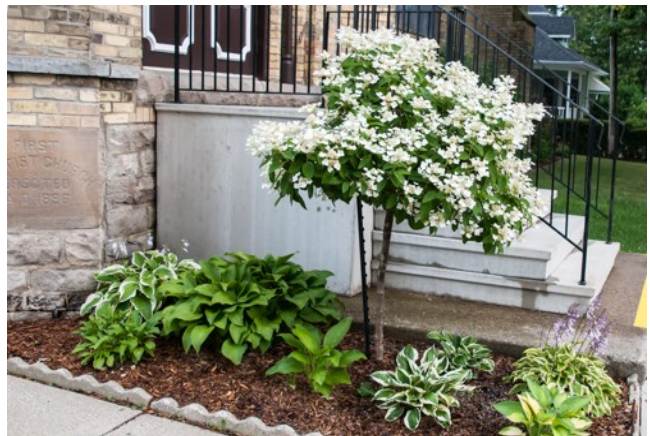
We are already well into the 153rd year of First Baptist Church.

Your property committee continues to monitor the condition of our building and take care of any problems that need our attention. Here are of the projects we have completed so far this year.

- 1 – Furnace filters changed – January 1
- 2 – Wiring on stair chair repaired – April 25
- 3 – Lawn rolled – April 15
- 4 – Lawn fertilized – April 24
- 5 – Stair Chair inspected and re-certified safe for use - May 28
- 6 – Harald Rust installed a speaker in kitchen so ladies can hear the service
- 7 – New 2’x12’ non-slip floor mat put in front of counter in kitchen – May 27
- 8 – Wiring re-routed under floor from projector stand to prevent tripping – June 11
- 9 – Joyce updated front flower bed – June 9
- 10 – Weeds sprayed around church building and parking lot – June 18
- 11 – Humidifiers in church basement started up and checked – June 19
- 12 – Temporary repairs to P.A. system in sanctuary by Avolution Multimedia – June 20
- 13 – Furnace filters changed – July 1
- 14 – In a short business meeting following our morning worship service on July 13, the congregation approved the recommended P.A. system improvements and Avolution Multimedia has ordered the necessary components and will install them as soon as they arrive.
- 15 – Our flowers beds look lovely. Be sure and thank our resident ‘green thumb’ Joyce Finlayson. Every week she weeds, waters and takes great care of them. Great job!
- 16 – Harald Rust has assumed the position of church custodian vacated when Ruth Bright retired in June after many years of service. Our thanks and appreciation to Ruth for a job well done.

Respectfully – your Property Committee – Joyce, Earle, Norm, Harald, & Bill.

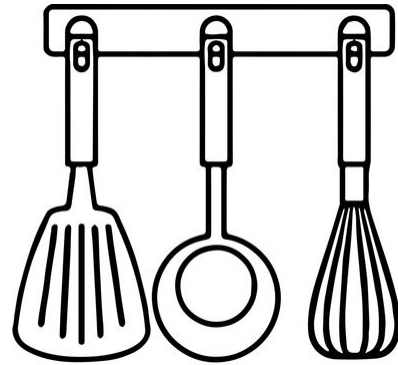
We realize the Lord has blessed us with the monetary resources to have all these projects completed so far and for that we give Him our thanks and praise. I would also like to express my personal appreciation to all members of our property committee for their knowledge and efforts in keeping our church in a condition that we trust is acceptable as a place of worship. Thanks to each of you. Chair—Bill Baker



Another favourite recipe from Wyn's kitchen!

Roasted Cauliflower

1 large cauliflower
1/3 cup olive oil
1 tsp garlic powder
1/2 tsp onion powder
1/4 tsp paprika
1/4 tsp salt (can be omitted)
1/4 tsp pepper
1/4 cup grated parmesan cheese



CUT the cauliflower into bite size pieces. MIX all the other ingredients together.

TOSS the cauliflower in the mixture. **Make sure it is mixed well.**

COVER a cookie sheet with parchment paper bigger than the sheet and spread out the cauliflower.

BAKE at 400 degrees for about 40 minutes.

TEST with a knife and if needed, bake a little longer.



Seniors' Lunch & Hymn Sing

Thursday, September 18

at noon

Bring a friend!

A great time of faith and fellowship!

Watch for the sign-up sheet at the rear of the sanctuary.

LITTLE BIRD

Some days I wake up wishing I could be
More like the little bird singing in the tree.
He has no want or worry; nothing bothers him
No burden weighs him down...he just flits from limb to limb.
His song's so bright and cheerful, it always makes me smile
And I can't help but whistle back...every once in a while.
But God didn't make me a cardinal, a robin or a blue jay
He made me in His likeness to serve Him in a different way.
He wants me to love Him and follow the teachings of His son
To forgive others...to show kindness and grace to everyone.
He wants me to share my faith in what I say and do
Showing others what he's done for me, He can do for them too.
Yes, every creature has a purpose...a reason to be...a worth
And I will do my best to honour God with the time I have on earth.

~ Janice White



Get ready!



We will again be participating in "Operation Christmas Child" - the annual holiday outreach to children around the world thru Samaritan's Purse.

Back-to-school sales are a great time to buy items to fill the shoeboxes!

More information to come.



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...

**Satan tries to limit praying
because he knows praying limits him.**



2025 Missionfest has launched!

This is one of our favourite mission projects and you can support it through your envelopes. (Be sure to mark it for Missionfest.) Raising \$28,000 is our combined goal.

Don't miss our Missionfest soup lunch September 28 following the service. All donations will support of these two projects:

The Arab Baptist Theological Seminary is in war-torn Beirut and equips servant/leaders for ministry in the Middle East and North Africa.

Ban Lao Liu Church is located in the mountainous region of Thailand.

Most members of the church are doing labour jobs. They are part-time or occasional workers with no stable income.

Therefore, church offerings are not enough to pay the pastors and co-workers a decent salary requiring them to work a part-time job to support their own families. In a result, pastors cannot focus on pastoring or expanding church ministries.

This project aims to support the church to start a small cattle farm by constructing a barn and purchasing 10 cattle. Profits from the farm will be used to supplement the pastors' and co-workers' salaries and grow the church's outreach.



We are delighted to welcome back "The Chapelaires" to close out Sunday services in the park August 24th.

Bring a lawn chair and a friend or neighbour and enjoy an uplifting time of praise.

There is no cost however a donation to the Petrolia Food Bank/Community Refrigerator would be very much appreciated.

Middlesex-Lambton-Huron
Association

Missionfest

November 1, 2025
Poplar Hill Baptist Church

2 Projects

The Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Beirut has a broad influence with students from all over North Africa and the Middle East. A great witness to the saving grace of Jesus in the war torn middle east and around the world

Thailand - Ban Lao Liu Church Income-generating Cattle Farm: This project aims to generate income through cattle farming to provide financial support for local pastors' as well as for the Lord Love Center



More information to Follow
Check out cbmin.org

Lunch Cost - \$ 15.00 Goal - \$ 28,000.00

Praise God for his Blessings in the past year

Lunch - 1:00 P M Program - 2:30

The Chapelaires

IN CONCERT



www.chapelaires.com

date/time: **August 24, 2025 7:00 p.m.**

location: **Victoria Park, Petrolia**

Everyone is Welcome

Opportunity to donate to the community refrigerator and food bank

Listen Sister:

HOPE 2025

SEPTEMBER 13, 2025
FROM 9:00-3:00PM



Sheryl Scott



Rachael Bohlender
Worship



Tess Scott

Multi denominational women's event

- Door prizes
- Friendship, connection, and encouragement
- If you're a Jesus-loving girl- come!
- If you want to learn more about who Jesus is- come!



Tickets:

CA \$35.00 General Admission
CA \$60.00 VIP Experience

Sarnia Library Auditorium
124 Christina St. Sarnia

SPONSORED BY:




Could you use a good dose of ENCOURAGEMENT wrapped in LAUGHTER and grounded in TRUTH? **HOPE 2025** is coming back to Sarnia September 13 at the Sarnia Public Library Auditorium.

Inspiring speakers Sheryl Scott and Tess Scott, and worship led by Rachael Bohlender and her fantastic team will bless your boots right off.

You will have plenty of time to reconnect with friends, and make new ones. You might even win a door prize!

So, grab your tickets, grab your girlfriends, and meet us there.
Saturday, September 13
from 9 am - 3 pm.

Tickets are only available online.

Wanda can send you the link.
519-312-9509 or
wjpratt10@outlook.com

Yes, YOU! We are always looking for content for our church newsletter.

Do you have a photo, praise item or story to share?

Send it to us! wjpratt10@outlook.com

or jan.white@live.ca

Next deadline for submission is September 21.

HEY
you