

2021

Church and Community Profile

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

GRACE MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH | 536 Northumberland St. Fredericton, NB E3B 3K8

Church History

Grace Memorial's origins go back to 1844 when Free Baptists in Fredericton and the surrounding area began to meet in private dwellings. In August 1845 they established the Free Christian Baptist Church and dedicated a House of Worship on the corner of George and Brunswick Streets the following year. In 1905 the church's name was changed to George Street United Baptist Church.

The congregation grew and matured at this location for over a hundred years until a new building was constructed on Connaught Street. The new building was dedicated on February 14, 1965. It was named Grace Memorial United Baptist Church in honour of Grace (Machum) Matheson, a former member of the congregation who became a missionary and was serving in India. In 2000, the church was incorporated as Grace Memorial Baptist Church, Inc. (Grace), as it is known today.

In 1995, the unity of the congregation was altered by a division stemming from philosophical and theological differences between the Senior Pastor and the Associate. The Associate Pastor ended up leaving the church and half the congregation followed him. The half that left was mostly younger people and families. Although the majority of the people who attend Grace today were not part of the church at the time, the repercussions of that event can still be felt.

Senior Pastors		Associate Pastors		Christian Education	
Name	Term	Name	Term	Name	Term
Rev. Dr. Peter Lohnes	2014 -	Rev. Dr. Marilyn McCormick	2010-2020		
Rev. Doug Hapeman	1997 - 2013	Rev. Penny Klepic	2004-2008		
		Rev. Greg Pike	1997-2003		
		Ragnar Oborn, interim	1995-1997		
Rev. Donald E. Robertson	1988 - 1996	Rev. Mike Bravener	1994-1995	Rev. Elizabeth Waugh	1988-1995
		Rev. Paul Thompson	1988-1993		
Rev. Hugh A. McNally	1980-1987	Rev. Robert C. Malcolm	1982-1988	Nancy Draper	1982-1987
				Adrian Thompson	1979-1981

Worship Style

Grace Memorial follows a more traditional style; however it incorporates contemporary elements into the service. As far as we know, we are the only church in the city that has this type of blended service. You can expect to hear congregational hymns throughout the service. You can follow along with help of the projected lyrics on an overhead screen or by using the hymnals. They are often led by the organ, piano, our choir, or our strings and wind ensemble. Services are also enriched with the addition of the Praise and Worship team who lead the congregation in a selection of contemporary songs of praise.

The flow of the service itself is organized in a traditional sense. Key elements of the service include music, prayer, scripture readings, a children's moment and a sermon. Our sermons are usually led by our Pastor. The overhead screen is used to project PowerPoints and videos that go along with the sermon. We believe this style of worship reflects the demographics and preferences of our congregation.

A Newcomer's Perspective

As a newcomer to Canada and Fredericton, this church was the place my family and I first gathered with God's people. We had a wonderful time in His presence during that first visit and it has been exciting ever since. No wonder the Psalmist said in 122:1 "... I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord!"

Being from a Baptist family in our home country, we found the mode of service almost similar to what we were used to, and this made it easy to settle in; from the hymns to holy communion, children's church, mission works etc.

From day one, the messages we've heard have been undiluted ones that are spirit-filled and from the scriptures. This is our reason for wanting to be part of this community of faith and warm and welcoming people. – from a Nigerian woman who has been attending less than two years.

Church Property

Grace Memorial Baptist Church is a 56-year-old building, built in 1965 with significant upgrades done in 2008. The building of approximately 2,400 sq/m (26,000 sq/ft) spread out over two levels, is situated on a property of approximately 3,700 sq/m (40,000 sq/ft) and is fully accessible with elevator and ramp included. The sanctuary area has a seating capacity of 560 people including the balcony and has had recent



upgrades to the Pulpit/Choir platform. The Church's Christian Education facilities would include the Family Centre, Welcome Centre, classrooms, Library, Youth Room and gymnasium. Church debt (mortgage) due to the upgrades is approximately \$60,000.

Church Finances

YEAR	PROPOSED BUDGET	ACTUAL EXPENSES	ACTUAL REVENUE
2020	\$345,586	\$273,670	\$298,351
2019	\$363,443	\$342,404	\$345,453
2018	\$354,185	\$331,420	\$314,903
2017	\$344,926	\$335,027	\$308,648
2016	\$342,514	\$317,352	\$308,863

Church Statistics

	Current Membership	Avg. Attendance (2020)	2019 – Pre-COVID
Morning Worship	181 (Active)	106 (pre-shutdown)	175 (Members) 145 (Active)
Graceland Children's Program	15	14	32 (Members) 28 (Active)
Grace Youth	16	N/A	22 (Members) 16 (Active)
Women's Missionary Society (Ferne Sewell)*	N/A	N/A	N/A
Small Groups	7 active groups	7 active groups	7 active groups

*The group is active, but no statistics are available.

Graceland is a community outreach in the form of a kids after-school program on Wednesdays. It primarily draws from non-churched kids from Connaught Street School. In previous years there were about 30 kids attending (12-2 on Wednesdays), but in 2020-21 attendance was capped at 15 kids. It is led by a team of 3-5 volunteers.

The purpose of our **Youth Group** ministry is:

- To empower youth to seek God as God seeks them.

- To educate youth on how and why to meet God in scripture, prayer, fellowship, and ministry.
- To empathise with youth and listen to their struggles without judgement, only love.
- To encourage questions and acknowledge doubts so that faith may be made stronger for all involved.
- To advocate for youth within the Church, so that they may be a welcome and contributing part of the body of Christ.
- To partner with youth as they witness to their peers and the world and to support them in their ministry.

Growth Patterns

	2017	2018	2019	2020	AVERAGE‡
Junior Church Attendance	10	8	12	0*	10
Youth Sunday Class	6	6	6	0*	6
Morning Worship Attendance	141	140	145	106**	142
Church Membership†	183 / 588	183 / 584	175 / 572	181 / 571	180.5 / 578.8

*Program suspended due to global pandemic.

**Pre-shutdown

† Active / Total

‡ Averages do not include 2020.

Growth Patterns – Outreach Programs – (Average attendance/Registered):

	Summer 2017 - Spring 2018	Summer 2018 - Spring 2019	Summer 2019 - Spring 2020	Summer 2020 - Present	AVERAGE†
Summer Camps*	55 / ~90	60 / ~100	55 / ~100	28 / ~45	57 / ~97
ESL classes	3 classes	3 classes	3 classes	2 classes over Zoom	3 classes
Youth Group	18 / 26	17 / 25	16 / 22	10 / 16	17 / 24
Graceland	20 / 30	26 / 31	28 / 32	14 / 15	25 / 31

*3-4 camps run during the summer, but individual camp registration is capped, so total registered will always be much higher than average attendance due to the cap.

† Averages do not include 2020.

Community Overview

Fredericton, the capital city of New Brunswick, is located in the west-central portion of the province, along the Saint John River¹. The river runs through the centre of the city, dividing it into two main portions: the “Southside” and the “Northside”. Native Frederictonians take pride in identifying with one of these geographical areas, or one of the smaller communities within them, such as Marysville, Devon, Nashwaaksis, Sunshine Gardens or Forest Hills.

Wolastoqiyik (also known as Welastekwewiyik or Maliseet), the primary inhabitants, have long resided along Saint John River¹. In their language, Wolastoqiyik means “people of the beautiful river”. St. Mary’s First Nation is a Wolastoqiyik community on the city’s northside.

Harvest Jazz and Blues Festival, held each September in Fredericton’s downtown, is one of the city’s well-loved events³. The New Brunswick College of Craft and Design, Beaverbrook Art Gallery, Theatre New Brunswick and Science East Science Centre are located downtown as well. On Saturdays, Fredericton Boyce Market offers local products, with more than 200 unique vendors⁴.

Fredericton is a beautiful city surrounded by nature. Places to explore include the Bill Thorpe Walking Bridge, Odell Park, Killarney Lake Park, Mactaquac Provincial Park, the Ducks Unlimited Conservation Centre and Hyla Park Nature Preserve, as well as the well-groomed and extensive trail system⁵.

References

1. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fredericton>
2. <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/maliseet>
3. <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/fredericton>
4. <https://frederictonfarmersmarket.ca/>
5. <http://www.tourismfredericton.ca/en/city-at-the-edge-of-nature>

Occupation Evaluation

Fredericton has two universities, a community college and is the capital city. The largest employment sectors for the city include education, public administration, health care, informational technology, engineering, and professional services. This profile is also reflected among the people of the Grace church community, both among those who are actively employed and those who are retired.

Community Services

- a) Police & Fire: police station located downtown on Queen Street; fire stations (closest to church) on York St.
- b) Schools (closest to church): Connaught Street Elementary, George Street Middle School, Fredericton High School
- c) Medical Services: Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital, Fredericton Downtown Community Health Clinic, Fredericton Mental Health & Addiction Services, weekday after hours clinics

- d) Recreation & Sport Centres: Grant Harvey Centre, Willie O’Ree Place, YMCA, O’Dell Park, Hartt Island RV Resort & Water Park (a.k.a. Bucket Club), Kingswood, Fredericton Indoor Pool, UNB Aitken Centre & UREC, various parks, golf courses, and sports fields
- e) Museums & Art Centres: Beaverbrook Art Gallery, Fredericton Playhouse, Fredericton Region Museum, the Barracks, various art galleries
- f) Other: Boyce Farmers’ Market, Fredericton Exhibition Centre

Other Churches

There are many churches in Fredericton, both affiliated and independent. Most serve a primarily Caucasian congregation, but there are some ethnic churches in the city as well. These include a Chinese church, a Korean church, and an African church. Christian denominations represented include Roman Catholic, Anglican, Wesleyan, United, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, and Church of the Nazarene. Churches within walking distance of Grace include Smythe Street Cathedral (non-denominational), St. Paul’s United Church, St. Charbel’s Maronite Catholic Church, Christ Church (Parish) Church (Anglican) and Brunswick Street Baptist.

Population

Statistics (2016 Census):

- a) Total number of people living with your church's community: 58,220.
- b) Age and Gender (see table to the right)
- c) Number of two-parent homes: 5,900
- d) Number of single-parent homes: 2,685
- e) Median income per household: \$60,592

Age	Male	Female
0-4	1,470	1,465
5-9	1,450	1,430
10-14	1,420	1,430
15-19	1,600	1,595
20-29	4,790	4,785
30-39	3,800	3,955
40-49	3,475	3,860
50-59	3,615	4,040
60-64	1,575	1,945
65-69	1,470	1,780
70+	3,465	5,310
Total	28,130	31,595

Projected Growth

The 2016 census indicated that 76% of the growth from 2011-2016 came from new immigrants (that is, those new to Canada). This trend is expected to continue. In 2019, approximately 30% of new immigrants to New Brunswick settled in the Fredericton area and currently just over 7% of the population are new to Canada. The Fredericton municipality is intentionally aiming to increase the population by 1,000 new immigrants per year for the next 25 years (2019-2044). A UNB study in 2017 projected growth for the Fredericton area over the next 15 years to range from a low of 4,600 to a high of 19,000.