



**Upcoming Events:**

**National Board Meeting:**  
March 21- 22, 2016  
Edmonton, AB

**National Celebration 2016:**  
June 23-25, 2016  
Friendship Community  
Church  
Saanichton, BC

**BC Pastor's Retreat**

**God Stories from BGCC  
Churches**

**Name this Newsletter  
Contest**

**Interesting Reads**

**Donations:**



**Kevin Schular, Executive Director**

Hello from Edmonton! I trust you are experiencing the blessing of God in your life and ministry. Easter is drawing near and once again our hearts are filled with wonder and praise at the grace of God. In this season we reflect on the cross with its shame and humiliation but also are awed by the substitutionary atonement of our Lord. The ancient hymn, "Sacred Head Now Wounded" by Bernard of Clairvaux, captures my sentiments so well:

``What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered, was all for sinners' gain;  
Mine, mine was the transgression, but Thine the deadly pain.  
Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis, I deserve Thy place; Look on me  
with Thy favor, vouchsafe to me Thy grace.``

Of course we also celebrate His glorious resurrection from the dead! We affirm the absolute centrality of this doctrine in our faith and practice. "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9 ESV. I pray that all of our BGC family will experience the love, renewal and power of God this Easter season.

I have been traveling to our regions in these first couple of months as Executive Director. It has been encouraging to visit pastors and people in Saskatchewan, BC, Alberta and Quebec. I will be in Manitoba later this month. I pray that I will be a faithful servant of the Lord in this new chapter of ministry out of the national office. Please pray for me as often as the Lord calls me to your remembrance.

This will be the new format for the *E-pastor* that came from National Office. I love theology and keeping up with current issues in Christianity and I will have links to articles in Interesting Reads below. However, my focus for this publication is to connect the BGCC family together. God is moving powerfully in our churches! You have the stories that will bless and encourage others in our movement. Some of our stories will be triumphant songs of praise – others may be contemplative or sobering as pastors share the burden of their local situation.

## Pastor's Retreat:

British Columbia - February 1 -3, 2016

Cedar Springs Retreat Centre:



Pastors and wives gathered for fellowship, worship and recreation. Kevin Schular spoke on the theme of Spiritual Formation.

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## God Stories from BGCC Churches:

**Bagley Baptist Church - Smeaton, SK**



I have the awesome privilege of pastoring the best Baptist church in Bagley, Saskatchewan (okay, we are the Baptist church here). We are a small, country church that meet every second and fourth Sunday night. After church we meet briefly for a fellowship time at the home of one of the church folks. We are an older church (age wise) and don't

have a Sunday School, youth group, etc ... We do support missions and missionaries.

Now, while we don't have all these other things going on, God is ministering and growing His flock in this part of His "pasture" in wonderful ways.

I have just recently made a huge decision in my 35+ years of ministry. As you may or may not be aware, I was a "dual citizen" church wise for a number of years. Just recently, after much soul searching and prayer, I made the choice to come fully under the BGCC banner, leaving the CNBC (Southern Baptists). I am now credentialed and fully committed to the BGCC (specifically the BGC-S) and humbly appreciative of being accepted. The wonderful support and encouragement of our former Director, as well as the Bagley Baptist confirmed my heart's decision.

Now, here is a deep concern that I have. While pastors and their spouses of the bigger, city-centered churches have a great network of connections and support - those who serve in small, out of the way places desperately need that. Jamie may never know this side of heaven how much his call was appreciated when we went through our own ministerial/personal 9-11, was. It spoke of a care that the head office had for small church pastors who were struggling. This is something that many conferences of churches tend to overlook, in their heartfelt desire to reach the larger centers. Let's never forget the little guys and their families that are working the harvest in places where some of those coming out of our Seminaries and Bible schools figure they could never "make a living".

Darcy Cust, Pastor

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## Killiam Baptist Church - Killam, AB

At Killam Baptist Church, one of the ways we connect with our community is through our weekly Kids Club ministry. At the start of this year, we began looking specifically at the life of Jesus. In one of our stories it explored Jesus and the disciples at the Last Supper. During that night, we had three kids accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. This was a very encouraging way to begin 2016!

Blessings,  
Andrew Lortie

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### Name this Newsletter:



What's a great name for this BGCC email? Send in your ideas by **March 31, 2016** and the chosen submission will receive a Tim Horton's gift card. Email: [office@bgc.ca](mailto:office@bgc.ca)

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### Share our Story:

Please feel free to forward this email to anyone in your church or that would be blessed to know more about the BGCC.

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### Interesting Reads:

As Easter draws near, an article on the atonement and the blood of Christ:

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2006/may/9.29.html>

These 7 Practical Tips Will Keep Pastors Encouraged and Healthy in Ministry:

<http://www.expastors.com/7-ways-pastors-can-stay-encouraged-and-healthy-in-ministry/>

Is your congregation flourishing? Features of thriving churches are described in this article:

<http://www.flourishingcongregations.org/#!Features-of-Flourishing-Congregations/c1rx6/54fca5810cf245859783ac2b>

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