

# THE JAMES NORTH JOURNAL

Official Newsletter of James North Baptist Church – Fall 2023



## Welcome Pastor Dave Gray & Family!

James North has a new Lead Pastor! Dave has been pastoring at Trentside Baptist Church in the City of Kawartha Lakes for the past nine years. Trentside is made up of two congregations, one in Fenelon Falls and the other in Bobcaygeon. This amalgamation started shortly after Dave began his ministry in Fenelon Falls as the Associate Pastor. The Bobcaygeon church had been struggling and sought help from their sister church in the neighbouring town. Dave led through this joining and was invited to become the lead pastor of both churches when the Fenelon Falls' pastor retired. Both churches have grown in the years since, with each having their own site pastor now in leadership.

Dave grew up in Oshawa and came to faith through the ministry of Calvary Baptist Church. He was married to Katy in 1998, and they now have three grown children, Emily in Grade 12, James in College and Hannah in University. When his children were still young he was working as an Information Analyst with General Motors. It was then that the Lord led both Dave and Katy through a series of events to understand the Lord's call in their lives to pastoral ministry. Dave went to Heritage College and Seminary, graduating in 2009 (also receiving his MTS in 2021), and then spent several years as the Associate Pastor at Cedar Creek Community Church in Cambridge before moving to Trentside.

James North is looking forward to Dave bringing his gifts of teaching, leadership training, and strategic thinking to our church. He will officially begin his ministry with us at the beginning of November, although his first preaching Sunday will be on November 19th. Pray with us as their family joins our church family and works out all the details of moving to Hamilton, hopefully early in the New Year.

Pastor Paul

# Soccer & Crosstrainers

Over the summer, our soccer ministry was thriving! Not only were hundreds of kids enrolled and playing soccer each week, they were hearing about Jesus during the Bible story time. Epic+Onside Athletics again provided support and partnership to give the children a true soccer league experience. The end of the summer soccer season was celebrated with a huge barbeque that hosted soccer families and neighbours, providing food, entertainment and a Gospel presentation. We continue to thank God for the outreach opportunity that soccer provides in our neighbourhood.

Crosstrainers day camp has become a staple for many families in our neighbourhood. Children from both our church and the neighbourhood joined together for four weeks to participate and learn about Jesus. One family from our church reported that their girls came home from their third day at Crosstrainers exhausted and happy. The story for that day happened to be about David and the children shared what they knew about David from Camp. Both parents were in awe of how in depth they knew the story of David, and how well they were taught. All three children said that was one of their favourite parts of camp. It is exciting that church families are hearing stories from the Bible, but even more exciting that neighbours are learning the same stories. What a blessing it is to have our kids hear gospel truths from engaging young adult leaders who were passionate to share!



## Youth

Before Jesus ascended back to heaven he commanded the disciples to go out, make disciples, and baptize them. Recently, our church was able to celebrate a great picture of this command being fulfilled. At the beginning of the summer we rejoiced as one of our young adults was baptized. She has been a part of our church community for a long time, beginning as a kid from the neighbourhood who checked out our Jr. High program. Over time God opened her eyes to His love and grace and she began attending church and volunteering in the programs she once attended as a student. Early this summer she was baptized as a testimony of her love for Christ and the saving work he has done in her life.

A couple of months later this same young adult was able to stand beside one of our youth who decided to be baptized. The youth picked this young woman to pray for her at her baptism because over the last few years she has walked alongside her, read scripture with her, prayed for her, and answered her questions. It was an amazing moment where all who were there could see the fruit of disciples making disciples.

Pastor Derek



*"It was an amazing moment where all who were there could see the fruit of disciples making disciples."*





# KidZone



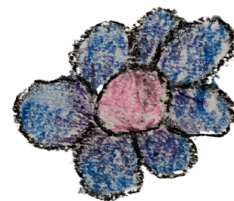
When I stepped into my role as children's ministry director I was no stranger to Tuesday night KidZone. It was one of the programs that made me most excited about taking on this position at the church. An average night of KidZone consists of singing silly songs, eating snacks, making cool crafts, playing gym games, and learning about Jesus! In the past we have had roughly fifty kids (ages five to ten) who come out regularly, but thanks to an increase in our number of volunteers, we are hoping to see those numbers rise! Most kids show up to KidZone with lots of excitement for the night. However, last year there was one girl in Grade five who decided she was not going to share this enthusiasm. She made it quite evident that KidZone was the last place she wanted to be and seemed to put up a fight during every activity. As the year went on volunteers started to wonder if she enjoyed her Tuesday nights at all. During the last night of KidZone, I rolled out a long strip of kraft paper and asked the kids to write down what they were most thankful for about KidZone.



To my surprise, every kid was excited to participate in the activity, including this girl. I was fully expecting her to write out a long list of jokes (which she did as well), but as I looked along the paper I found another note written by her saying, "I am grateful for KidZone because the people at KidZone are nice and respect me, and treat me like family". She is one of the kids who got connected to our church because she lives in the North End.

The team and I were surprised and encouraged, as not only did she look back on her time at KidZone and feel thankful, but she also felt safe. No one was forcing her to come out, it turned out that she really did want to be there. She went on to spend her summer volunteering in our 3:10 program at our Crosstrainer's Day camp. It has been incredible to watch God teach and grow her. She may still give her leaders a hard time, but she is never shy about sharing just how much she loves James North. Although she has graduated from KidZone, she now spends her Tuesday nights at church participating in our Junior High program. Just a few weeks ago she was chatting with me about some of the great memories she made throughout her KidZone years. This is a story close to my heart as this past year was my first time running the KidZone program. Our church has an abundance of stories where the Lord continues to use His people at this church to make a safe, loving, and welcoming atmosphere. Lord-willing, God will continue to use our ministries at James North and we will continue to have many more stories like this to come.

Miss Michayla



I am grateful for KidZone because  
the people at KidZone because  
of how nice and how they respect  
me and treat me like family.

# Christmas Hampers

People in the James North neighbourhood continue to suffer the effects of inflation, increased interest rates and increased housing costs. Many have an increased need for support, and feel it deeply as we head into the Christmas season. Our annual hamper ministry can give them access to Christmas dinner and toys for their children. We are praying we can assist close to three hundred individuals and families this season. We will need a lot of help again this year to make this happen.

We will be preparing to deliver hampers on Saturday December 16th at 8:30am. We are asking the Lord to provide \$25,000 to ensure we can do this. Would you consider partnering with us this Christmas to help provide for those who are struggling and to share God's love?

Purchasing toys with your children for others is a great way to help them celebrate Christmas. Parents receiving hampers are able to choose from these donations to select a toy for their child. We would suggest spending between \$25-\$35 on toys.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Monday December 11th to Saturday December 16th

- Monday TOY SHOP 6:45pm - 8:30pm
- Tuesday TOY SHOP 10:45am-1:30pm & 6:45pm - 8:30pm
- Wednesday SORT FOOD ITEMS 7:00pm - 9:00pm
- Thursday PACK HAMPERS 7:00pm - 9:00pm
- Friday DELIVERY ROUTES 1:00pm - 3:00pm
- Saturday DELIVERY DAY 8:30am - 11:00am

If you're interested in helping out this week or if you have any questions contact Jenna at the church office (905) 527-3972 or [office@jamesnorth.church](mailto:office@jamesnorth.church)



500 James St North. Hamilton, ON, L8L 1J4,  
[jamesnorth.church](http://jamesnorth.church) - [office@jamesnorth.church](mailto:office@jamesnorth.church)

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### MY DONATION FOR JAMES NORTH

- ☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_ for General Fund
- ☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_ for Christmas Hampers
- ☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_ for Benevolent Fund

**Email transfers:** send to [giving@jamesnorth.church](mailto:giving@jamesnorth.church)

**Direct Deposit:** email [office@jamesnorth.church](mailto:office@jamesnorth.church) for direct deposit form for pre-authorized gifts

**Online:** through Canada Helps

**Cheque:** Payable to James North Baptist Church

Donations will be used as restricted with the understanding that when the need has been met or changed by the JNBC Board, the remaining funds will be allocated where most needed.