

# Message from the Elders Board

Over the last 2 weeks the Elders have had their monthly meeting as well as their winter retreat. During the retreat we took a significant amount of time to pray together and to discuss God's influence in our lives, our church, and the world around us. As a part of this conversation we had the privilege to hear from **Terry Mochar**, who was tasked by the Western Canadian District to embark on a study titled the **Issachar Report**. 1 Chronicles 12:32 says: *"From the tribe of Issachar... All these men understood the signs of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take."* Terry shared with us the key findings and statistics associated with many demographic and societal shifts, and the challenges the local church is facing in today's post-Christian culture. The Board will continue to work to understand these changes and how best to respond from a discipleship and Kingdom growth perspective.

In our Thursday meeting, the Board had the pleasure of meeting and hearing how God is working through **Sharon Froese**, a member of our congregation. Sharon and her family have been attending our Saturday night service at Bowridge for the past nine years. More recently, Sharon was considering the completion of a Masters degree at Mount Royal University when she was approached and asked if she would consider a job as a chaplain at the school. After a period of time Sharon eventually agreed to the position and is now on a journey where she has influence in the spiritual health and growth of multiple students. She has a deep heart and passion for her role and desires for these students to experience growth in their faith and a sense of community through various opportunities that she endeavors to provide. Please pray for Sharon as she speaks into the lives of students who are often struggling with issues of identity and a sense of community. Pray for wisdom and a discerning heart, providing both direction and growth in her ministry.

From a financial perspective, the Board is overwhelmed with the generosity that RockPointe has exhibited resulting in a record amount of giving for December. We are so blessed and thankful for the generosity that pours out from each of you.

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As part of our church's efforts to secure a long-term worship facility for our Westhills congregation, the Elders have approved a plan to submit a land use designation application to the City of Calgary which could eventually allow us to build on the church lands at 7755 - 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW. The current concept is to have the Westhills church located within a multi-use building which may also have retail, commercial and residential space. We are being assisted in the application process by an experienced developer who is interested in ultimately being part of the development on the site. The application may take up to 24 months to complete and any decisions on building or on potential development partners would be made after the land-use designation has been completed, and only following the appropriate communication with the RPC congregation and discussion with church members. Please pray for our property stewardship team and Elders as they continue down this path of discernment.

Yours in Christ,

Sean Miller,  
Elders Board Secretary