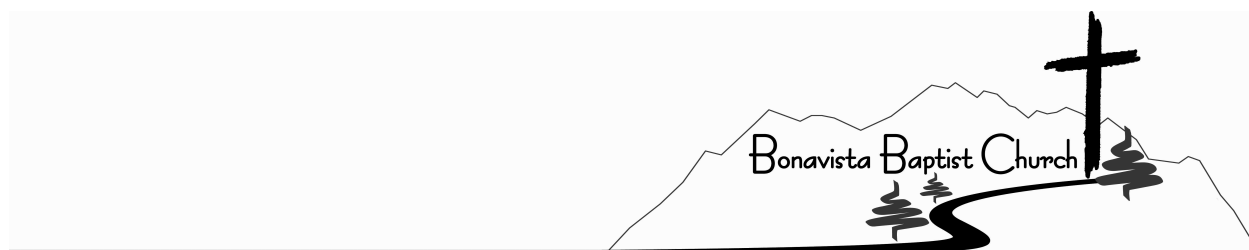


Parent Handbook 2013/2014 for



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Letter from Senior Pastor, Awlwyn Balnave

It has never been an easy task being a parent, and certainly matters have not changed in this regard in today's world. The responsibilities of parenthood are numerous as are the influences affecting the decision making of our children and teens. According to a poll I viewed recently the primary determinant in teen decision-making is approximately evenly split between parental and peer inputs. Additionally, 58% of teen respondents place T.V. high up in the influencing category, and 72% have a role model shaping their lives. Some role models are helpful, others less so.

When we look at various polls what we find time after time is that the home is vital to the positive upbringing of our developing next generation. Although there is no surprise here, knowing this fact does impact how our church seeks to minister to our families. Our children and teens spend much more time in the home than at church. Consequently our aim at BBC is to help our families as they seek to be faithful to the important and demanding task of raising the children God has given to us. We understand that best outcomes are gained when parents make sure certain aspects are in place in the family. These include a loving environment, the gift of time, the presence of healthy boundaries, an atmosphere of encouragement, and the existence of clear lines of communication between child and parent.

Our children and youth ministries at BBC have as their main aim to be of assistance to our families as they seek to develop their family life under God and to His glory. Our purpose is to be a blessing to your family. We have a two-pronged focus for our children and youth ministries: to provide a community of peers at church and church group, and to extend resources into our church homes. May we partner together as church and home so that the lives of our families may reflect all that God intends for us to be and to do, to His glory,

Pastor Awlwyn

Purpose

The handbook you are now reading is an important piece of literature for Family Ministries at Bonavista Baptist Church. It is intended to communicate the heart that we have for children, youth, and families to be connected and growing to meet Jesus in their everyday lives. It is also intended to communicate the transitions that a family will journey through when connected here at BBC. We also want you to know that while our programs are age specific, our ministries are focused on a high relationship model. It is not the program that cultivates disciples, it is the relationships that we have with God and each other.

Your family is unique, and it is not our desire that Children, Youth, or Young Adult ministries here be a one size fits all setting. We want to be approachable and be in ministry WITH you and your family. We want to partner with you, not do your job. I hope that is refreshing for you to hear. I would love the opportunity to meet with you and spend time getting to know your family and your unique context.

Vision:

Children & Youth Ministries at Bonavista echoes the vision for Bonavista Baptist Church: *A Passion for Christ, A Heart for People, A Life of Service.*

Mission:

Family Ministries exists to *partner with children, youth, and parents in living and loving like Jesus.*

Values:

Family Ministry at Bonavista Baptist Church is guided by three values:

Partnership: We value the partnership that can be fostered between Church and Home. We want you as parents to be inspired, equipped, and resourced to be the primary spiritual influencer(s) in the lives of your child or teen.

Relationship: We value relationship in two ways. First, engaging God & others (friends, family, the world). Our desire is for kids and teens to see God through the eyes of relationship, not rules. And second, through intentional efforts to gather generations together to learn from one another and influence one another.

Discipleship: We will engage in activities and gatherings that move us closer toward living and loving like Jesus. Worship, the Bible, serving, being in community, and inviting others into community are intentional tasks we undertake in helping each person discover who Jesus is and how they can express His love to the world around them.

Children's Ministry

Children's ministry at BBC is focused on discovering the character of God through worship, story, and craft. When kids discover the characteristics of God they can learn how God sees the world and how they can be like Jesus when they live the way that God shows us in the Bible. There are three things we continually communicate in Children's Ministry:

1. I need to make the wise choice
2. I can trust God no matter what
3. Treat others the way I want to be treated.

Children's Ministry at Bonavista is from Birth to Grade 5. The transition into youth ministry begins in Grade 6. Here's how this looks:

Children's Ministry Registration

When you arrive at Bonavista on Sunday morning, there will be a table with two volunteers ready to say hello, catch up with your family, get your kids registered for the morning, and answer any questions you might have. If it is your first time with us, you will be given a copy of our registration form to fill out (you only need to do this once per year). You will also be given a name tag to place on your child and a claim tag. You will need to the tag to pick your child at 11:30am when Children's Ministry ends for the morning. The claim tag is also part of our *Plan to Protect* at Bonavista Baptist. We want to ensure the safety of your child is in our care. If you would like to know more about our Plan to Protect, please talk to a Pastor or Ministry Leader.

Nursery

Nursery starts for a family when they have a child. The nursery is located at the end of the hallway (just South of the washrooms) and is outfitted with all sorts of age appropriate toys. You will be greeted by two volunteers who love to look after babies so that you can have the opportunity to be in the main service. At age 2.5 years, your child will move into our pre-school class.

Preschool

A child in our preschool class starts with a large group time together with all kids. After singing a couple songs and taking an offering for our chosen organization of the month, our volunteers will then transition the preschoolers out of the main Children's Ministry area to our preschool room (beside the Nursery). The preschool room is outfitted with age appropriate toys and lots of room to play. During their time together they will play, have a story and do a craft related to the story that day. After the service is over you can pick up your preschooler from the preschool room at 11:30am. When your child enters Kindergarten, they will move into our K - Grade 5 group.

K - Grade 5

Children in our K - Grade 5 group will remain in the main Children's Ministry area for the duration of their time together. They will sing songs, take an offering for our the chosen organization of the month, and have a story together (this is called Large Group). After the story is over, they will break into small groups. In our K - Grade 5 group we have two smaller groups, K - Grade 2 and Grade 3 - Grade 5. In their small groups, they will continue the theme of the week by sharing together about the story and doing a craft. When your child is in Grade 6, they will transition into the Discipleship class.

Discipleship Class

This group is for pre-teens in Grades 6 - 8. They meet bi-weekly on the first and third Sunday of each month (except long weekends). The first Sunday of each month will focus on a group oriented and participatory learning experience around a relevant question and practical application. It is conversation-based and includes a media component and hands on activity. The the third Sunday of each month there are multiple opportunities to serve in our faith community. We encourage students to choose an area of interest and volunteer alongside those who working in that area. These opportunities include AV tech, sound tech, kitchen help, counting the offering, ushering, music, Children's worship, or Inn from the Cold, to name a few. We want students to potentially find something they like and continue to volunteer there. We love this kind of ministry because it promotes intergenerational relationships as students spend time with someone older than them, engaging in a ministry of the church, and discovering gifts.

Volunteers

We intentionally choose, as best we can, to have multiple generations represented in our volunteer base in Children's Ministry on Sunday morning. We value the relationships that can be developed between kids, teens, and adults. In our small groups, we have an adult volunteer with a teen volunteer so the relationship can be developed and other life skills can be taught like responsibility, being prepared, and mentoring the next generation.

Main Service & Children's Ministry

We value multiple generations worshipping together in our Sunday morning worship service. If we worship without our kids we are not complete. Each Sunday, children will join their families in the main service for worship for the first twenty minutes which include 2 - 3 songs, welcome, and announcements. On the third Sunday of the month, kids are invited to the front of the sanctuary where we will have bubbles, ribbons, or instruments for the kids to use. This has been such an encouraging time for our congregation. Kids provide such energy and passion when they worship and it reminds us to be childlike in our worship as adults.

For Parents:

Please check out the *For Parents* section on Page 8 of the Handbook.

Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry at BBC moves toward teenagers being in community with their peers and volunteer leaders of multiple generations. In this community-oriented context, we move towards discovering ourselves (identity), finding a place to belong (affinity), and figuring out where we fit in the Big God Story. We have a consistent and organic gathering that includes fun events, eating together, service opportunities, and exploring God's story.

Our Focus for 2013/2014

We work hard at being a place that is safe, inviting, and welcoming. We want your teen(s) to be a part of youth ministry because it is a place of belonging for them. This coming year, the youth ministry calendar will focus on three areas:

1. Freedom

At BBCY, we create a space where students can gather and have the freedom to be who they are. It will be a place where leaders value students and peers value one another. In this space, we will communicate and live the truth that true freedom comes from Christ alone and our hope would be that students gain an understanding of God's love for them and His desire to know and love them.

2. Uniqueness

In creating a space where each individual is valued, we also recognize that each person is unique. Our desire for students would be that they lean into the discovery of who God has created them to be in both personality and giftedness. We want them to see themselves how God sees them and to discover together where they fit in the Big God story. In knowing where they fit, our hope would be that they discover purpose for their lives.

3. Connection

Connection is all about relationship. Mentorship type relationships between youth and adult volunteers will be developed through group involvement and one-on-one times together. We will discover different ways we worship and celebrate our connection with our church community through serving, worshiping, praying, and playing.

Sunday Nights

Youth Ministry at Bonavista gathers on Sunday nights from 7 – 9pm, excluding long weekends. When you and your teen arrive, you will be greeted at the Youth doors (East of the Main entrance) or in the parking lot when the weather is nice. During these times together we will have fun events, worship nights, eating together, and service opportunities. As your teen(s) finds a place of belonging in our youth ministry, their friends will be seeking the same thing that your teen(s) will receive. For that reason, teens are encouraged to invite friends regularly to our gatherings. A friend may not accept your teen's invitation. Inviting a friend takes courage. In our eyes, a teen has been successful when they invite a friend. Tell them how proud you are that they had the courage to ask!

Retreats

Each year we do three weekend retreats. These retreats are 40 hours of intentional spiritual and relational investment in the lives of your teens. We also throw in some great fun! Financial assistance is available and can be requested by speaking to Jared

- *Live @ the Lake*
 - Date: November 8 - 10, 2013
 - Cost: \$96.00 per person
- *Re:Think Retreat*
 - Date: February 2013
 - Cost: \$100.00 per person
- *Camping & Boating*
 - June 2013 at Pigeon Lake.
 - Cost: \$65.00 per person

Mission Trips

Each year we do a mission trip with several other churches across Western Canada. We've been to various cities and small towns. In the past we have been to, Victoria, Yellowknife, Calgary, Edmonton, Swift Current, Flin Flon, Kitimat, Peace River, and most recently, Winnipeg. This trip is designed around community service work. **SERVE 2014** is in the planning stages. Both High River, AB and Duncan, BC are potential candidates at this point. Planning and fundraising will begin in January 2014.

Summer 2014

During the summer of 2014 (apart from missions), we gather less often but do plan some events to keep connected. We also encourage our students to go for a week of camp at Gull Lake (www.gulllakecentre.ca). Students who are going into Grade 10 also have the opportunity through Gull Lake to enroll in their three year Leadership Training and Discipleship program. You can learn more here:
<http://www.gulllakecentre.ca/ltd/leadership-training-a-discipleship-ltd>

For Parents: Please see the *For Parents* section on Page 8 in the Handbook.

Typical Monthly Calendar for BBCY:

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Gr. 6 – 8 10:20am BBCY Gathering 7:00-9:00pm				Women's Time Out. For Women of all ages 9-11am @ BBC		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
BBCY Gathering 7:00-9:00pm		Dad's Winging It 8pm @ Brewsters Bonavista		Women's Time Out.		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Gr. 6 – 8 10:20am BBCY Gathering 7:00-9:00pm				Women's Time Out.		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
BBCY Gathering 7:00-9:00pm				Women's Time Out.		

For other information, or questions please contact Pastor Jared Patterson (403.921.5581 or jared.p@telus.net).

For Parents

Parents have a tough job. It is rewarding too. But those rewards do not come without their trials. One of the roles that parents have is to cultivate faith in the lives their children and families. At Bonavista, we love that. We believe that parents are the primary spiritual influencers in the lives of their kids. Some parents love that too. Others find it scary and struggle to know where to begin. At Bonavista, we want to inspire, equip, and support you in this role. Here's how this looks.

Children's Ministry

On the first Sunday of the month, after the main service has ended, we will invite parents of all Children's Ministry classes to join us for a brief time of equipping. We will have someone come in and share for 10 minutes around a topic that is relevant to the spiritual formation of your family (devotions, bibles, family rhythms, etc.) while your children remain in their classes. Coffee will be moved into the Children's Worship area so that you don't miss it and you have an opportunity to network with other parents.

Youth Ministry

On the first Sunday night of each month while your teens are hanging out in youth ministry, parents will gather for dessert and networking. We will have someone come in to share with you about a topic related to parenting teens, adolescence, and spiritual formation. During each session, you will have the opportunity to share with each other as parents and engage with our presenter.

"Fuel" Conference

On November 30, 2013 from 9am - 4pm, Canadian Youth Worker is hosting a conference for parents, students, and youth ministry volunteers called Fuel. It will be hosted at Centre Street Church and will cost \$20.00 per person. Join us for a day chock full of inspiration, invitation & challenge as we hear from local Calgary youth, family & children experts through themes that are designed to fuel us up in order to move us forward into God's greater design for our city. Jared will be one of the presenters. You can see more here: www.cywfuel.com.

Dad's Wingin' It

One Tuesday each month, Dads in all stages of parenting gather together in the Restaurant side of Brewsters Bonavista for chicken wings. Together we catch up on life as a dad and have a topic of conversation that we engage one another on. Dads have found this time to be insightful, meaningful, and supportive for their role.

Women's Time Out

Each Thursday morning starting on September 26, Women and Moms gather together from 9am – 11am. Women's Time Out is open to women of all ages and stages of life. We exist for women to come together and make new friends, be challenged, learn, serve, grow and laugh together. For those who need it, childcare is provided free of charge. Please contact Angie Patterson at ypjared@telus.net.

Ways to Get Involved

The process of spiritual formation of children and youth is one that requires a strategic partnership between pastors, parents, volunteer leaders and children or youth themselves. As family ministries, we believe in the sovereignty of God. As such, we are convinced that God stitches together communities and relationships for His purposes. We believe God has called us to be a ministry that reflects the vision of Bonavista Baptist Church as a whole. In order to see this vision become a reality, we must link arms together with each other and with Christ in this process of spiritual formation of our children and youth. Here are some of the ways we can do this together:

1. *Prayer* – The greatest thing we can do to partner together in the process of spiritual formation of children and youth is to pray together. Each week we pray for the kids, teens, and families of Bonavista Baptist Church. Send us updated prayer requests and also join us in praying for children and youth to become all that God has created them to be. Also, please make the effort to attend events geared toward families & celebration times throughout the year. (Philippians 4:6)
 3. *Volunteer* – Another practical way you can partner with us in the process of spiritual formation of children and youth is to volunteer in either children's or youth ministry in some capacity. We encourage volunteers to serve in an area of passion for you. Talk to a ministry leader or pastor to discover and discern where you could get plugged in. (1 Corinthians 12)
 4. *Encourage* – Another practical way we can partner together is by providing encouragement to your children or youth to get involved with all the activities and experiences for his or her age group. Also consider how you can be a source of true encouragement for volunteers, other parents, and ministry team members through words and deeds. When we are full of care for each other, we may find ourselves cared for. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
 5. *Relationship* – Take advantage of opportunities to connect with other parents at youth or family gatherings and celebrations. (John 13:34-35)
 6. *Faith* - You cannot pass on what you do not have. Focus on your spiritual growth and seek the heart of God for yourself and parent out of that relationship. (Deut. 6:9)
-

Young Adult Ministry

This year we are beyond excited to announce the launch of a ministry for Young Adults at BBC. Young Adult ministry will be geared for those ages 18 – 25. This transition in life can be tough and we want to continue to be a community that supports Young Adults in this time of life. It will be community and conversation oriented around topics relevant to young adults. Please be praying for this ministry as it kicks off this year!

Staff Role in Family Ministry

We have one staff role at Bonavista Baptist Church and it falls under the responsibility of the Pastor of Family Ministries (Jared Patterson) and plays the role of catalyst to move forward the mission of Family Ministries and vision of Bonavista Baptist Church. Part of this role involves a study of our current culture, emerging generations, and Scripture. For staff it is important to pursue parents and volunteer leaders in efforts to partner in the spiritual development of children, youth and families. Here are some ways staff support and participate in youth ministries:

1. **Be a spiritual leader.** This involves pursuit of a passion for Christ, a heart of for people, and a life of service. This is to be modeled to youth, families and leaders. (1 Timothy 3)
2. **Pray...pray** by name, for all the kids, families and leaders in youth ministry. (James 5:13-14)
3. **Develop, empower** and **shepherd** volunteer leaders in their role of loving and leading youth. This involves regular face-to-face conversations to navigate God's workings. (Matthew 28:18-20)
4. **Invest in youth** (church and un-churched) to become active members of the youth group, by demonstrating a passion for youth ministry activities, as well as being an active member in their community. (Matthew 28:18-20)
5. **Connect committed kids & youth** to great volunteer leaders, as well other kids their age, with the hopes that they will find a community of believers to share life with. (Hebrews 10:25)
6. **Establish relationships with parents** in order to create a partnering relationship to move each family forward spiritually. (John 13:34-35)
7. **Share personal faith stories** with the youth, communicating why personal faith is important. Talk about the joys as well as the struggles and doubts in our efforts to live out our Christian faith. (1 Peter 3:15)
8. **Encourage each of the youth** to honestly examine their faith, to seek and listen for God's will in all areas of their life through regular prayer, reflection and time with Scripture. (John 15:1-17)
9. **Be available** to youth, families and leaders on request to talk and discuss specific situations and help create a plan to overcome any barrier or weakness. (Hebrews 10:24)
10. **Plan, Develop and Organize** weekly gatherings for children, youth, and families for community, connection, and teaching

Volunteer Leaders in Ministry

When we consider it takes a village to raise a child, it is very important to have great volunteer leaders that come alongside our children and youth. It is also important for each leader to know who the kids they serve are so they can spend focused time in relationship. Here are some ways volunteer leaders can support and participate in children and youth ministries:

1. To be **growing** in your relationship with God. If we expect our youth to be maturing in faith, we need to as well. (John 15:1-17; Galatians 5:16-26)
2. **Pray...** Pray for and with kids and teens. Pray for the parents. Pray for the ministry. (Philippians 4:6)
3. **Share personal faith stories**, communicating why personal faith is important. Talk about the joys as well as the struggles and doubts in our efforts to live out our Christian faith. (1 Peter 3:15)
4. **Encourage each child or teen** to honestly examine their faith, to seek and listen for God's will in all areas of their life through regular prayer, reflection and time with Scripture. (1 Timothy 3:16; John 15:1-17)
5. **Invest in children and teens** to become active members and demonstrating a positive outlook on ministry activities, as well as being an active member in their community. (Titus 2:1-15)
6. **Establish relationships with parents of the youth** in order to create a partnering relationship to move each child or teen forward spiritually. (John 13:34-35)
7. **Accept** every child and teen that attends and look for those that may be shy, hurting or just need attention. Every child and teen should have a leader that they can count on. (1 Corinthians 13)
8. **Believe** in family ministry. Believe that what you are doing as a volunteer leader is vitally important and makes a difference. (Romans 5:1-5)
9. **Know their story.** Seek to know the stories of those you come into regular contact with as well as those who are new to discover where and how you can partner in moving them towards Kingdom development.
10. **Role.** If you've taken on a specific role, to be aware of the responsibilities of that role and complete them.

Contact Information

Jared Patterson – Youth and Family Pastor 403.921.5581
jared.p@telus.net

Tina Keller – Children’s Ministry Coordinator 403.271.6969
tina.bbc.daycamp@gmail.com

General Inquiries
Joyce Harback – Administrative Coordinator 403.271.6969
bbc_main@telus.net

Facebook: Like us at BBCY & Bonavista Baptist Church
Twitter: Follow us @bvbapt

Appendix: BBCY Volunteer Roles

Welcome/Connection

Statistics show that if a student who does not make a significant connection or friendship will likely never attend youth group again. Our connection team is so important that any student that walks in, is greeted, welcomed, and that we get some of their contact information. Students desire to be known and welcomed, and for us to know their name adds huge value.

Responsibilities:

- Finding and meeting with new students – Ask the 20 Questions
- Spending time getting to know them, ask question and find out which Life Group/ leader they would fit best with.
- Obtaining contact information and learning that student's name
- Connect that student with a leader and introducing them to 5 other key youth
- Overseeing the welcome team of students

Community Liaison Worker

A community liaison worker is someone that we send to meet students on their own turf, to meet them where they are instead of where we are. We will send you to be trained and work alongside Young Life in a local community as close to Bonavista as possible. You will be the bridge between Young Life and the local church.

Responsibilities:

- Receive training from Young Life
- Be present at young life events and meetings
- Serve as the bridge connecting the students you meet in local schools to our church and youth ministry to continue the growth process

Event Planning

Events break the ice and help set the tone, they are fun, they are different and for a new student it's the thing to make them feel comfortable in what could be a new and strange place. Wide games or small games, students love them!

Responsibilities

- Plan and execute games on BBCY nights with clear instructions and purpose
- Recognize the need to limit risk to students and facility
- Be AWESOME – if the event is a disaster, no big deal! All the more memorable.

Gym Games Captain

Not all students have a lot of self-confidence, and for many standing around in a group of people talking before youth spurs fear and anxiety. The Gym is always open for students that want to play or do something other than talk or flirt. The Gym Captain will spend the 7:00 – 7:30pm time slot leading games watching for new or isolated students and plugging them in. Dodge ball, volleyball, Bump, or Floor Hockey are great options, but the sky is the limit!

Responsibilities

- Set up games and sports equipment
- Maintaining an environment that is safe and welcoming
- Diligently working to include any student that walks in the door

Adjunct Administrator

As the ministry grows, so does the need for help in the office, whether updating contact info, sending out texts, making facebook events, or editing videos. There is so much to do and so little time, every one of these jobs has huge value. There is an office here at the World Headquarters of BBCY with your name on it (or at least a post-it note with your name outside the door)!

Responsibilities

- Assisting the BBCY office with admin and planning
- Taking' Care of Business!

Technical Team

Tech team volunteers are the unsung heroes of BBCY, they arrive early, they sometimes stay late but the value they add to the Ministry is immeasurable. Tech team volunteers really set the scene for the night, dialing in the sound, setting the mood with the lights, playing the right music at the right time. So much of what Tech volunteers do is designed to break stereotypes of what Church is from the moment a new student steps into the room.

Responsibilities

- PowerPoint preparation and execution during worship or games
- Lighting and sound before events and LifeGroups.
- Help set up if there's a band playing.
- Taking pictures and videos

Worship Experience

We do worship fairly regularly at BBCY. Whether you play an instrument, do drama, or art.

We're looking for people to help us live up to a definition of worship that includes more than music to usher us into the presence of God.

Responsibilities:

- Plan and prep the experience in partnership with Jared
- Commit to practicing
- Be early for set-up and stay a little later to help us clean-up