

September 17th, 2020

Greetings to the Members & Friends of Stanley Park Baptist Church!

Excitement is in the air!!! Yesterday morning, we successfully held our 5th “*in-person*” Bible Study & Prayer Meeting in the church building. 20 people were in attendance and we were able to keep to the COVID-19 protocols and practices. We can confidently say that Stage One has been successfully implemented. The first part of Stage Two, opening the building to small groups, has also been implemented. Though we are in the process, we are now ready to move on to include “*in-person*” worship services.

To that end, I am pleased to announce that our first “*in-person*” church service will be held Sunday, September 27th at 10 am. As you may recall from my previous email, this will be an “*in-person*” gathering in the sanctuary to view the YouTube service that will be recorded for that Sunday. For those who are not in attendance, the service will be available, as usual, on-line or via audio link.

At the “*in-person*” service, Pastor Gary, along with other staff & church leaders will be in attendance to greet and welcome those who come. Unfortunately, we will have limited capacity to begin with. To that end, we will first invite those who do not have internet capabilities, so that, for the first time since COVID hit, they can view the service, rather than just listen to it. Next, we would like to invite those who live alone so that they can be encouraged simply by being together with others. Pastor Peter Schultz will be contacting people in these two demographics to see if they are comfortable with these details, and willing to attend. If you meet the criteria of either of these 2 groups, but do not receive a phone call, please contact Sara at the church office and reserve a seat for Sunday, September 27th if you would like to attend. If we should exceed our seating capacity for the first week, your name will be added to the list for the following Sunday.

How we wish things could be different, and we could simply fling the doors open and welcome everyone back!!! But we can't do that yet; and it is very important that, as we re-open, we are able to *stay* open! Your understanding is greatly appreciated at this time.

I know that we are ALL looking forward to Stage Three, with a larger Sunday morning gathering, and with a “*live-streamed*”, rather than the “*pre-recorded*” service. Stage Three is completely dependent on the *successful* re-opening of Stage Two.

Please continue to keep praying for all of our re-opening plans. I realize things may seem to be slow for some, and perhaps moving too quickly for others. Please be patient. In the meantime, we truly covet your prayers as we try to do our best in making our way through uncharted territory! Talk about entering the Promised Land!

Should you have any concern(s), please feel free to contact me as your Moderator, and I will be sure to pass your concerns on to the appropriate personnel.

In Christ's Love,
Rev. Paul Kowtecky
SPBC Moderator

