

Billtown Baptist Children & Youth



Continuing with Momentum!

It's been a great kick-off to our fall activities of children and youth events. We had a very successful Back to School Ice Cream Social for the entire church and community. Despite the rainy weather, many people came out to enjoy ice cream and each other's company. It was so great to see and be a part of it. Thank you all for your donations and support. Our very first children/youth night was held in my backyard. We had a bonfire, where we roasted marshmallows and hot dogs, along with some games and conversations. Overall we had 18 children & youth attend.

Challenge, a youth rally at New Minas Baptist Church, was another successful event for the youth. Five youth, along with two adult chaperones spent Friday evening and all day Saturday worshiping God through prayer, songs, fellowship, and supporting the community. I cannot wait to organize and attend next year and Mark was a big YES on going again next year, along with some interest from other adults. It's a wonderful opportunity to worship with youth.



Pictures from Challenge 2024

We had a great games, pizza, and ice cream night, another huge hit this fall. The youth did an incredible job under Meagan Boersma's leadership at the Hanging of the Greens performing He Shall Reign Forevermore, including actions with white gloves and black lights. The inspiring and breathtaking performance was visually stunning, highlighting the beauty of movement, light, and color. The combination of the glowing gloves, the contrast of darkness, and the music created an immersive experience that lingered long after the final lights faded. It captivated the audience, leaving them with a sense of wonder and awe, a powerful, artistic experience in worshipping Go.

We also shared some Christmas cheer leading up to the Joy Sunday in Advent in December making mint reindeer jars, a perfect blend of fun and festive spirit, and a creative and thoughtful idea to spread joy and make meaningful connections within the community. They will be distributed to local community members over the next few weeks to spread God's love. The children and youth added a personal touch with a tag saying, "This is MINT to wish you a Merry Christmas" and the Billtown Baptist Youth stamp on the back. I'd say we've had some fun. It's moments like these that truly embody the spirit of giving and spreading God's love. We've created some lovely memories together!



Top: Children and youth with their reindeer mint jars for the community

Right: Working together In groups on a Christmas game.



We are also excited to announce the completion of the basketball court refurbishment project. It was spearheaded by Mark Pound, Trustee. A Community Recreation Capital Grant was secured through the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage in the amount of \$2,261.67. The church also received \$3000 from the Mud Creek Rotary Club. The 2024/25 Councillor Grants to Organizations Program Award through the Municipality of the County of Kings approved \$1050. The Coldbrook & District Lions Club contributed \$250. Canadian Tire in New Minas donated tremclad paint, wire brushes, and a new basketball net totaling \$113.97. Michael Parker and Vernon Wells removed the dirt pile in preparation for paving. Thank you to all these individuals and organizations for their support in this project. The children and youth were super excited to use it at our Christmas gathering, despite the cool weather. The Church is thankful to Bowlby Paving for paving a 20' x 20' pad, which will be used for multiple sports.



Children & youth with Mark Pound on their new basketball court

We continue to see so much of how God works in and through children and youth and are extremely appreciative for all of your support. I look forward to all the various activities we get to do together. I thank you all for the support in running these programs whether through supplies, helping to lead or be a support during the event, bringing your child/youth to the activity, or through prayer. I especially want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to all the incredible leaders who come out and support our children and youth group. Your dedication, time, and energy make a lasting impact on the lives of the young people in our church community and beyond. Whether you're leading discussions, organizing activities, or being there as a mentor, you are making a difference. Thank you for your unwavering commitment and love for the next generation! Your support doesn't go unnoticed, and I am so grateful for each and every one of you. I couldn't do it without you!

There is one Christmas Eve service at 4:00 pm. We look forward to seeing you there. There will be no Sunday School on December 29th (however please feel free to come along as there will be a church service and activities in the gathering space for those children and youth in attendance, along with singing lots of Christmas carols!). Sunday School will start back up on January 5th.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING WINTER DATES:

(There may be more dates added as the time comes. If you would like to be added to the email list to hear of any upcoming events please email Angela: angela@billtownbaptist.com). Please take note of the various locations.

December 24th: Christmas Eve Service. Join us at 4:00 pm for our Christmas Eve Service to celebrate Jesus' birth.

January 5th: S'mores, Sledding and Christmas Trees with the Goats @ Melody's following the church service. Anyone who would like to go to Melody's after the church service on January 5th is welcome to come and mingle with the animals as Christmas trees are fed to the goats. There will be ingredients for s'mores outside on their fireplace, if there is snow there will be an opportunity for sledding on her hill, and hot chocolate will help warm everyone up with being outside. Don't forget to bring warm clothes for hanging outside to church that day as well as your sleds!

January 11th: Swimming @ 6-7 pm. The Waterville Youth Facility has been booked from 6-7 pm for children, youth, and their families to enjoy (lifeguard provided). Please feel free to invite friends. There is a maximum capacity of the pool so I ask that if you, friends, and your family would like to attend please email me with numbers by January 5th (I will send out a reminder email before this).

January 25th: Billtown Gives Back Winter Edition @ 1:30 pm. Come to church for the afternoon as we gather together to express our love to some local people with Valentine's Day approaching, it will be followed up by games, and fellowship.

January 31st: Open Gym Night from 7-9 pm at Kentville Baptist Church. Kentville Baptist has graciously offered their gym for us to have an open gym night. So come on out and burn off some energy (especially for those high school students who are writing exams that week!). More details to follow closer to the event.

February 22nd: Outdoor skating @ 1:30 pm. Weather permitting we will meet at a location TBD for outdoor skating, hot chocolate, and cookies. If the weather is not cooperative stay tuned for another activity possibly planned during this time. If you do not have skates please get in contact early.

March 7th: Escape Room from 7-9 pm @ Bethany Memorial Baptist Church: For those in grades 6-12, come join the youth surrounding Bethany Memorial Baptist Church as we try our hands at an escape room in their CE Centre. More details to follow closer to the event.

March 29th: Swimming in Waterville @ 4-5 pm. The Waterville Youth Facility has been booked from 4-5 pm for children, youth and their families to enjoy (lifeguard provided). Please feel free to invite friends. There is a maximum capacity of the pool so I ask that if you, friends, and your family would like to attend please email me with numbers by March 24th (I will send out a reminder email before this).

March 29th: Movie night @ 5 pm. Come out to Billtown Baptist Church for supper following swimming while we watch a family friendly movie together (including popcorn!).

Should you need to contact me for more information or registration my cell is (902) 670-0573 and my email is angela@billtownbaptist.com. I look forward to seeing you during Sunday Services and any other events as the opportunity allows! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Blessings,

Angela Pound

Lead Pastor, Billtown Baptist Church