

FIRST THINGS FIRST

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, REGINA

May 2011

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Why so many Bibles? If you've ever gone out to purchase a new Bible then you know full well there are literally hundreds to choose from. But why so many? Well there are actually a lot of good reasons. For example: as the Bible was translated into English, translators noticed that not all of the ancient documents they reviewed were exactly the same. As a result, certain translators choose to use the majority text to make their translations. This is the case with the *King James Version* of the Bible. The problem however, as many have noted, is that it is not the majority text that matters most but rather the earliest texts. *Revised Standard Version* is a good example of a translation based upon the earliest text rather than the majority. This argument suggests that if a spelling error in a translation was made in say year 600, every text after would include that error and would thus make the text in error the majority text. Because of this the RSV (as well as almost all translations since the original 1611 *King James*) lean towards the earliest documents instead of the majority.

Another reason for so many Bible translations is that certain religious groups hold differing theological positions outside orthodoxy. Thus they do not trust translators from outside their particular religious affiliations. This is the case with the *New World Translation* which is solely a translation of the Jehovah's Witnesses and includes a number of highly debatable choices. Another example would be the *Inspired Version* which is said to be Joseph Smith's "translation" for the Church of Later Day Saints (Mormon's), though in reality it is simply a *King James* 1611 with a number of additions and deletions.

There are also a number of new translations that attempt to use slang, that are shortened for children, or that include commentary or even provide debates inside the margins.

On the other hand a paraphrase is not even a translation at all. *The Message* is a great example of this. When writing *The Message*, Eugene Peterson simply read an English translation of the Bible and wrote down what he read in the most simplistic English he could think of. In reality it's not really a "Bible" as much as it is a conversation about the Bible.

Another reason why we have so many choices is because people have differing reading levels. This is important since most newspapers in Canada and the U.S. are written at a 5th grade level. With that in mind the *Contemporary English Version* is perhaps the best choice for most Canadian's because it too is geared towards a 5th grade reading level. Just for information's sake: here's a list of some translations and their equivalent target reading levels: *King James Version* – Grade 12, *New American Standard* – Grade 11, *New Revised Standard* – Grade 11, *English Standard* – Grade 10, *New International* (our pew Bible) – Grade 7-8, *New Living Translation* – Grade 6, *Good News* – Grade 6, *Contemporary English Version* – Grade 5, *The Message* – Grade 4-5.

Wait, there's more. Another reason for all these translations is whether the translators attempted to make a Formal Equivalence or a Dynamic Equivalence. While that sounds kind of fancy the truth is that it's not. Formal Equivalence just means that they tried to translate each word for an English word and attempted to keep the word order roughly the same as in its original language. On the other hand Dynamic Equivalence means that the translators attempted to convey the idea in a given sentence rather than the exact meaning for each individual word. Here is a great example: In the Formal Equivalent, *King James Version* / *New KJV* of the Bible 1 Samuel 24:3 says that "Saul went to touch his cloak to his toes" or "Saul went to cover his feet". These translations rightly and

accurately translate the given Hebrew words. However the Dynamic, New Living Translation explains the idea of what is actually taking place by its translation "Saul went to relieve himself". You see, in actuality the *KJV* is correct but the euphemism is lost on most readers and so the *NLT* seeks to explain what actually happened. Here's a little chart where I've categorized some popular translations.

Formal Equivalent Translations	An attempt to balance both Formal and Dynamic styles	Dynamic Equivalent Translations
King James	New International Version	New Living Translation
New King James Version	Today's New International Version	Good News Bible
New American Standard Bible	New American Bible	Contemporary English Version
New Revised Standard Version	Modern language Bible	New English Bible

Why so many Bibles? Well... for lots of reasons. Find one that suits you best, and then read, read, and read it some more.

Rev. Brad Childs

MUSIC AT FIRST

April was a very active month, musically. During the Communion service on April 3, the choir sang Psalm 23 in pointed style with the refrain sung by choir and congregation. The choir sang "Sanctus" by Schubert during the distribution of the elements. On April 20, bass soloist Graeme Mitchell sang "God's Mercy" by Welsh composer Gwynn Williams the choir sang "Gracious Spirit Dwell with Me". The combined Youth and Senior Choirs sang "Antiphonal Hosanna" on Palm Sunday, with the senior choir singing "Ride On, King Jesus". Gabriel Olomida and his father, Rodolfo, sang "Why", a modern commentary on Holy week at the Good Friday service. The choir

sang "And No Bird sang". Both selections were very meaningful for this service.

Easter Sunday was a time of joy with music by the choir, brass and organ. The brass quartet and organ performed "Easter" from "Cavalleria Rusticana" by Pietro Mascagni as a prelude. The postlude, "The Trumpet Shall Sound", for brass and organ, was arranged from Handel's Messiah". The choir sang "The Day of Resurrection" with accompaniment by pianist David Lewicki and organist Jack Partridge. Two congregational hymns were sung with brass and organ accompaniment: "Now the "Green Blade Rises" and a setting of the "Hymn to Joy" from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

The choir is very pleased to welcome Rodolfo Omolida to the tenor section.

Christian Family Sunday (May 8) will have music by the youth of First Presbyterian Church who have participated in the recent Regina Music Festival.

Jack Partridge,
Music Director

SESSION

On behalf of the Session and congregation, "Thank you" to Mac and Margaret MacDonald for the many years they have looked after communion setup. Mac also organizing elders to serve communion. They always ensured that everything was ready and we appreciate the time and effort they devoted to this task! Thanks, Mac and Margaret!

Jo Szostak,
Clerk of Session

STEWARDSHIP

Our Raising the Roofs campaign is coming to a close in May. Celebration Sunday is May 1 - our multiplied talents will be part of the offering on May 1. Please put your money in an envelope with your name and the amount on it. If you're not here that Sunday, please turn your money in

to the office and it will be added to the total. Thanks to everyone for their enthusiastic participation! We have seen many talents displayed. We appreciate those who have supported the projects and offered prayers of support for the campaign.

Thanks also to everyone who contributed to the Presbyterians Sharing campaign in January. A total of \$775 was donated and sent in.

Jo Szostak,
Stewardship Committee

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Session recently approved the job description for "a leader of young disciples". Some of the duties of this person will be to teach our oldest Sunday School class, and to plan and implement at least one bi-weekly event of fun, fellowship and faith development for our young disciples community. The position requires no more than 10 hours per week at a rate of \$13.00 per hour. Applications are currently being accepted.

The bowling event on April 3 at the Golden Mile lanes was well received. Stay tuned for information about our next event.

Please consider volunteering to teach one of our Sunday school classes. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

The Sunday School choir provided fantastic performances on Palm Sunday with the senior choir and on Easter Sunday as well. Thank-you to everyone involved.

Next meeting of the Christian Education Committee is May 3 at 7:00. All are welcome.

Bette Kelly,
Christian Education Convenor

COMMUNION AT FIRST

With the monthly practice of celebrating communion (September through June) in place, Session thought it timely to review the procedures for conducting communion services. As a result, protocols were drawn up with the assistance of the Worship Committee for both traditional communion and communion by Intinction. The main purpose of the protocols is to ensure as far as possible that our communion services are conducted in an orderly, smooth fashion and with a degree of dignity appropriate to the occasion.

Two modifications have been introduced. The first involves the use of a large white cloth to cover the elements on the Table. The removal of this cloth during the singing of the Communion Hymn marks the formal beginning of the communion service; and its placement back over the Table during the last hymn signifies the closing of the communion service. To further complement the meaning of the service, a second modification calls for a contemplative choral work such as Schubert's *Sanctus* to be sung by the choir while the elements are being distributed to the congregation.

The liturgy for communion is based on the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving in the *Book of Praise*.

Both wine (red) and Grape juice (white) are served.

On communion Sundays worshippers are invited to remain in their pews until the completion of the Postlude.

SASKATCHEWAN PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH

The Saskatchewan Presbyterian Youth's fall event will be held from September 16th - 18th in Saskatoon tentatively at St. Andrew's Presbyterian. Please mark your calendars and spread the word to youth, grade 9 - age 25. More details will follow.



COME JOIN US.....

**We Are Doing Our
New Church Directory**

Session has decided that it is time for a new Photo Directory. Our last one dates from 1996 and a few of us may have changed slightly since then! By matching names with faces we will help promote a sense of family within our congregation.

For your convenience Professional photographs will be taken here at the church on the following dates: **Tuesday May 24th, Wednesday May 25th, Thursday May 26th, Friday May 27th, Saturday May 28th and Sunday May 29th, 2011.**

You will have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits though you are under NO obligation to do so. There will be a variety of portrait options offered to suit your needs or interests.

The photographer uses a fully digital state-of-the-art system that will allow you to view your photographs on the spot.

Our pictorial directory will be in full colour, so for best results we recommend wearing brighter colours as well as colour-coordinated wardrobes with longer sleeves.

All families who participate in this program will receive a free pictorial directory.

Our Directory will not be complete without your participation, so please book you appointment early to ensure a convenient timeslot.

MAY'S EVENTS

1st	10:30 am	Holy Communion/Worship Sunday School
3rd	10:30 am 12 noon	Bible Study Freedom 55ers
4th	7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Session Memorial Fund meeting
5th	9:45 am 8:00 pm	Wintergreene Service Choir
7th	10:00 am	Worship Committee meeting
8th	10:30 am	Worship Sunday School
10th	10:30 am 12 noon	Bible Study Freedom 55ers
12th	8:00 pm	Choir
15th	10:30 am	Worship Service Sunday School
17th	10:30 am 12 noon	Bible Study Freedom 55ers
19th	8:00 pm	Choir
22nd	10:30 am	Worship Service Sunday School
24th	10:30 am 12 noon	Bible Study Freedom 55ers
26th	8:00 pm	Choir
29th	10:30 am 2:00 pm	Worship Service Sunday School Pioneer Village Service