

# FIRST THINGS FIRST

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, REGINA

#### November 2012

#### **BOARD OF MANAGERS**

The Board would like to thank the Memorial Committee for the donation of a new photocopier for the congregation. We were so pleased to receive this gift that we decided we in turn would donate the old photocopier to Knox Presbyterian Church, Weyburn. We did this on November 6, 2012, complete with a bow and gift card! Praise God for the ability to give and receive!

Board of Managers

#### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Thanks again to all the volunteer teachers. We still need teachers for a couple of Sundays in December. Parents, please make sure we have your contact information and e-mail to help keep you up to date regarding any special events or activities.

The Sunday School will be starting a mission project. The project is called Let Little Children Come to Me and is based out of Nazko, BC. We can help reach out to children in the remote first nations community of Nazko in British Columbia. Our gift will help Cariboo Presbyterian Church to run weekly after-school bible classes, a Vacation Bible School and a "Talking Circle" for teen girls. We would gradually like to save up our money to reach some or all of the following goals:

- \$25 for snacks and supplies for one week of Bible Class
- \$25 for pizza and juice for the Teen Girls' Talking Circle
- \$300 to cover the cost for one week of Vacation Bible School

All the students will be given offering envelopes. These envelopes can be used for contributions

to the project, or to offer a prayer, or write down ways to show your love for others over the coming week. We will collect the envelopes at the Children's story time during the service. Perhaps we will be able to share some of our special ideas and prayers with you in coming newsletters.

Bette Kelly,  
Christian Education Convenor

#### **MUSIC AT FIRST**

Music on Thanksgiving Sunday, October 7 included two settings of "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" by the choir with piano (William Sgrazzutti) and organ (Jack Partridge) accompaniment. These settings were performed as the Prelude and Postlude. Emily, Tom and Will Ireton and Sheila Wilson joined the choir on this occasion.

A Hymn Sing was held on Sunday, October 14, beginning at 10 AM. Hymn favourites, Thanksgiving, All Saints and Reformation hymns were sung. Rodolfo Omolida, accompanied on the piano by his son Gabe, performed "Remember Me" during the service.

The choir and soloists gave a concert at Parkside Extencicare on Wednesday evening, October 17. This was a fine concert which included anthems from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the modern period. Soloists Heather Gosselin, Graeme Mitchell, Rodolfo Omolida and Marianne Woods sang both religious and secular songs. Henk Koopman, a longtime member of the bass section of the choir, and now a patient at Parkside, attended our performance.

Heather Gosselin, soprano, sang on Sunday, October 21.

Sharon Miller joined the soprano section of the choir on Thursday evening, October 25. Jason Yuen came to meet the choir during our Hallowe'en social that same evening. He is the new Choral Scholar who will be singing in the bass section, helping with sectional rehearsals and performing vocal solos this year.

Baritone soloist, Dominic Gregorio sang on Sunday, October 28. Dominic is Director of Choral Activities and assistant professor of choral music, University of Regina.

**Advance Notice:**

- The Chancel Brass will be playing at the Remembrance Sunday service, November 11.
- The Choir will be singing at the Rotary Christmas Carol Festival, Wednesday evening, December 5.
- "That Christ Child" a recently composed Christmas Cantata, will be performed at the Sunday morning service, December 16. Soloists will be Lynn Channing, soprano, and Dominic Gregorio, baritone.
- A Christmas Carol Hymn Sing will be held, starting at 10 AM on Sunday December 23.

Jack Partridge  
Director of Music

**FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE**

Mark your calendars!!!! The Fellowship Committee is planning the Third Annual Advent Party on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from 4-7 pm at the church. We will have some Christmas games, carol singing ... and a lot of fun...



followed by a chili supper. This year we are also planning on having mac 'n cheese for the kids and those unable to have chili. So, plan on joining all the other fun loving people at First for this event. Hope to see all of you there.

Sheila Wilson,  
Fellowship Convenor

**FUNDSCRIP**

We've passed the one-year mark in our FundScrip program. During that time we raised \$3000 for First Church! Thank you to everyone who has supported this initiative by purchasing gift cards. We'd like to encourage more people to participate - it's easy! You can purchase grocery and gas gift cards and use them for your regular shopping, or you can purchase cards as gifts for special occasions. Either way, the church gets a percentage back. For November, Petro-Canada gift cards provide a 3% rebate instead of 2%, and Sears gift cards provide a 5% rebate instead of 3%. Be sure to visit the FundScrip table during coffee time - cards ordered one Sunday are here for you the next Sunday.

**PLANNED GIVING AT FIRST CHURCH**

First Church has launched the development of a comprehensive planned giving program. The Rev. Herb Gale, Associate Secretary for Planned Giving for the Presbyterian Church in Canada, spent the week of October 29<sup>th</sup> through November 4<sup>th</sup> with the First Church community, sharing information and expertise with Session, the Board of Managers and members of various First Church committees. Rev. Gale gave the homily at the November 4<sup>th</sup> worship service and commissioned the newly established Planned Giving Team that will develop and implement a planned giving program for our congregation.

First Church decided to establish a planned giving program based on Rev. Gale's recommendations -- approved by Session in June 2012 -- and to have our congregation become a member of the ProVisionaries Network. This is a network of congregations who covenant to make planned giving an integral part of their Stewardship and their vision of ministry.

While our weekly offerings usually come from current income and support the ongoing operation of our church and its activities, planned giving involves gifts people make from

accumulated assets, intended to support such things as new ministries or long term objectives (e.g. a building fund). A planned giving program helps to ensure that gifts meet both the philanthropic goals of the donor and the ministry objectives of the church. It also helps to ensure the donor is able to maximize the tax benefits available for charitable gifts.

First Church has been blessed with planned gifts throughout its history, and part of the work of the Planning Giving Team will be to gather and share stories about planned gifts and the difference they have made. You will be hearing more about the development of our planned giving program in upcoming newsletters and through other activities at First Church. Rev. Gale will also continue to assist the Team during the development of our program.

If you have any questions or would like to know more about planned giving, please contact any member of the Planned Giving Team: Donna Wilkinson (Convenor), Gordon Wiles, Jane Powell, Lisa Ann Wood, Tammy MacDonald, Jo Szostak, Ron Pugsley and Brad Childs.

Lisa Ann Wood,  
Planned Giving Committee

## **MISSION & OUTREACH**

### ***FREEDOM FROM FREEZING***

It's time to start knitting children's mitts again! Our annual Freedom From Freezing program runs from November until January, in partnership with a local school. Here's how it works:

If you knit then start making mittens and drop them off in the Mitten Bin in the narthex. If you need wool, check the Mitten Bin for donated wool.

If you don't knit: DONATE wool! Drop it off in the Mitten Bin so our knitters can make warm mitts to keep little hands warm this winter.

Who gets the mitts? Kitchener School, an elementary school in North-Central Regina. The school principal tells us that the school counts on

our mitts every year to help out kids who need them. They can use every pair we provide - so keep knitting!

### ***CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING***

Why not give someone you love a Gift of Change for Christmas? Gifts of Change is a series of special Presbyterian Church in Canada projects that congregations, church groups and individuals can fund over and above contributions to Presbyterians Sharing. Welcome a refugee to Canada, help build a church roof in Malawi, or provide clean water in Tanzania - there are many options. Give a donation in the name of a friend or family member and they will receive a gift card acknowledgement. Copies of the Gift of Change catalogue will be available in the narthex in November and at [www.presbyterian.ca](http://www.presbyterian.ca).

## **KEITH PRIOR: A PROFILE**

Keith and his wife Wendy started attending services at First Presbyterian during the Spring of 2009 when the Rev. Bob Wilson was minister.

After spending many years as active members of Lakeview United (Keith is a former Chair of the Board of Stewards there and served on the Property Committee) he and Wendy were, as Keith put it, "ready for a change"; and they were made to feel most welcome at First church right from the start. "It felt like a good fit for us" Keith added; and the fact that the Priors already knew a few people here -- the Iretons, Kitsons, and Macfarlanes -- no doubt helped smooth their transition to this congregation. And so, in Fall 2009, Keith and Wendy were formally received by transfer of certificate into the membership of the Presbyterian Church in Canada -- not, of course, a radical shift in allegiances given that the United Church of Canada owes a major part of its beginnings to the many Presbyterians who left the Kirk at the time of Church Union in 1925.

The Priors have since entered fully into many aspects of church life at First. Keith is a member of the Board of Managers, he occasionally teaches Sunday school and from time to time serves as a lector, usher, and greeter; and last year he agreed to be a Trustee for First church.

Wendy too takes her turn at teaching Sunday school, and greeting, and is a member of the Worship, Visitation and the Fellowship Committees. Both take their turn serving coffee after Church, and regularly attend and enjoy Freedom 55ers.

Keith's early years were spent on the family farm near Weyburn. When he was seven his family moved to Regina. After attending Connaught, and Athabasca Schools, and then Sheldon-Williams Collegiate, he enrolled in the University of Saskatchewan where he received the B.A (Distinction) and LL.B degrees in 1974. The following year he was admitted to the Saskatchewan Bar, and from 1978 to the present he has been a partner in the Regina law firm of Bertram Scrivens Prior and Martin. Keith's legal work is based primarily in the areas of business law, wills and estates, real estate, commercial law, and agricultural law, though military law has also been a professional interest of his. In fact, for 22 years -- from 1988 to 2010 -- Keith held the title of Reserve Legal Officer for the Canadian Armed Forces as part of the Office of the Judge Advocate General's reserve staff; and in due course he progressed to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel as the Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General for the Prairie Region.

Keith's varied involvement and accomplishments in local community endeavours are no less impressive. He is a former coach in the Regina South Zone indoor soccer program; a past Chair (14 years) of the South Zone Recreation Board Indoor Soccer Program and a recipient of that Board's "Volunteer of the Year Award" for 1995 and 2002. He and Wendy were parent volunteers at Luther High School; Keith is a past member of the Lakeview Community Association; a frequent volunteer judge for the Saskatchewan Elocution and Debate Association; a former volunteer instructor in Boy Scouts; a past member of the Regina Flying Club and a former private pilot!

In 2003 Keith's professional work and volunteer contributions to the community were publicly acknowledged when he was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal, and the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal.

Not surprisingly, Keith speaks proudly of their three adult children. Their oldest, Collin, lives in Vancouver and works for iQmetrix (a commercial software development company); Jonathan is a doctoral student in Ancient Roman archaeology at Durham University (England); and daughter Karen is currently an assistant to the Dean of Luther College, University of Regina.

In reflecting further on their new church home, what Keith immediately mentions are the close and friendly relationships that characterize the congregational life at First as well as the presence of our youthful minister, the Rev. Bradley Childs. He strongly believes that having a young minister appeals to the "whole spectrum" of generations and that this in turn will augur well for congregational growth and development.

### **REGINA AND AREA SUPPORT SERVICES (RASS) ONLINE COMMUNITY DIRECTORY**

*"Homelessness is a serious problem throughout Canada."*<sup>1</sup> Here are some interesting facts for you to ponder:

- Most homeless people don't live on the street.<sup>1</sup> Many homeless statistics ignore the *couch surfers*; those who live in a friend's home for a short period of time, then move on to another friend's home. They have a support network that keeps them off the street. Good statistics aren't available for this target population, but the numbers are estimated to be high.
- *More than 80%* of Canada's homeless are improperly housed or on the verge of eviction.<sup>1</sup>
- Approximately one in seven users of shelters across Canada is a child.<sup>1</sup>
- Regina's average rental vacancy rates will remain low in October 2012 at 0.8%.<sup>2</sup>
- In-flows of international migrants to Regina are expected to attain a record high by 2013. There were 2,856 migrants in 2011; *expect 4,600* in 2012.<sup>2</sup> Older

adults and migrants are two populations that have a high percentage of homelessness and low incomes.

- More females than males 25 years and younger used homeless shelters in Regina during 2008 to 2010. More males than females 26 years and older used them.<sup>3</sup>
- Shelters operated at almost full capacity in 2010.<sup>3</sup>
- To afford a bachelor apartment in Regina in 2010, the minimum wage must be *at least \$10.04 per hour* (based on \$522 monthly rent at 30% or less of before-tax income, Fall 2010).<sup>3</sup> Currently it is \$9.25 and will increase on December 1<sup>st</sup> to \$10.00.

<sup>1</sup> YWCA Regina website (*look up YWCA Regina in RASS!*)

<sup>2</sup> CMHC Housing Market Outlook, Regina Census Metropolitan Area (CMA). Spring 2012

<sup>3</sup> HIFIS project, Homelessness in Regina: 2010 Report, University of Regina (*look up HIFIS in RASS!*)

These statistics highlight some of the issues homeless people face when searching for affordable housing.

RASS did its own unpublished study. It determined the number of times a listing from its directory was displayed every week and every weekend, from January to September 2012. The top five listings in each week and weekend were compiled to provide these statistics:

- There were 56 top five unique listings for the weeks of 2012. Of these, 10 were identified as capable of providing services that directly or indirectly relate to homelessness.<sup>1</sup> The top five listings were displayed 2,435 times. Of those, 26.4% were for the “homeless” listings.
- There were 117 top five unique listings for the weekends of 2012. Of these, 12 were identified as capable of providing services that directly or indirectly relate to homelessness.<sup>1</sup> The top five listings were displayed 1,196 times. Of those, 28.0% were for the “homeless” listings.

<sup>1</sup> Programs and services that a homeless person could use to find suitable/affordable/temporary/shelter housing. Other types of homeless services are not included.

RASS is an online, publicly accessible community directory of human support services. It also includes listings for all types of free programs and services related to homelessness. You don't have to be homeless to use RASS! Explore the directory at: [www.rass.ca](http://www.rass.ca). With hundreds of listings, it is the most comprehensive, online, searchable directory of human support services for the Regina area.

The directory is maintained and updated regularly by Regina's North Central Community Association.

Regina & Area Support Services  
Office: 306-565-8889 Mon - Fri 10 am - 4 pm  
[www.rass.ca](http://www.rass.ca)

## MY LOVE

The moment your heart stood still,  
I planted a white rose on the hill.  
I remember the day you ask for my hand,  
now you are buried in a foreign land.  
You had never known your son,  
who came up that hill on the run.  
He said, from Grandpa I got my name,  
then he promised never to put it to shame.  
He says, Grandpa is my best friend,  
my Dad is buried in a strange land.  
I told him, his Dad had been strong and tall,  
that he had fought for freedom for all.  
Our son had many questions to ask,  
to reply for me was a heavy task.  
How can I make him understand, a Father's love  
he had never known, who he knows is above.  
Our son, together with his Grandpa, who had the  
skill,  
built a memorial for the beloved heir, on that hill.  
We shared a Son, a Husband and a Father,  
memories will come again, when we all gather.  
I planted a rose below the cross, a quiet place,  
I lost my love, I miss his smile and his grace.  
Saw pictures of graves, but never yours, my  
husband,  
where kind people buried you, in a foreign land.

Violet Lochore

November 11

## NOVEMBER EVENTS

9 <sup>th</sup>		~ Office Closed
10 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am	Worship Committee Meeting
11 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	<b>Remembrance Service &amp; Sunday School</b>
12 <sup>th</sup>		~ Office Closed
	1 - 4 pm	Planned Giving Meeting
15 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Walk
	8:00 pm	Choir
18 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	<b>Worship Service &amp; Sunday School</b>
21 <sup>st</sup>	7:00 pm	Stewardship Meeting
22 <sup>nd</sup>	9:00 am	Walk
	8:00 pm	Choir
25 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	<b>Worship Service &amp; Sunday School</b>
26 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 pm	Board of Managers Meeting
28 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 am	<b>Worship Service &amp; Sunday School</b>
29 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Walk
	8:00 pm	Choir