

# FIRST THINGS FIRST

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, REGINA

#### October 2011

#### MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Reader's Digest some time ago presented a most interesting article titled "What Good Is a Tree?" The article explained that scientists had recently discovered a quality common in almost all tree roots. It seems a little known fungus grows along tree roots and reduces competition between root systems. As different roots from different trees touch deep underground, the fungus helps them to link and intertwine with each other. Even dissimilar species are capable of doing this. A whole forest in fact may be linked together in this manner. If one tree has access to water, another nutrients and a third to sunlight, then the trees actually have the means to share these resources with one another so that all are more likely to survive and even thrive.

Like trees in a forest, we the followers of Christ at First Presbyterian have that same capacity. Like the forest, the Church flourishes when we work together, share our gifts and passions with each other; teach and learn from one another.

Thank you to everyone at First for all that you do. Thank you for the committees you sit on, the jobs around the church you do (seen and unseen), the visits you make, the phone calls you make, the contributions you offer, the talents you bring. Thank you for the tasks you take home, the prayers you say for others, the smiles you share with friends and visitors, the hands outstretched, the kind words following the service, the pleasure of your company and everything else you do!

Rev. Brad Childs

#### CLERK OF SESSION

##### Presbytery Visitation

Every two or three years the Presbytery of Assiniboia conducts a visitation to each congregation. The purpose of a visitation is to "inquire into the state of the congregation and its affairs generally." Accordingly, a team from Presbytery will be visiting First Church on Saturday, October 15. The following schedule will be used to meet with various groups in the congregation.

Saturday, October 15:

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.</b>  | <b>Congregation</b><br>(All are welcome. Coffee will be provided!) |
| <b>11:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.</b> | Rev. Brad Childs   |
| <b>1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.</b>   | Board of Managers  |
| <b>2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.</b>   | Session  |

If you are unable to attend that day but you have thoughts you would like to share with the visitation team, please send them to Rev. Ina Golaiy ([gigolai@sasktel.net](mailto:gigolai@sasktel.net)).

Jo Szostak,  
Clerk of Session

#### BILLETS NEEDED

The Synod of Saskatchewan is being held October 20 - 21, 2011 at Norman Kennedy Presbyterian Church. We are looking for billets, if needed, for those attending the meeting from around the province. It would require you providing one night accommodation (on Friday Oct 20, 2011) and breakfast. If you are interested or require further information please

contact Donna Wilkinson at 586-4026 or [donnaw@sasktel.net](mailto:donnaw@sasktel.net)

### **MUSIC AT FIRST**

Choir practice resumed on Thursday, September 22. We welcome members in all sections of the choir, so please consider joining us. Contact the Music Director by phoning the church office at 522 9571 to leave your name and phone number so Jack Partridge can contact you.

Sung responses to the Psalms have resumed. These short responses are interspersed throughout the readings of the Psalms. On occasion, the Gloria Patri, sung at the end of the readings, will replace the sung responses.

A large choir, made up of choristers from First Church, Lakeview United Church and the Regina Philharmonic Choir sang at the funeral of Sally Crooks, October 1. A setting of the hymn tune CRIMOND, "The Lord's My Shepherd" was arranged by Jack Partridge for the choir. Two hymns selected by Sally, "Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet" and "In the bulb there is a flower" were sung. Cameron Lowe, cellist, played an arrangement of a song by Gabriel Faure, "Après une reve". Cameron and his family were close friends of the Crooks family when the Crooks family lived on Angus Crescent. Gordon Wiles played the recessional on the bagpipes, followed by songs of Robert Burns played by Jack Partridge on the organ.

On Thanksgiving Sunday, October 9, the choir will sing a new anthem, "Thank You God for Everything", and start the service with "Sing to the Lord of Harvest" by Healey Willan.

Christine Folstad will play "The Swan" by Camille Saint-Saens on Sunday October 16 accompanied by two pianos played by David Lewicki and Jack Partridge. Catherine has recently completed a Masters degree in music from the University of Western Ontario, London. The anthem that Sunday will be "Somebody's Knockin' at your Door" featuring solos by David Lewicki, Rodolfo Omolida and Graeme Mitchell.

The anthem for Reformation Sunday, October 30 is "Onward, Ye People" by the great modern Finish composer Jean Sibelius. The text of this

anthem is a good choice for the observance of Reformation Sunday. The postlude will be a transcription of this anthem for organ.

Jack Partridge,  
Director of Music

### **BOARD OF MANAGERS**

#### **FINANCES:**

As of August 31, 2011:

Total Income	174,028	69.2% of budget
Total Expenses	179,598	69.7% of budget

Since August 31 is 2/3 of the way through the year, or 67%, this means that we're very close to where we should be. Givings are at the 60% point, which is typical for early fall. Traditionally, givings are higher in the fall, and especially in December. If we all continue to give generously, we should end the year well.

Jo Szostak,  
Board of Managers

#### **CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY**

The Board of Managers is hosting a church clean-up day on Saturday November 5th from 9am - 4pm. Please help to clean, sort, paint or complete small fix-up jobs around the church. A list of tasks will be posted on October 16th for those who wish to sign up. If you have any questions please contact Donna Wilkinson at [donnaw@sasktel.net](mailto:donnaw@sasktel.net).

Do you sew? Curtains are needed for the Norman Kennedy Room. We have the curtain rods so please call Donna Wilkinson at 586-4026 if you can help with this project.

Donna Wilkinson,  
Board of Managers



## **STEWARDS BY DESIGN**

STEWARDS BY DESIGN is a stewardship initiative of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. It is designed to help congregations discover how stewardship connects to all aspects of the mission and ministry of the church. Participants explore how stewardship is not just a financial matter but also a spiritual matter concerned with all aspects of life.

First Church has been selected to send a team to this year's Stewardship conference that will run from October 27 – 30, 2011 in Orillia, Ontario. The team is composed of the Rev. Brad Childs, Jo Szostak, the Rev. Bob Wilson and Donna Wilkinson.

The keynote speaker for the conference will be Dr. Kennon Callahan, and the pre-reading assignment is his book, Twelve Keys to an Effective Church, which has helped many congregations of all sizes look at mission and stewardship issues in new ways. Callahan's positive perspective is an inspiration. The team looks forward to sharing what they learn and working with the congregation to become a more effective church.

FUNDSCRIP: The Stewardship committee is launching a new fundraising initiative through Fundscrip -- a Canadian gift card fundraising program. Simply put, when families shop at their usual places for groceries, gasoline and household items, the church will receive back a percentage (2% to 10%) of all these purchases to put towards our fundraising goals. Fundscrip has partnered with over 100 top Canadian retailers. Watch for more information in bulletin inserts later this month as we prepare to launch our Fundscrip program.

Jo Szostak,  
Stewards By Design Committee

## **FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE**

ADVANCE NOTICE! Mark your calendars for a 'world famous' First Presbyterian Church Potluck Supper – a wonderful feast where you just have to bring one dish. What could be better? So, plan to have supper at the Church on Sunday, November 6, 2011 at 5:30 pm and enjoy a great meal and wonderful fellowship.

Sheila Wilson,  
Fellowship Committee



## **OCTOBER EVENTS**

<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Worship Service Sunday School</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	9:00 am	Adult Walk
	10:30 am	Bible Study
	Noon	Freedom 55ers
<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	8:00 pm	Choir
<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30 am	Presbytery Visitation
<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Worship Service Sunday School</b>
<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	9:00am	Adult Walk
	10:00 am	Queen Victoria Estates Service
	10:30 am	Bible Study
	Noon	Freedom 55ers
<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	7:00 pm	Evening Bible Study
<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	8:00 pm	Choir
<b>23<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Worship Service Sunday School</b>
<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	9:00 am	Adult Walk
	10:30 am	Bible Study
	Noon	Freedom 55ers
<b>27<sup>th</sup></b>	8:00 pm	Choir

29<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am Worship Committee Meeting

**30<sup>th</sup> 10:30 am Worship Sunday School**