

FIRST THINGS FIRST

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, REGINA

APRIL 2015

BOARD OF MANAGERS

Thanks to everyone for a very generous Easter Sunday offering! We are currently operating in the black, which is a good way to be. Your continued contributions to the life and work of First Church are appreciated.

Plans to replace the sanctuary roof this summer are moving ahead. We will be circulating information soon on a roof generosity program to help finance the replacement of both roofs over the next two years. Pledge forms will be distributed in the next few weeks.

Jo Szostak,
Board of Managers

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Thank you to all for celebrating your birthdays with us on Birthday Sunday. We raised \$385 for the roof fund.

Sheila Wilson
Fellowship Convenor

FUNDSCRIP

Orders are now being placed following the first and third Sundays of the month. So that you can plan ahead, the order Sundays before summer will be April 19, May 3 and 17 and June 7 and 21. Special deals for April include Chapters and Cabela's with a 7% rebate to the church.

As always, cards will be available for purchase at the table during coffee time. In the 3.5 years the program has been running we have received about \$7,500. We have a small core of regular purchasers. If you don't currently buy your groceries and gas with gift cards, try it out! It costs you nothing and makes a big difference to the church. Thanks for your support!

Jo Szostak

PLANNED GIVING

The Gifts of Easter and Spring

We began this month mourning the death of Jesus on the cross and then joyfully celebrating his resurrection, God's most precious gift to us. Although our calendar marked the arrival of spring three weeks ago, we've had a couple of snowfalls since then to remind us of the changeable nature of March and April weather. Now that the snow has finally all but disappeared, there is a definite change in the air, real warmth in the sun and a softness in the brisk breeze,, the gifts of spring, at last.

The gift of God's only Son, the gifts of God's precious natural world – these are priceless, their value beyond measure. Other gifts are much smaller, humble even. But the true value of a gift lies in the heart of the giver. When a gift is given without reservation, given in love, its size and worth is not the measure of its value. We celebrate all gifts that support the daily life of our church community and our ongoing fulfillment of our mission to be joyful in our worship, daring in our outreach, and tender in our lives together.

Lisa Ann Wood
Planned Giving Team

PASTORAL CARE JOB OPPORTUNITY

Funding was approved at the 2015 annual meeting to hire a Pastoral Care Advocate to work part-time (up to 8 hours a week) with members and adherents within our church family. If you are interested in this ministry and have strong leadership skills, then this job may be for you!

We plan to advertise within the congregation until April 24th. Copies of the job description and a list of qualifications are available in the narthex and the church office. So if you are interested in this rewarding opportunity, please contact Emily Ireton at 584-2002 or email emy@sasktel.net.

Emily Ireton

GARAGE SALE

First Church is having its second Annual Garage sale on May 2, 2015. As you do your spring cleaning please consider donating gently used items to the church. The proceeds will be going to Children's Ministry. Bring your donated items to the church (pre-priced please!) by Friday, May 1st. For more information please contact Tammy MacDonald, Tracy Childs or Donna Wilkinson.

ART FROM THE MORRIS ROOM

The eleventh painting I'm going to talk about is George Frederick Watt's 1899 painting, "Hope".

George Frederick Watt was one of the most famous British artists in the field of symbolic art. He's been know as "the painter of ideals". He was also a noted sculptor.

Born in London in 1817 of Welsh parents he began using artist materials at an early age and later painted many portraits. In his pictures Watts leaves to posterity a record of a decidedly brilliant career. He died in 1904.

On Sunday, August 9, 1976, Larry and Elizabeth Kitson took the bus to the Tate Gallery in London and were given special permission to view the original of this painting in the basement storage room. What a wonderful experience!

"Hope" is an allegorical painting symbolized by a young woman seated on top of the world. (An allegory is a story in which people, things and happenings have another meaning.)

In the Bible (Hebrews 6:19) hope is "an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast." In the painting, Hope is blindfolded, seated on a globe and playing the last string left on a lyre. Surmounting all is the guiding star of Hope. Watt explained, "Hope need not mean expectancy; it suggests that music can still come from the remaining chord." Even though everything has failed; yet 'Hope' gives still another chance; there is still a last string to play."

The whole painting is bathed in a soft blue green. The maid's costume is a more intense green, the symbolic colour for hope.

Surrounding the world are vaporous clouds which symbolize that the world is drifting, doubtful as to direction; in other words, puzzled as to purpose, yet holding strongly to Hope who is chained to the world.

Notice how beautifully the form is expressed through the soft green draperies and the particular beauty of the face, hands and feet - a tribute as well to Watt's skill as a sculptor.

It is a rare painting to stimulate our imaginations.

John Macfarlane

CHAMBER CHOIR CONCERT

Campion Schola, a chamber choir under the direction of Valerie Hall, organist at Holy Rosary Cathedral, will present a concert of sacred music at First Church on Thursday April 23 beginning at 7:30pm.

The program, under the title "At All Times and In All Places: Ancient Music of Ancient Faiths", will feature music sung during the canonical hours of prayer at the close of each day, or Compline, as well as guest cantors from the Jewish, Muslim and Orthodox faith traditions. Opening remarks will be given by Dr. Sami Helewa, SJ.

This is a rare and unique opportunity for our congregation and members of the wider public to experience the music traditions of these ancient faiths.

There will be a freewill offering.

Permission for this concert was granted by Session at its meeting on April 1.

Doug Stewart
Editor

THANK YOU

Thank you for your generous donation of aluminum can tabs. The funds received from the sale of tabs help to purchase much needed supplies in our hospitals.

Donna Whitta
Corresponding Secretary
Pasqua Hospital Auxiliary

APRIL EVENTS

12	10:30 AM	Worship Service & Sunday School
14	9:00 AM Noon	Adult Walk Freedom 55ers
16	9:00 AM 7:30 PM	Adult Walk Choir
19	10:30 AM	Worship Service & Sunday School
21	9:00 AM 10:30 AM Noon	Adult Walk Bible Study Freedom 55ers
23	9:00 AM 9:45 AM	Adult Walk Brightwater Walk
24	7:00 PM	Youth
26	10:30 AM	Worship Service & Sunday School
28	9:00 AM 10:30 AM Noon	Adult Walk Bible Study Freedom 55ers
30	9:00 AM 9:45 AM 7:30 PM	Adult Walk Brightwater Walk Choir