

FIRST THINGS FIRST

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, REGINA

December 2015

SESSION

ELECTION OF ELDERS

The Session is working towards having 12 Elders for 6-year terms, with 2 elders elected annually. This year we have two elders completing terms and two vacancies so we will be electing elders with varying terms to balance out the Session. A nominating committee has been established to prepare a slate of nominees for election at the annual meeting. All members of the congregation are invited to nominate communicate members to fulfill this role.

According to the Book of Forms...

"Election to the eldership is the call of God, through the congregation, for service in Christ's Church. Since the eldership is a spiritual office concerned with the rule and pastoral oversight of the congregation only suitable men and women should be considered. They should be committed Christians, in regular attendance at public worship, persons of sound judgment and upright character, and either knowledgeable or prepared to learn of the government of the church."

If you would like to nominate someone please contact either Jo Szostak or Bette Kelly.

Jo Szostak
Clerk of Session

MUSIC NOTES

As we approach the Christmas Season we look forward to presenting new choral anthems and solo pieces. The choir will offer four musical selections during the December 20, 2015 Sunday worship service. We are pleased that the children and youth will be joining the choir for one of the selections that morning.

We will be inviting the congregation to sing their favourite Advent and Christmas hymns before

the Worship Service on December 13 and 20. Please let us know the hymns you would like to sing by completing the insert in the Order of Worship.

The choir continues to grow and welcome new members. We meet for practice every Thursday evening at 7:30 pm. in the Sanctuary. I would like to acknowledge and thank our choir members for their dedication and talent. This year we will continue to introduce a variety of musical styles into Sunday worship. We are fortunate to have a large and diverse group of talented musicians in the congregation.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Rodolfo Omolida, Contemporary Worship Arts Coordinator, for his leadership in introducing contemporary songs for congregational singing. He is planning to involve children and youth in contemporary hymn signing, including offertories, and is planning to do a music workshop for them as well. There are plans to form a small group for special contemporary music.

Anyone interested in joining the choir or participating in the Music Program should contact William (Bill) Sgrazzutti by phone at 306-216-0170 or by email at william.sgrazzutti@hotmail.com.

Anyone interested in learning more about contemporary music initiatives should contact Rodolfo Omolida by phone at 306-540-8872 or by email at r20jr@yahoo.com.

Respectfully submitted,
William (Bill) Sgrazzutti, Music Director
Rodolfo Omolida, Contemporary Worship Arts Coordinator

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Greetings from your Worship Committee as we enter the seasons of Advent and Christmas when we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ. Plans are being made for the special events at First church over the coming weeks.

The candle-light Christmas Eve service will start at 7:00 PM December 24. There will be only one Christmas Eve service this year and it will be conducted by the Rev. John Ferrier. Regular Sunday worship will follow on December 27. There will be no Blue Christmas service.

Our thanks go out to the families leading the Advent readings. You are very much appreciated by the congregation.

Thanks to Tom Ireland and George Madeley who have asked to be relieved of their duties after many years of presenting the offering and recording Sunday attendance. "Well done faithful servants". Thanks also to Alfred Ferozdin, Jeannie Macfarlane, Keith Prior, Doug Stewart and Andrew Donovan for volunteering to share these duties. And thanks to our youth for taking and presenting the offering.

We were pleased to have Alex Doolittle and the Ferozdin family serve Communion on Sunday, December 6. Well done.

Donna Wilkinson and Jeannie Macfarlane are preparing candles for the Christmas Eve service and decorating the tree. These behind-the-scenes duties make special services run smoothly. Thanks to both of you.

Lectors are needed for the New Year -- January to June. If you would be willing to read Scriptures during a worship service please contact Marianne Woods.

Joyce McKersie
Worship Committee

PLANNED GIVING COMMITTEE

In giving thanks this season, which has become associated with gift-giving, let us remember the most precious gifts of all – the

birth of our Saviour first and foremost -- but also our families and friends gathering to celebrate another Christmas, the safety and peace of our city, the opportunity to share our good fortune with those in need, and for the spiritual support and abiding fellowship of our First Church community.

This can be a very hectic season, but let us take time to remember our many blessings. Let us celebrate the gift of love.

Wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas season.

Lisa Ann Wood
Planned Giving Committee

FUNDSCRIP

While we won't be placing any more orders in December, grocery and gas cards will be available on Sundays when either Lizz or Jo are in church. The next orders will be placed on the first and third Sundays of January - Jan. 3 and Jan. 17.

DECEMBER EVENTS

13	10:30 AM	Worship Service & Sunday School
15	9:00 AM	Adult Walk
16	7:00 PM	Session
17	9:00 AM 7:30 PM	Adult Walk Choir
20	10:30 AM	Worship Service & Sunday School
24	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service
27	10:30 AM	Worship Service & Sunday School

Please note the office will be closed December 25th until January 1st. Shirley will be back in the office Monday, January 4th.