

FIRST THINGS FIRST

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, REGINA

January 2017

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL INDIGENOUS TERRITORY

Congregants of First Presbyterian Church may have noticed recently that our Order of Service now includes a statement acknowledging the traditional Indigenous territory on which our worship services are held, and may be wondering why this statement, approved by Session on November 2, 2016, is necessary.

In 1994 The Presbyterian Church in Canada issued a Confession concerning the harm done to Indigenous children in residential schools operated by our Church. Acknowledging the territory where we gather and the people who called it home for thousands of years is one way to live out that Confession. A large portion of southern Saskatchewan, including Regina, and a smaller area of west-central Manitoba, fall within Treaty 4 territory – a treaty that dates back to 1874.

The Presbyterian Church further acknowledges the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, whose 94 “Calls to Action” (December 2015) have the objective of redressing the legacy of residential schools and advancing the process of Canadian reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. Call to Action #48 calls on organizations, especially churches and all other faith groups, to “ensure that their institutions, policies, programs and practices comply with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).” The Presbyterian Church in Canada welcomes the UNDRIP as a framework for reconciliation.

In June 2016, the Church’s General Assembly adopted the recommendation that “congregations be encouraged to acknowledge the traditional territory on which they meet to worship by posting this information in bulletins, by a sign in their church or a combine of both” as a meaningful gesture of reconciliation.

Further information on the Presbyterian Church’s Confession and the Calls to Action specifically directed to churches can be found at www.presbyterian.ca/healing/.

Andrew Donovan
Session Member

WEEKLY CHURCH ADS

As of January 1, 2017, First Church will no longer be advertising its regular Sunday services in the Leader-Post. This decision was made at the November 2016 meeting of Session over concerns expressed regarding the cost-effectiveness of such advertisements. Special services throughout the church year, however, such as at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter will continue to be advertised.

Doug Stewart
Editor

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars!!!

Our Annual Birthday Sunday will be held on February 12 immediately after church. We will be putting a sheet in the Narthex for you to sign up to bring a cake. We need 12 cakes so if you can help out that would be great. This is always a delicious coffee time after church so be sure to plan on staying for it.

On Sunday February 26 we will be holding our Pancake Supper – a bit early for Shrove Tuesday – but an opportunity to have your pancakes a little early and a great opportunity to bring the whole family out for supper. The cost will be \$5.00 for adults. Children are free. We will be serving pancakes and sausages with syrup, strawberries and whipped cream. Sign-up sheets will be placed in the narthex to let us know

approximate numbers. Supper will be served from 5:30 -7:00pm. Hope to see you all there.

Sheila Wilson
Fellowship Committee

YOUTH

Up coming events:

January

20 7:00-9:30: Movie night at the Church

29 2:00-3:00: Get Air Regina

For more information please contact Calvin.

GABE OMOLIDA CONCERT

Once again Gabe will be going on a mission trip to Guatemala in April with a team from the Regina Christian School. He will be in a leadership role, supporting first-timers on the mission team. To help raise funds for the team, Gabe will be putting on a concert in First Church's sanctuary Sunday evening, January 15 at 7:00 p.m. The concert will be approximately an hour and a half. Gabe will play selected Christian music and accompany guest soloists. Tickets are available from Gabe.

ART FROM THE MORRIS ROOM

The 21st painting I'm going to discuss from the Kitson collection is Alfred Parsons' "A Summer View of Bredon on the Avon" 1918. Alfred Parsons (December 2, 1847 - January 16, 1920) was an English artist, illustrator, landscape painter and garden designer.

His fine botanical illustrations brought him into contact with William Robinson who published his illustrations in The Wild Garden. Or, Our Groves and Shrubberies Made Beautiful by the Naturalization of Hardy Exotic Plants (1881) also 1905 - 5th edition.

He regularly exhibited his art work from 1868 - 1919. He also artistically designed significant gardens in England, Scotland and the United States. Henry James noted that Parsons' images of English country life mirrored the aspirations of Americans who wanted to believe

that England was like that described by the Romantic poets and novelists.

"A Summer View of Bredon on Avon" is a perfect example of this. Note the deeply cloudy sky, the wonderfully varied trees, especially the Lombardy poplars to the left. The lush, green meadows include grazing cattle of various breeds and colours, even one drinking from the river.

The Avon River is beautifully rendered with the trees reflected in the water. Also noteworthy are the numerous details like the fishermen and the swans along the edge, and the grasses and sedges along the pond, all accurately depicted. Please also note the building in the background including the church steeple in the centre.

All told, it's a marvellously romantic scene of peace and tranquility that immediately catches one's eye. It was painted at the height of the artist's power.

Incidentally Parsons became President of the Society of Painters in Watercolours in 1905.

John Macfarlane



JANUARY EVENTS

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| 14 | 10:00 AM | Worship Committee |
| 15 | 10:30 AM | Worship Service
(Rev. Bob Wilson)
& Sunday School |
| | 7:00 PM | Gabe Omolida Concert |
| 17 | 9:00 AM | Adult Walk |
| | 10:30 AM | Bible Study |
| | noon | Freedom 55ers |
| 19 | 9:00 AM | Adult Walk |
| | 7:30 PM | Choir Practice |
| 20 | 7:00 PM | Youth |
| 22 | 10:30 AM | Worship Service
(Rev. Bob Wilson)
& Sunday School |
| 24 | 9:00 AM | Adult Walk |
| | 10:30 AM | Bible Study |
| | noon | Freedom 55ers |
| 26 | 9:00 AM | Adult Walk |
| | 9:30 AM | Riverbend Walk |
| | 7:30 PM | Choir Practice |
| 29 | 10:30 AM | Worship Service
(Rev. John Ferrier)
& Sunday School |
| | 2:00 PM | Youth |
| 31 | 9:00 AM | Adult Walk |
| | 10:30 AM | Bible Study |
| | noon | 55ers |