

# FIRST THINGS FIRST

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, REGINA

June 2016

#### SESSION

As the days turn warmer, thoughts of summer begin to fill our minds. Have a relaxing, refreshing summer and may you experience God's presence in all that you do!

The Session held its last meeting of the year. Thanks to Rev. Devon Pattemore for her leadership as our Interim Moderator. We are thankful to Rev. Bob Wilson for leading worship on a regular basis, as well as diligently visiting members of our congregation who are ill or in hospital. June 12 will be Healing and Reconciliation Sunday, with Rev. Stewart Folster preaching. Rev. John Ferrier will be with us on June 26, and on July 3, we welcome Francis Owusu, a student minister hired by the Synod for the summer. Rev. Henry Friesen will lead worship July 10, then Bob will be back from holidays.

As we begin the search for a Minister of Word and Sacrament, a **Search Committee** has been appointed. We are thankful for the willingness of the following people to serve on the Search Committee: Alfred Ferozdin, Will Ireton, Tammy MacDonald, Rodolfo Omolida, Ron Pugsley, Doug Stewart, Lisa Ann Wood.

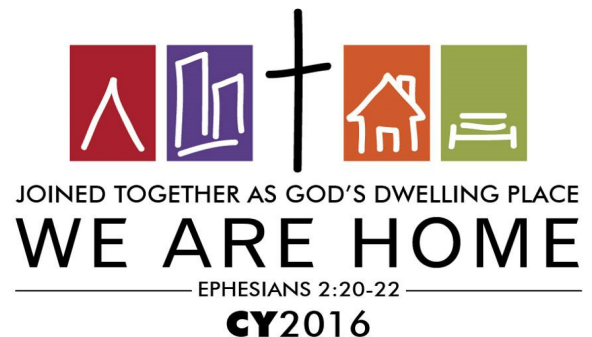
We are excited to have four young people from First Church attending **Canada Youth 2016** July 5-10. Alex Doolittle, Gabe Omolida and Matthew Yakemchuk will be attending the Youth Track. Will Ireton will participate in the Discipleship Track and will be involved with the Music Team for worship. We hope that you have a wonderful time!

First Church will be holding a **Vacation Bible School** August 2-5. A Synod team will be providing leadership but help is needed to provide snacks and registration. Please contact Bette Kelly if you are willing to help.

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, Sept. 24**, 9-12 as we have tentatively booked that date to do some goal setting with Diane Tait-Katerberg, the new Synod Congregational Development Coordinator.

Have a wonderful summer!

Jo Szostak  
Clerk of Session



#### CANADA YOUTH 2016

Canada Youth 2016 is a ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada that gathers together hundreds of youth, young adults and youth leaders to Brock University in St. Catharine's, Ontario for five days, July 5-10, 2016 for worship, nurture, discovery, and recreation. There are five individuals going from First Presbyterian Church, Gabe Omolida, Alex Doolittle, Matthew Yakemchuk, Will Ireton, and Donna Wilkinson. Please pray for safe travels and while they are at event. Watch the September newsletter for the sharing of their experiences.

Donna Wilkinson

#### BOARD OF MANAGERS

Thank you for your generous gifts to the work of the church, the completion of our new roof and to the various special appeals that have taken place during the last few months! We are still

welcoming gifts for the roof to fulfill the congregational contribution to the project. Our operating fund is in a deficit position. We had to transfer \$10,000 in March to provide cash flow and we may have to make another transfer to ensure that the summer is covered. Please continue to make contributions throughout the summer, or plan ahead if you are going to be away. We appreciate your financial support.

### **MISSION & OUTREACH**

**Camp Christopher Fundraiser:** Each summer hundreds of children and youth experience Christian community outdoors in God's creation at our church camp north of Prince Albert. This year the camp needs our help in purchasing paddle boards for water recreation. The fundraiser runs for three Sundays, June 5-19. Mark your donation "Camp". Thanks for helping to provide equipment for kids to enjoy their summer experience.

**Sunday, June 12** is Truth and Reconciliation Sunday at First Church. Guest preacher Rev. Stewart Folster will tell us about his work at Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry. Stewart, a Presbyterian minister is Ojibway. His Christian ministry in Saskatoon is informed by his indigenous spirituality. In a recent Star Phoenix interview he said, "*I follow both, but I don't blend the two. They are not in opposition. The God of the Bible and the Creator God of Native spirituality are one and the same. But now we tell people He has a Son, Jesus Christ.*" We look forward to hearing from Stewart about his ministry in inner-city Saskatoon, work that First Church has supported through special offerings for two years.

**3rd annual Memorial Walk & Feast for Regina Indian Industrial School** takes place on Wednesday, July 27 from noon to 4 pm. All are welcome to participate in this day of remembering the children buried at the RIIS cemetery and the others who died at the school. First Church has been collaborating with church and community partners in the preservation of this space and honouring the children. The short walk to the cemetery site is followed by a traditional memorial feast. It's a great way to learn about aboriginal healing and the churches'

journey towards reconciliation. Call Mary Jesse at 306-789-5845 for details and arrangements to travel together.

Mary Jesse  
Mission & Outreach Convenor

### **CAMP CHRISTOPHER**

Please pray for the staff of Camp Christopher as they start June 1, preparing for the coming of 250 campers this summer. These are young high school and university students who give of their summer to serve the camp for very little pay.

**Women's Camp** "Let your Light shine" ~ Matthew 5:16. Ladies, plan on joining the fun September 9 - 11, 2016. Please find registration forms on the table in the narthex.

Donna Wilkinson  
Camp Christopher Convenor

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Thanks to all who came and contributed to the Sunday School picnic May 29<sup>th</sup>. The weather cooperated and everyone had a great time. Get ready for Vacation Bible School! First church will be having VBS August 2nd to 5th in the mornings. This is being organized by Synod Youth coordinator Martha Ferguson. She will be letting us know what we can do to help.

Bette Kelly  
Christian Education Convenor

### **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN SCHOLARSHIPS**

**FPC Scholarships:** First Church administers scholarship funds for post-secondary students. Applications are available in the narthex and on the church website ([www.firstpresregina.ca](http://www.firstpresregina.ca) under Who We Serve). Submit completed applications to the church office by Sept 30. Contact Jim Doolittle for further information.

Jim Doolittle  
Scholarship Fund Convenor

## FUNDSCRIP

**Sunday, June 5 will be the last ordering Sunday before the summer.** June is a very busy month, so it's time to wind up for the year. During June, July and August, grocery and gas cards will be for sale any Sunday that either Lizz or Jo are in church, and Sept. 4 will be the first order Sunday in the fall. Thanks for your support throughout the year!

## JUNE EVENTS

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|-----------|-----------------|--|
| <b>5</b>  | <b>10:30 AM</b> | <b>Worship Service</b><br>(Rev. Bob Wilson)<br><b>&amp; Sunday School</b>      |
| <b>7</b>  | Noon            | Freedom 55ers  |
| <b>9</b>  | 7:30 PM         | Choir  |
| <b>12</b> | <b>10:30 AM</b> | <b>Worship Service</b><br>(Rev. Stewart Folster)<br><b>&amp; Sunday School</b> |
| <b>14</b> | Noon            | Freedom 55ers  |
| <b>19</b> | <b>10:30 AM</b> | <b>Worship Service</b><br>(Rev. Bob Wilson)<br><b>&amp; Sunday School</b>      |
| <b>22</b> | 7:00 PM         | Board of Managers  |
| <b>26</b> | <b>10:30 AM</b> | <b>Worship Service</b><br>(Rev. John Ferrier)<br><b>&amp; Sunday School</b>    |