

FIRST THINGS FIRST

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, REGINA

November 2014

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

At the Bible Study this week the question once again arose about some of the symbols we use in worship. I have addressed these questions on occasion but I am also a big supporter of explaining things because I believe that if people don't know why we use these symbols then they actually cease to be symbols (because they represent nothing). And so I have decided to address the question with something written previously. No need to re-invent the wheel!

What the Minister Wears:

The Collar: Presbyterians have traditionally worn three different types of clerical collars. The most common of these is the Collarino. The Collarino is as it sounds a Roman Collar and is essentially a small opening in the shirt that is filled with a small piece of plastic. Around the turn of the century many Presbyterian clergy began to wear the Neckband Collar or "wrap-around" detachable collar that surrounds the entire neck as a way of distinguishing themselves from Roman Catholic priests. A third and more traditionally Presbyterian way to wear a Collar is to use either of the above but also to attach "Tabs". Officially referred to as "Bands" or even "Geneva Bands", tabs are easy to spot. They are white cloth pieces that hang down from the neck sort of like an untied bowtie folded over itself. Originally the Collar and Tabs were worn by lawyers and academics. Because John Calvin was both an academic and a lawyer, a tradition developed around Presbyterian clergy continuing to wear these pieces of clerical garb. Both the Collars and the Tabs generally symbolize the office of preaching. Wearing these is meant to make it clear who is filling the pulpit for the sermon.

The Robe: Like Preaching Tabs, the tradition of wearing a Robe in the Presbyterian Church

came to us from the Church of Scotland. Originally this practice developed because the Robe (like the Tabs) was a symbol of academic standing. John Calvin wore a Robe because that was what Lawyers wore. However that is not the end of the story. The Presbyterian tradition developed on 4 major distinguishing principles (things that made you Presbyterian). One of these is "Educated Clergy". John Calvin and his followers differentiated themselves from other Protestants by demanding specific educational requirements of all candidates for ordination. The Presbyterians... would be intellectuals. Over the years the Robe has taken on other meanings. Today some openly reject the wearing of Robes feeling that they unnecessarily divide clergy from laypeople. Others see the Robe as an outdated piece of fashion. Others say that since the business suit is the "uniform" of the business person, and a firefighter has a particular attire to differentiate him or her, then a minister too should have a kind of "uniform" even if only to set the minister apart for newcomers to easily identify. Still others say that the Robe covers over the minister and hides him or her; thus taking the attention off the minister and putting it on the Word where it belongs. Truthfully for me, I find the Robe to be a bit awkward. The big sleeves make it impossible to play the guitar. It is hot. It is heavy. It's easy to trip on and hard to walk up stairs or sit on the steps with the kids. But there is still something striking about it; something special, something "holy" in the true sense of the word (otherworldly).

The Stole: The stole is a long cloth scarf worn around the neck and over a Robe or simply over a suit. The history of the stole is entirely lost. Unfortunately no one really knows where this tradition began. However there are two popular theories. One says the Stole is a symbol of the yoke of Christ that Jesus calls his followers to take upon their shoulders (Matthew 11:29-30). A

second theory suggests the Stole is a symbol of the “towel” that Christ used when he stooped to wash his disciples’ feet the night of his arrest (John 13:1-20). Interestingly, at the time of Jesus a “yoke” was a particular Rabbi’s vein or Rabbinic tradition and the “towel”, (λέντιον) from John’s gospel, was likely much more akin to what we might call an apron. Anyhow, in both cases the Stole is thought to symbolize that the person wearing it is a servant.

In the end, the meaning of the clerical garb in the Presbyterian Church in Canada is really up to the individual. There are no set guidelines, no official statements, and no one overarching tradition. Rather, we have a beautiful array of traditions and meanings. The tradition and the symbols mean different things to different people all across Canada. What do they mean to you?

Bradley Childs

Rev. Brad Childs

STEWARDSHIP

Traffic Light Celebration - On Sunday, November 30, immediately following the worship service we will be celebrating the long-awaited installation of a traffic light at the corner of Albert and 14th Ave! The plan is to have everyone gather at the corner by the light immediately following the worship service at 11:30 am. Rev. Brad will offer a prayer of thanksgiving. Then we will head downstairs for cake and ice cream. We're hopeful that Shawn Fraser, our city councillor, may be able to attend and share a few words with us.

FEARLESS GENEROSITY

During our stewardship educational campaign highlighting “Fearless Generosity”, we have been challenged to think about what it means to respond to God’s call and step out of our comfort zones. Our partnership with Brightwater Senior Living continues to the end of November. Brightwater is a residential community offering assisted living, personal care, and memory care. Brightwater uses a “best friends approach” and we have been arranging opportunities to be

involved with residents in a variety of different ways. Schedules will be available at church each Sunday showing the various activities you could sign up to help with. On **Saturday, November 22, the children and youth** will be participating in an activity at 2:00 p.m. On **Thursday, November 27 at 10:00 a.m. Rev Brad Childs will lead worship at Brightwater**, and on **Sunday, November 30, at 2:00 p.m. the choir will lead a hymn sing**.

Jo Szostak
Stewardship Convenor

BOARD OF MANAGERS

Finances Thanks to everyone for your generous, ongoing contributions! We currently have about \$7,000 in the bank and we have borrowed \$33,000 from investments to provide cash flow over the last six months. So that puts us at a deficit of \$26,000. We fell behind beginning in April, likely because we had such a severe winter that hampered attendance. We spend approximately \$20,000 a month on expenses, including payroll. Our offering for Nov. 2 was \$5200 - the first Sunday of the month is usually the largest offering. November has four more Sundays so, if offerings stay strong, we may come out ahead on the month! Your continued generosity is appreciated!

Jo Szostak
Board of Managers

BOOKKEEPING SERVICES FOR FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Board of Managers is pleased to welcome Evangeline Price, who has accepted the position of Book-keeper for First Church. Evangeline has extensive experience as a book-keeper for a variety of organizations and was looking for a part-time position that would provide flexibility and enable her to continue using her accounting skills. She will be working in the office most Tuesdays so please say hello if you are dropping by First Church. As we welcome Evangeline on behalf of the congregation, the Board extends

our sincere thanks and appreciation to Don McMillan and Sherry Reeve for faithfully attending to the book-keeping needs of First Church for the past several years.

Lisa Ann Wood
Board of Managers

FUNDSCRIPT

November 16 and December 7 will be the last two ordering Sundays for FundScrip prior to Christmas, so plan ahead for Christmas and be prepared to place your orders! Specials for November are Petro-Canada (2.5%) and Sears (5%). We will still have cards for groceries and gas available each week, so you can stock up that way if you prefer. Visit the FundScrip table at coffee time and become a part of this great fundraiser!

Jo Szostak

PLANNED GIVING

Planning Benefits Everyone

Planned gifts can be made at any time. However, with the end of the tax year approaching, autumn can be a good time to consider making a planned gift to First Church from your accumulated assets. This gives you an opportunity to seek advice and ensure you take full advantage of the tax benefits of a making a charitable donation.

Why should you ensure that you are realizing tax benefits through your planned giving? Because current tax laws are intended to insure that planned giving is a “win-win” for both the giver and the receiver. As a donor, realizing tax savings can enable you to give more than you may think you are able to, or can enable you leave an inheritance to your family members and still provide a gift to First Church. And First Church benefits because it may receive more or larger planned gifts that will expand the programs and services we can offer within our church family and our larger community.

It is important to consult a professional estate planner, financial planner or tax specialist to provide detailed information and advice based on your individual situation, but here are a few of the possible options for realizing tax benefits through a planned gift.

Although planned gifts are often part of estate planning, they can also happen while the donor is still living. **Up to 75 per cent of your annual net income can be claimed as a charitable gift** in any one year, and unused credits can be carried forward. During the year of your death, up to 100 per cent of your net income can be claimed by your estate as a charitable gift, and unused credits can be applied to the previous year’s income.

If your accumulated assets include **publicly-traded securities** (i.e. stocks, bonds and mutual funds), they can be donated to First Church with no capital gains tax to pay. If you sell a stock privately, you are required to pay tax on 50 per cent of the capital gains.

Life insurance can also provide a way to make a planned gift, either through the donation of a paid-up policy, or by giving an existing policy to First Church. Taking out a new policy with the church as the policy owner and beneficiary enables you to claim the annual premiums as a tax deduction. This can provide a way for younger donors with limited accumulated assets to leave a legacy to First Church.

If you are 60 years old or older, **gift annuities** allow you to give a gift to the church and in return receive a guaranteed income for the rest of your life for you and your spouse or sibling. Donors receive a one-time tax receipt in the year they make their gift, and the majority or all of the annual income is tax free.

The most familiar way that people leave a planned gift is through their will. In order to make a **charitable bequest**, you must have a legal will. You can choose to designate a specific amount, a percentage of your estate, or the amount that remains in your estate after you

have provided for all other beneficiaries and paid all debts and fees.

No matter how it is planned or structured, a planned gift to First Church is an opportunity to help ‘Grow Our Vision’ to be joyful in our worship, tender in our lives together and daring in our outreach.

Lisa Ann Wood,
Planned Giving Committee
(With excerpts from *Planned Giving*, a brochure developed by the Planned Giving Office of The Presbyterian Church in Canada).

ADULT WALK

Adult Walk Expands!

On October 24, our Adult Walk group partnered with the walking group from Brightwater at the Fieldhouse, an experimental step in Fearless Generosity. The experiment worked so smoothly and easily that on October 30, we invited the Brightwater folk to join us in the gym at First to walk. Again, we had a great experience walking and visiting. In fact, it worked so well, that we're going to continue walking together in our gym for the month of November, and who knows, maybe longer! If you would like to join us, and get to know some interesting folk from Brightwater, feel free to come on Thursdays each week at 9:00AM.

The Adult Walk continues on Tuesdays as we have been doing, from 9:00 to 10:00AM

For more information, contact Bob Wilson at 306-535-7195.

Bob Wilson

DECEMBER CRAFT & BAKE SALE

First Presbyterian Church is having a craft and bake sale Saturday, December 6th from 10am – 4pm. Here are ways you can assist:

1. *Donate crafts or baking to sell.*
2. Come and help Tracy, Tammy and Donna in baking or making crafts. “Work bees” will be held:

- a. November 21st 5-9 pm – *Craft Night*
- b. November 28th 5-9 pm – *Baking Night*

You can come and do your own craft and enjoy some time of fellowship as we prepare for the Craft and Bake Sale; or you can come and assist with crafts we have decided to make. We just need some extra hands!

For more information call Donna at 306-586-4026 or e-mail donnaw@sasktel.net.

FACTS AND FIGURES

The average Sunday attendance for October (Church school included) was 98.

The current operating deficit is \$26,000 (see Board of Managers Report above)

The number of those receiving *First Things First* via e-mail is 78. To sign up for the electronic edition, please contact Shirley in the church office.

ART FROM THE MORRIS ROOM

Garnet Hazard
1903 - 1987

The tenth painting to be discussed from the Kitson collection will be the watercolour “Ontario Winter” by Garnet Hazard.

Garnet was born in Wallaceburg, Ontario in 1903 but grew up on a farm near Moose Jaw, SK. He taught in Saskatchewan before studying at the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts and the American Academy of Fine Arts, also in Chicago. He also studied at the Phoenix Arts Institute in New York City.

Returning to Saskatchewan Garnet became the Director of Art Education at Balfour Technical School from 1928 - 1939. During the Second World War he gave “chalk talks” across Canada for the Navy League, and from 1955 - 1968 he was an art instructor at the Carnegie Institute in Chicago.

POEM

For eight months in 1954 Garnet travelled extensively circling the world by tramp steamer drawing and painting everywhere. From his earliest experiments with watercolour, Garnet considered it to be perfectly suited to his evolving methods and of no less consequence than oils.

Watercolour requires very little equipment - paper, some tubes of colour, a few brushes and a container of water are all that are needed in order to paint out of doors. The portability of the materials combined with the freshness of quick sketches immediately appealed to him.

Garnet trained in the traditional manner of painting directly from nature. A successful water colourist must possess precise drawing skills and a thorough knowledge of colour design and compositional balance.

Unlike oils and acrylics, once committed to paper, watercolour cannot be scraped off. Despite its unforgiving qualities, watercolour represented about 75% of his life's work with the balance divided equally between oil paintings, original etchings and pencil sketches.

The around-the-world trip provided Garnet with enough raw -material to keep him occupied for many years making finished paintings.

Whether he was painting a landscape, a bevy of flowers or a harbour scene, he carefully sketched his composition with an HB pencil and began filling in various hues of colour working from lightest to darkest.

Garnet's landscapes, seascapes and still life depictions greatly enriched the tradition of realist painting in Canada.

He died in Perth, Ontario in 1987.

John Macfarlane

A woman walks slowly along the shore,
her body is bent, it seems sore,
she sees a bench along the way,
seating a mother with her son at play.

"May I join you?" she asks, "I need a rest,
I am weary; my health is no longer the best."
"Please do" the mother kindly said,
"I do not think we have ever met?"

"I used to be a mom long time ago,
my son and I sat here, his name was Joe,
he would play just like your little guy,
pretending he could fly, high in the sky.

He had finished school, when the war broke out.
The army he then joined, he was very proud
and soon he kissed me good bye,
wiped my tears, and said, 'Mom, don't cry.'

He was so very sure of his goal
to help others to find freedom on the whole.
He landed in the midst of gunfire
carrying his gun and heavy attire.

He tried to crawl to a safe place
and started to shoot, however only into space,
he could not kill anything or anyone
he asked, 'Is that how a war is won?'

Next hour, the guns silenced, he looked around,
and heard his comrades' wailing sound
faced death of his best friend for many years,
that was when he could not hold his tears.

He heard cries, 'Help, help me oh God!'
One had lost a leg and a lot of blood,
before he passed out Joe called for a medic aid,
to carry him, it was a sad parade.

Day after day they carried on, prayed to Thee,
then stepped over bodies or listened to their last
plea.
Angry they gained small victories, but did not
enjoy,
because the loss of lives, like throw-away,
useless toys.

They could not resign or just go home,
out there every man was on their own,

decisions had to be made on the spot,
or faced to be shot.

Joe helped wherever he could save lives,
wrote letters I have them all on file.

I was very happy, when he returned,
with some awards he had earned.

He had left as a child of seventeen,
but returned an old man, five years it had been.
he could never forget what he had seen,
he could not tell, the horror was too extreme.

Now I must go and take care of him,
he still suffers, to heal his mind, is slim,
nice meeting you and the little guy.
God bless you and goodbye."

Violet Lochore

**115TH ANNIVERSARY OF KNOX
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Weyburn, SK**

Come and celebrate with us!
Sunday, November 16th
10:30 AM Worship Service

Potluck lunch immediately following the service.

Guest Preacher ~ Rev. John Ferrier

Spread the Word! Everyone is invited to share
this wonderful event. Bring your favourite dish:
stew, soup, casserole, buns, biscuits, cookies, or
cake!!!

Come enjoy the camaraderie. Hope to see you
all there!

Kathy McFadden
Knox Presbyterian Church and Fellowship Hall

NOVEMBER EVENTS

2	10:30 AM	Worship Service & Sunday School
4	9:00 AM 10:30 AM noon	Adult Walk Bible Study Freedom55ers
6	9:00 AM 7:30 PM	Adult Walk Choir
9	10:30 AM	Remembrance Service & Sunday School
10	Office Closed	
11	REMEMBRANCE DAY <u>NO</u> Adult Walk, 10:30 AM Bible Study or Freedom 55ers	
13	9:00 AM 7:30 PM	Adult Walk Choir
16	10:30 AM	Worship Service & Sunday School
18	9:00 AM 10:30 AM noon	Adult Walk Bible Study Freedom 55ers
20	9:00 AM 7:30 PM	Adult Walk Choir
23	10:30 AM	Worship Service & Sunday School
24	6:00 PM	Planned Giving meeting
25	9:00 AM 10:30 AM noon	Adult Walk Bible Study Freedom 55ers
27	9:00 AM 7:30 PM	Adult Walk Choir
30	10:30 AM	Worship Service & Sunday School