

# FIRST THINGS FIRST

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, REGINA

October 2013

#### **MINISTER'S MESSAGE**

I am thankful for....

....the taxes I pay

....because it means I'm employed.

....the clothes that fit a little too snug

....because it means I have enough to eat.

....my shadow who watches me work

....because it means I am out in the sunshine.

....a lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning and gutters that need fixing

....because it means I have a home.

....the spot I find at the far end of the parking lot

....because it means I am capable of walking.

....my huge heating bill

....because it means I am warm.

....all the complaining I hear about our government .

....because it means we have freedom of speech.

....the lady behind me in church who sings off key

....because it means that I can hear.

....the piles of laundry and ironing

....because it means my loved ones are nearby.

....the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours

....because it means that I'm alive.

....weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day

....because it means I have been productive in life.

1 Tim. 4:4-5 says, "For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer."

The art of thanksgiving is gratitude in action.

It is thanking God for the gift of life by living it triumphantly.

Rev. Brad Childs

#### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Upcoming YOUTH Events in October:

- Thanksgiving Sunday, October 13 - Sunday School is cancelled; the Youth may take part in worship with their parents.
- Sunday, October 13 - Food Bank Sunday: please bring non-perishable food items to put in the Food Bank bin; we will be blessing all food donations during worship.
- Saturday, October 19 - Food Bank Drive: starts at 9:30 a.m. Please meet at the church about 9:20 a.m. Parent drivers are needed for this event.

Joel Richter  
Youth Worker

#### **WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

The restful summer season has passed so quickly and once again autumn has arrived. The Worship Committee is busy making plans for the coming seasons of the church year.

The first Sunday of October is traditionally World Communion Sunday which is observed by most Christian denominations. It is one example of the unity of the Christian church. We will be observing Communion in our traditional service on that Sunday, October 6. Thanksgiving Sunday is October 13 and it is a reminder to us to give thanks for the many blessings bestowed

on us throughout the year and most especially for the gathering in of the harvest.

Plans are being formulated to display the church-year seasons in a series of 16 posters. The posters will be displayed in the Narthex of the church. We hope everyone will take time to read the posters and come to know the meaning and history of the events that surround the church year. Please note that green is the church colour for the present time and is displayed on the pulpit and chancel table. Green will remain in place until November 24 when we celebrate Trinity Sunday, the last day of the current season of the church year.

The silver chalice and flagons that came from the former Knox Presbyterian church in Regina, and which First Church inherited, have recently been appraised. These artifacts date back to 1882 when Knox was constructed on the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> Ave and Scarth St. Plans are in the making to have these items permanently displayed in our sanctuary.

A special thanks to Paula Devernchuk, Delores Nelson, Margaret Purse, Wendy Prior, and Jeff Perry for cleaning the sanctuary during the summer.

The Worship Committee is hopeful we will once again enjoy the presence of the Chamber Brass on Remembrance Day. More information will be made available at a later date in the church bulletin.

Ushers and greeters are needed for October and November. Please contact George Madeley at 306-924-0991 if you are able to help. Leave a message if you are unable to contact him in person. He will be most pleased to hear from you.

We look forward to seeing everyone who is able to attend each Sunday; and we hope this information is helpful to all members and adherents of First Church.

Joyce McKersie  
Worship Committee

## **SCHOLARSHIPS AT FIRST**

The application deadline for our scholarships has been extended to October 31, 2013. The application form is available on the church website at [www.firstpresregina.ca](http://www.firstpresregina.ca) under Who We Serve. Please return your completed application to the church office by the end of October. The Memorial Fund Committee will review applications and make decisions later this fall.

## **MISSION & OUTREACH**

### **Responding in Syria:**

The crisis in Syria is severe—there are 6.8 million people in need of immediate humanitarian assistance. Millions of civilians have been displaced or are living as refugees in neighbouring countries. As of September 2013, the United Nations estimates there are over two million Syrian refugees. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees reports that the first million refugees fled Syria over a two year time period, while the next million fled in only six months. A staggering one million of these refugees are children. In total, there are 6.8 million people in need of immediate humanitarian assistance due to the ongoing conflict.

According to reports from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the conflict in Syria has caused a dramatic drop in domestic food production. Production of many crops has dropped by half, and there is massive destruction to irrigation and infrastructure. At the same time, inflation is rampant and the price of many essential food items has risen by 200 percent. For those who make the journey to Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, they are met with a different type of humanitarian crisis—camps are growing with such speed that host states and humanitarian agencies cannot keep pace with the mounting needs for water, sanitation, food, shelter and health care for over a million refugees.

Our church is helping. PWS&D is a part of a \$3.1 million response through Canadian Foodgrains Bank that is providing families with

food items such as rice, chickpeas and pasta. Through the ACT Alliance of international churches, PWS&D is helping to meet immediate needs for water, shelter and health care for those living in refugee camps. Please continue to pray for the people of Syria. By making a donation to PWS&D you will ensure families affected by conflict will receive the support they need.

Mary Jesse,  
M&O Convenor

### **CAMP CHRISTOPHER**

Thanks to everyone who bought t-shirts to support Camp Christopher. 250 campers are proudly wearing t-shirts you helped purchase!

The campers and staff had a great summer and we want to take the opportunity to thank you for sharing in this exciting ministry.

Camp Christopher

### **PLANNED GIVING AT FIRST CHURCH**

#### **Growing Our Vision of Planned Giving**

It has been almost a year since First Church began work to develop a comprehensive Planned Giving Program. In November 2012, the Rev. Herb Gale, Associate Secretary for Planned Giving for the Presbyterian Church in Canada, visited First Church to help launch the initiative with a series of meetings with Church committees, a presentation to the congregation, and the commissioning of a Planned Giving Team to lead the development work.

This month, the Planned Giving Team is pleased to announce the official name for the First Church Planned Giving Program: “**Growing Our Vision – Seeds of Abundant Joy**”. This name reflects the future orientation of planned giving, the focus on new ministries and the long term objectives of our church community.

The Team has also identified two scripture selections that support our Planned Giving initiative:

**Matthew 6:21** – For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**2 Corinthians 9:7** – Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

This program name and these scriptures will be used in informational materials that will be developed when details of the Planned Giving Program have been finalized.

Over the past 11 months, the Planned Giving Team has met numerous times and, with the advice and support of the Rev. Gale, is developing all the elements necessary for a Planned Giving Program including policies and fund structures. The team is also beginning to gather First Church stories about planned giving and will continue to share these in the months ahead.

The Rev. Gale is returning to Regina and will be at First Church the weekend of November 1-3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013, to assist the Planned Giving Committee in finalizing its work, to meet with other committees, and participate in Sunday Service with the Rev. Childs. There will be a “lunch and learn” about Planned Giving following the November 3<sup>rd</sup> service.

**During the afternoon of Sunday November 3<sup>rd</sup> between 2:00 and 5:00 p.m. there will be an opportunity for any member of the First Church community to meet with Rev. Herb Gale to discuss any aspect of Planned Giving.** If you are interested in meeting with Rev. Gale, please contact the church office to book an appointment. Phone 306-522-9571 or email Shirley at [firstpresregina@sasktel.net](mailto:firstpresregina@sasktel.net).

Lisa Ann Wood,  
Planned Giving Committee

## **BURST FORTH**

*Isaiah 35:1-10*

### **National Presbyterian Women's Gathering**

Information & Registration  
May 16-19, 2014

Sheraton Parkway Hotel, Richmond Hill, ON

For more information visit:  
[womengathering.ca](http://womengathering.ca)

Register by November 15, 2013  
and your name will be entered to win  
one of two prizes.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Prize Winner:**

Free Registration and Free Hotel  
Accommodations

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Winner:**

Free Registration

## **THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF FAITH AWARD**

The Presbyterian Church in Canada, the Order of Diaconal Ministries and the Women's Missionary Society have established an award to recognize the work of women within the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The Presbyterian Woman of Faith Award will be given to a woman who is part of the Presbyterian Church in Canada who should be honoured either for a particular accomplishment or a lifetime of achievement.

The recipient of this award will be recognized at the National Presbyterian Women's Gathering.

See brochure on the bulletin board in the gym for eligibility, nominations and further information.

All nominations must be received by November 30, 2013.

## **OCTOBER EVENTS**

<b>6</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Worship Service with Communion Sunday School</b>
<b>8</b>	10:30 AM Noon	Bible Study Freedom 55ers
<b>9</b>	10:00 AM	Planned Giving
<b>10</b>	8:00 PM	Choir
<b>13</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Worship Service: Thanksgiving</b>
<b>15</b>	9:00 AM 10:30 AM Noon	Adult Walk Bible Study Freedom 55ers
<b>16</b>	7:00 PM	Board of Managers
<b>17</b>	8:00 PM	Choir
<b>20</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Worship Service &amp; Sunday School</b>
<b>22</b>	9:00 AM 10:30 AM Noon	Adult Walk Bible Study Freedom 55ers
<b>24</b>	8:00 PM	Choir
<b>27</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Worship Service &amp; Sunday School</b>
<b>29</b>	9:00 AM 10:30 AM Noon	Adult Walk Bible Study Freedom 55ers
<b>31</b>	8:00 PM	Choir