

# FIRST THINGS FIRST

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, REGINA

October 2016

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM MODERATOR

I would like to take a moment to thank those of you who completed and submitted the Congregational Needs Survey which was distributed at the end of September. Your feedback is important and I appreciate your time and your opinions. I will be compiling the results and reporting them to Session.. God bless you all.

Rev. Devon Pattemore

#### SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Search Committee for a new minister had its initial meeting in June and the first order of business was the construction of a congregational profile which will be given to prospective candidates. In order to complete the profile the committee decided that a congregational survey should be distributed so that the profile could better reflect the opinions and needs of the greater congregation. Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out the survey during the summer months.

The Committee met again in September and October and should be finalizing the congregational profile at the November meeting. Once completed, it will be sent to Ministry and Church Vocations at Church Offices in Toronto. The committee will be sent profiles from ministers that Ministry and Church Vocations feels are a good match for First. The position will also be advertised on the PCC website and possibly in the Presbyterian Record. As a Committee, we report regularly to Session on our progress and will update the congregation via the newsletter whenever possible.

Thank you all for your support as we take on the important task of finding the best possible minister for First Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Devon Pattemore  
Interim Moderator

#### SESSION

During our ministry vacancy, we are pleased to have The Rev. Bob Wilson leading worship on a regular basis. On October 23, The Rev. John Ferrier will lead worship. Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, November 6 and Sunday, December 4.

As we experience some wintry weather, thoughts turn towards Christmas. First Church will have a Christmas Eve service on Dec. 24. This year, Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on Sundays and we will have services on both days.

Holy Communion in January will be postponed by one week and will be celebrated on January 8, 2017. The Session meeting, which is usually held on the first Wednesday of each month, will be held on Wednesday, January 11, 2017.

Jo Szostak  
Clerk of Session

#### BOARD OF MANAGERS

Thank you for your continued generous support of the life of the congregation. While we are still running a deficit for the year, we are gradually making headway. We are in the midst of reconciling the roof pledges and will have a report for the November newsletter.

First Church experienced a break-in during the early hours of September 15. Thieves smashed a window in the Kennedy room, stole groceries from the kitchen, broke windows in the doors to the main office and youth office, stole the candy machine and the youth director laptop. It appears we will likely be submitting a claim as the total cost of the items stolen and the cleanup and repairs will be about \$2700. We have a \$1000 deductible on our policy. The Board is looking at ways to improve security. Bob Dempsey, the caretaker, has trimmed the low-hanging branches on trees in front of the building. We are

investigating the cost of putting bars on the Kennedy room windows and upgrading our security system

Board of Managers

### **WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

The committee met September 17 to begin planning for the fall season at First Church. We welcome each one of you back at church after a warm and hopefully restful summer.

We are pleased to welcome Rev. Bob Wilson to our committee to assist us with our plans for worship services.

Worldwide Communion Sunday was celebrated October 2. It is the one Sunday of the year when all major denominations celebrate Communion on the same day.

Musical Director Bill Sgrazzutti gave us an update on the choir and reported that we have two Choral Scholars, Will Ireton and Gabe Omolida.

Many of you may wonder what exactly your Worship Committee is responsible for. In general, we assist our minister in coordinating worship. Our duties consist of seeing to all events on the church calendar during the year, reporting to session on special services and any suggested changes to our worship format. We are responsible for finding lectors each Sunday; September to June, as well as greeters and ushers for the entire year. We see that the church colors are in place on the pulpit and chancel table and the appropriate banners are in displayed as the church season progresses. We liaise with the music director to assist in whatever way we can to help make music in worship meaningful.

These are just some of the areas for which we are responsible. As you can see, Worship is a very busy committee. We enjoy serving the life of First Church in this manner. Thanks goes to Jeannie MacFarlane for coordinating flowers in the chancel. Most of all thank you Marianne, our committee Convenor for an excellent job.

As usual, lectors are needed for November and December. Please speak to Marianne Woods if

you would like to participate. Wendy Prior is in charge of greeters for each Sunday - please give Wendy a cheerful "yes" as well.

Joyce McKersie  
Worship Committee

### **PLANNED GIVING**

#### **Applications for Planned Giving Funds:**

Growing our Vision: Seeds of Abundant Joy is our First Church Planned Giving Program. Each year we invite applications for activities supported by our Planned Giving Funds. If you have an idea for a project or initiative that supports our mission to be joyful in our worship, tender in our lives together and daring in our outreach, applications are available in the narthex or from Shirley in the church office. Individuals or groups/committees may apply.

Please note, if there is a wish to have funding renewed for programs that have been funded in previous years, please re-apply. The deadline to submit applications is October 31, 2016.

Lisa Ann Wood  
Planned Giving Committee

### **ADULT WALK**

The Adult Walk program will resume on Tuesday, October 4, and will continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays weekly. We welcome Riverbend folks to join us on Thursdays. Volunteers are needed for this program. Please contact Rev. Bob Wilson if you can help with juice and cookies and accompaniment of Riverbend residents.

Rev. Bob Wilson

### **BIBLE STUDY**

Bible Study will resume at 10:30am on Tuesday, October 4 and continue weekly for an hour on Tuesdays. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy discovering God's Word together.

Rev. Bob Wilson

## FUNDSCRIP

Thanks for your continued support of this program. Amazon.ca is a new retailer with the program so you can now purchase Amazon cards. Start to think ahead about Christmas gifts! Specials for October include Giant Tiger at 5% (instead of 3%) and Cabela's at 7% (instead of 4%).

First Church has now been with FundScrip for five years and over that time we have raised almost \$10,000. It happens a few dollars at a time. We would like to encourage more congregants to be involved. It costs you nothing extra and you can use the gift cards like money. Many of our supporters buy all their groceries and gas with gift cards. The church makes money on every card. There are dozens of retailers involved with the program. Pick up an order form and check out the possibilities - restaurants, department stores, specialty retailers, and more. KFC and A&W are new this year as well. Orders are placed following the first and third Sundays of the month. Visit the FundScrip table in the gym following worship to place an order or buy cards we have on hand.

If you would like to **order online**, you can set up your own account at FundScrip.com. Use the **invitation code 86MLRU** so that the proceeds go to First Church. Then you can order anytime and your order will be saved until the church order goes through. Your order can then be picked up at the church on the Sunday following the order Sunday. If you choose to do this, please use either Interac or EFT (Electronic Fund Transfer) to pay for your order. You can use a credit card, but if you do, we pay a percentage and the amount the church makes is thereby greatly reduced.

The other possibility with an online account is to have your cards mailed directly to you. You pay the postage and receive up to \$400 in cards in the mail. The church will still earn a percentage. This is a great thing to do if you want to send a card to a friend or family member. You pay the postage and the card is mailed to any address you provide.

## CAMP CHRISTOPHER

Dear Friends in Christ,

On behalf of the Camp Committee, it is my pleasure to thank First Presbyterian Church for the generous donations of \$400, \$823.44 and \$2,365 this year.

Your contribution helped us provide a great outdoor ministry experience for children and youth, as well as leadership training and employment opportunities for older teens and young adults.

One of the achievements this year is the construction of the long desired gazebo! Hopefully it will be completed before Synod meets at the camp in October.

This comes wishing First Presbyterian God's blessing in its ministry.

Sincerely,  
Ursula Wiig,  
Camp Treasurer

## OCTOBER EVENTS

- 9 10:30 AM      Worship Service**  
(Rev. Bob Wilson)
- 10 Thanksgiving Day - office closed
- 11 9:00 AM      Adult Walk  
10:30 AM      Bible Study  
noon            Freedom 55ers
- 13 9:00 AM      Adult Walk  
10:00 AM      Riverbend  
7:30 PM        Choir Practice
- 16 10:30 AM      Worship Service**  
(Rev. Bob Wilson)  
**& Sunday School**
- 18 9:00 AM      Adult Walk  
10:30 AM      Bible Study  
noon            Freedom 55ers
- 19 7:00 PM        Board of Managers**
- 20 9:00 AM      Adult Walk  
10:00 AM      Riverbend  
7:30 PM        Choir Practice
- 23 10:30 AM      Worship Service**  
(Rev. John Ferrier)  
**& Sunday School**  
11:30 AM      SS rooms and Nursery  
clean up
- 25 9:00 AM      Adult Walk  
10:30 AM      Bible Study  
noon            Freedom 55ers
- 27 9:00 AM      Adult Walk  
10:00 AM      Riverbend  
7:30 PM        Choir Practice
- 30 10:30 AM      Worship Service**  
(Rev. Bob Wilson)  
**& Sunday School**