

FIRST THINGS FIRST

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, REGINA

September 2016

SESSION

Welcome back to a new year! I hope you had a restful and relaxing summer.

Please mark your calendars now for Sunday, October 2 at 5:30 p.m when First Church will be holding a "Welcome-back Potluck Stew Supper". Hosted by the Fellowship and Stewardship committees, the supper will provide an opportunity to share stories of summer experiences and enjoy a meal together. It will also be the kickoff event for the fall stewardship campaign with the theme "Live Simply." So dig out your favourite stew recipe and plan to attend!

Will Ireton and Gabe Omolida will be our Choral Scholars for the 2016-17 year. We look forward to their continued involvement in the music of First Church!

Jo Szostak
Clerk of Session

BOARD OF MANAGERS

Finance: Thanks to everyone for your continued financial support throughout the summer. We transferred \$5000 from investments to provide a cash flow cushion although we didn't need to use that money. We do however need to make transfers of memorial donations and roof donations, so our operating fund is actually in a deficit position. More detailed information will be in the next newsletter once the roof donations are reconciled.

Board of Managers

MISSION & OUTREACH

Consider joining M&O: Are you interested in how First Church can best serve our local and global neighbours? Do you want to help with existing mission programming or bring new ideas to the table? We encourage you to join this committee.

We meet four times per year, with the next meeting in late October. Please contact Mary Jesse at mary.jesse@uregina.ca or 306-789-5845 for more information.

Regina Indian Industrial School Cemetery update: The Cemetery has been in the local news recently. The 3rd Annual Memorial Walk and Feast (July 27) included aboriginal groups, church folks and government representatives, and was covered by several media outlets. Thanks to Rev. Bob Wilson for participating in both the walk and the community feast that day.

On September 7, the City of Regina Planning Commission unanimously approved the Cemetery Association's application for Municipal Heritage designation for the cemetery site. This approval means that the application will be heard by City Council on September 26. First Church and the Synod of Saskatchewan have written in support of the Heritage designation.

Douglas Stewart has been conducting painstaking research on the school for the past two years in an effort to identify the names of the children buried in the cemetery. Although many of the necessary records have been lost, he has discovered some names of the deceased, as well as compiling a thorough historical account of the school over its 20 year life- span. As a result, we have a much better understanding of our denomination's participation in the residential school system. We hope that this account may be made available to the public in the future.

Mary Jesse
Mission & Outreach Convenor

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. The deadline to submit an application is October 31, 2016.

CANADA YOUTH 2016

From July 5th -10th, 430 Presbyterian youth from across Canada gathered at Brock University in St. Catherine's, Ontario, for Canada Youth. Five individuals went from First church and here are some of their thoughts on the event.

“Canada Youth (CY) 2016 was a very different experience for me compared to two years ago. I experienced CY 2014 from the perspective of a participant, specifically working in the discipleship track, where we discussed themes involving both young adult life and how our faith plays a part in it. Contrary to last time, this year I was happy to take part in some of the conference programming. I was particularly involved with the worship team, where we would be responsible for organizing the worship services which took place each evening. Definitely a different perspective, but it proved to be just as much fun. Worship services at CY are very upbeat and inspiring, involving many contemporary songs, with everyone excited to participate.”

“CY 2016 was based around the theme ‘We Are Home’, which was thoughtfully integrated into all of the youth activities. Perhaps the most influential of these was the ‘refugee simulation’, where both youth and adults were put into a number of role playing situations, where they were subjected to potential struggles faced by refugees in the world today. Even though I did not participate in this activity, it was obvious that it instilled in all of us the importance of ‘home’ and what it really means. At the worship services we were told that in God's house we are always welcomed home. Overall, the experience was very uplifting, seeing many young Presbyterians having fun and connecting with friends, all while building their faith.”

“My favourite part of CY was the worship and being part of the worship, and getting to worship a different way for a change and getting to experience that with other young Christians.”

I would recommend you talk to Matthew, Will, Alex and Gabe about their experience. Based on what I heard from them we had better start saving for Canada Youth 2018!

Donna Wilkinson

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, under “Who We Serve”. Submit completed applications to the church office by September 30. For further information please contact Jim Doolittle.

Jim Doolittle
Scholarship Fund Convenor

FUNDSCRIP

The next order Sunday will be Sunday, September 18. October order Sundays will be October 2 and October 16. Please note that you can now buy gift cards for A&W and Kentucky Fried Chicken. Specials for September include Shell (3%), Home Outfitters (5%), Old Navy (7%) and Pizza Pizza (12%). Visit the FundScrip table in the gym after church to purchase cards or place an order.

A PETITION

Justice Ministries within The Presbyterian Church in Canada is encouraging congregations and presbyteries in Saskatchewan to support a petition sponsored by KAIROS in its “Winds of Change Campaign”. KAIROS, a Canadian faith-based ecumenical organization aimed at effecting social change through advocacy and education, is composed of representatives from major Canadian churches and religious organizations including the PCC.

This petition is framed in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (2015) Call to Act #62 that calls upon provincial and territorial governments, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, to incorporate into the K-12 school curricula mandatory and age-appropriate units on residential schools, on Treaties, and on Aboriginal peoples' historical and contemporary contributions to Canada. KAIROS's petition "respectfully requests that the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan urge the Government of Saskatchewan to fully implement such a curriculum for kindergarten through Grade 12."

At the September meeting of Session, and in response to the request from Justice Ministries to consider the KAIROS petition, a motion was passed that urges the congregants of First Church to support the petition. Copies will be available for signing in the Narthex throughout the balance of September and the first week of October.

Thank you.

Doug Stewart
Editor

LAY EDUCATION

Want to deepen your faith? Why not register for the Ewart Centre's on line lay education program this fall. There are two 6 week courses offered. There are no educational prerequisites: the Reformed Faith and Spirituality course will be led by Rev. Dr. Dong Ha Kim, September 12 to Oct 24th; and Reformed Worship, by Rev. Dr. Emily Bisset, Oct. 31 to Dec 15. (See below for outlines of these courses.) Please go to www.knox.utoronto.ca "Study at Knox Lay education" for more information.

The Certificate in Christian Faith and Life does not require an undergraduate degree. The courses can be taken for interest or credit. Instructors are Knox College Faculty and graduate students, as well as others drawn from the University of Toronto School of Theology and the PCC.

The Certificate requires that participants complete four basic courses in the areas of

Bible, Theology, History, and Lay Ministry, and four elective courses in various areas of theological inquiry.

The certificate courses are all taught by distance education.

REFORMED FAITH AND SPIRITUALITY

Rev. Dr. Dong Ha Kim

September 12 to Oct 24th 2016

Scripture calls each of us to grow as Christ's disciple. This growth occurs as we journey in our lives with Christ as our guide. It results in the joy of discovery and transformation. Throughout the journey of faith, God's people are forced to grapple with questions such as, "how is it possible to live in a world with so many stresses and worries and yet be faithful to our Triune God?" This journey demands all we can give it. Yet according to the testimony of ages and the glimpse of the future given to us through God's grace, the end goal is worth every ounce of our struggle.

Spirituality is a daily discipline wherein each disciple receives God's love and is given strength and courage to engage our unique challenges. Aided by select readings, exercises and interactions, this course will explore several key facts that constitute contemporary Reformed Spirituality. This course is designed to explore spirituality as one of the most fundamental precepts of the Christian faith.

REFORMED WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Emily Bisset

Oct 31st – Dec 15th 2016

As Christians we believe that our worship is service to God. Most of us consider worship one of the central commitments of our faith, yet few of us know why we worship the way that we do or what sets our worship as people of the Reformed tradition apart from our Christian sisters and brothers of other theological traditions.

This course will focus on the distinct characteristics of, and theology behind, Reformed worship. We will specifically look at the elements and order of our worship to see what they reflect about what we believe. We will

address topics such as Word and Sacraments, prayer, music and our worship space. Worship is an encounter with God: understanding the practices and traditions of Reformed worship can enrich and enliven that encounter which is at the very centre of our faith.

Cost: Regular rate is \$150; retiree rate is \$135. Rate for both courses is \$275

ART FROM THE MORRIS ROOM

The eighteenth and nineteenth paintings from the Kitson collection are entitled “Grace Before a Meal” and “Return from Market” by the French painter Jean-Baptiste Simeon Chardin (1699-1779).

He was known as the master painter of still life and scenes of domestic tranquility and created a hushed and harmonious world of glowing colour. He understood so well the soft diffusion of natural light, the well-turned composure of carefully delimited space, and whose textures are so rich, so varied and which interact so perfectly.

Chardin always painted from nature preferring to develop his compositions by brushing colour directly onto canvas rather than from a sketch.

Unfortunately, still life was regarded as a secondary field commanding low prices so eventually he turned to painting people and he did so brilliantly.

Our paintings illustrate Chardin’s special qualities. The figures are carefully arranged as apples on a table, the atmosphere is stilled by their intense concentration and his careful control of light and harmonic sense of colour.

Silence, calm and order prevail in Chardin’s domestic scenes just as in his still life’s. Chardin selects those legitimate instants when people naturally come to rest, if only fleetingly.

That moment when a mother waits for her youngest child to finish saying grace before she serves the meal.

In the other painting, he senses the weary seconds when a young housewife back from the market lays down her bulky round loaves of bread and gathers strength to swing her shopping bag into the cabinet. In every picture, time is arrested and the viewer becomes momentarily but completely involved with Chardin’s subject.

He lived to be 80 and in his later life he began to quickly work in pastels. Pastels require less preparation than oils and he may have found the medium more relaxing. To the end he was an innovator and experimenter and he brought to pastels the same vitality that characterized his best paintings.

John Macfarlane



“Grace Before a Meal”



“Return from Market”

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

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| 11 | 10:30 AM | Worship Service
(Rev. John Ferrier) |
| 12 | 7:00 PM | Stewardship Committee |
| 15 | 7:30 PM | Choir Practice |
| 18 | 10:30 AM | Worship Service
(Rev. Bob Wilson)
& Sunday School |
| 21 | 7:00 PM | Board of Managers |
| 22 | 7:30 PM | Choir Practice |
| 25 | 10:30 AM | Worship Service
(Rev. Bob Wilson)
& Sunday School |
| 29 | 7:30 PM | Choir Practice |