

FIRST THINGS FIRST

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, REGINA

November 2015

SESSION

An Appreciation

On behalf of the congregation, the Session would like to express heartfelt appreciation to Tom Ireland and George Madeley for the many years of service they have devoted to taking up the offering and counting the number of worshippers at Sunday services. Many people may not realize that one of them has climbed stairs to the balcony every Sunday to do the count so that we can accurately track attendance and produce an "average attendance" figure for the national church. They have been more evident in their role with the offering, and their inclusion of young people in passing offering plates. Tom and George are stepping back from these two tasks while others are arranging to take over. Thank you, Tom and George, for your dedicated service to the church as you carried out these duties, week after week, for so many years!

Jo Szostak
Clerk of Session

SEARCH FOR PASTORAL CARE ADVOCATE

Update: As announced in last month's newsletter, the hiring process for this position is proceeding. A job advertisement has been posted on the Saskjobs.ca website and runs from October 27 to Nov 10, the deadline for submitting applications. Copies of the job posting are available in the Narthex or from Shirley in the First Church Office or can be viewed at Saskjobs.ca. The job order number is: 5475506.

Once the competition closes, Session will appoint and oversee a hiring committee who will conduct interviews to fill this position.

Lisa Ann Wood
Board of Managers

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We extend a warm welcome to our new youth leader, Calvin Lysholm. Calvin is beginning his orientation to the position this week. He is a student at Briercrest. More information on upcoming youth events will be sent via e-mail. To all youth - please make sure Calvin has your updated contact information.

Bette Kelly
Christian Education Convenor

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Mark your calendars! The Fellowship Committee is planning our Annual Advent Party on December 6th, 2015 immediately after church. We will have some Christmas games, carol singing ... and a lot of fun. We are also planning on having chili and mac & cheese, so plan on joining all the other fun-loving people at First for this event. Hope to see all of you there.

Sheila Wilson
Fellowship Committee Convenor

PLANNED GIVING COMMITTEE

Tax Benefits Help Your Planned Gift Achieve More

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

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 enable you to 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 programs and services we can offer within our church family and our larger community.

Consult a professional estate or financial planner or tax specialist to obtain detailed information and advice about the tax implications of a planned gift, based on your individual situation

The following are some examples of how tax benefits can be realized through planned giving.

(a) 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.

(b) 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.

(c) **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 a younger donor with limited accumulated assets to leave a legacy to First Church.

(d) If you are 60 years old or older, **gift annuities** allow you to offer 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

(Information excerpted from "Planned Giving" a brochure developed by the Planned Giving Office of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.)

MISSION & OUTREACH

Freedom from Freezing

November is the start of Freedom from Freezing, our annual knitting ministry for young children at Kitchener Community School. The school is very excited to know that knitting will be sent to their students again. The Narthex has two bins - one for those wishing to donate wool and the other for knitters to drop off completed mittens and hats.

Mary Jesse
Mission and Outreach Convenor

BRIGHTWATER SENIOR LIVING

Volunteers, mark your calendars. Brightwater will be walking at First Church November 12 and 19th. They will not be here on the 26th. Thank you so much!

Donna Wilkinson

ART FROM THE MORRIS ROOM

Today I am going to return to the French artist Jean-Francois Millet (1814-1875) and discuss another of his paintings from the Kitson Collection -- "Feeding Her Birds". The first work of Millet's we discussed was "The Gleaners".

“Feeding her Birds” is based on Millet’s home life at Barbizon, a small village near Paris. The children, like baby birds in a nest, cluster snugly together on the threshold of their farm home, while the loving mother offers them food from her outstretched beak-like wooden spoon. The little girls wait patiently while their baby brother reaches forward to the spoon of broth.

It is noon, the sunlight shining warmly upon the old wall and the caps and aprons of the children, touches only the blue-bound head of the mother, leaving the rest of her figure, on the milking stool, in shadow. Millet loved this contrast of light and shadow. An inquisitive hen runs up to see what good things there are to eat. In the garden beyond (barely seen in this version) while the father works busily at his spading.



Note the pleasing colours throughout. The girls are wearing white bonnets and wooden shoes. One girl is wearing a long purple dress, the other green, while the little brother wears blue with a red tam. The mother wears a blue cap and collar, a red blouse, and a full brown skirt.

The brightly lit stone peasant cottage affords pleasant glimpses into the painter’s home, over-grown with clematis and ivy.

Millet concentrated on peasants, workers and the everyday look of the city and countryside. He spent most of his life in Barbizon painting peasants like those he’d known growing up in Normandy.

A sentimental man, Millet felt a strong nostalgia for the pre-industrial past. His pictures evoke what he called “homely goodness of country folk whose struggles to survive lends them nobility”. Critics called Millet the “Michelangelo of peasants.” He stands unrivalled as the sympathetic interpreter of the vigour, dignity and beauty of peasant life.

John Macfarlane

NOVEMBER EVENTS

8	10:30 AM	Worship Service & Sunday School
	2:00 PM	Mission & Outreach
10	9:00 AM	Adult Walk
	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	Noon	Freedom 55ers
11	Remembrance Day - office closed	
12	9:00 AM	Adult Walk
	9:45 AM	Brightwater Walk
	7:30 PM	Choir
13	7:00 PM	Youth
15	10:30 AM	Worship Service & Sunday School
17	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	Noon	Freedom 55ers
19	9:00 AM	Adult Walk
	9:45 AM	Brightwater Walk
	7:30 PM	Choir
20	7:00 PM	Youth
22	10:30 AM	Worship Service & Sunday School
24	10:30 AM	Bible Study
	Noon	Freedom 55ers
26	9:00 AM	Adult Walk
	7:30 PM	Choir
27	7:00 PM	Youth
29	10:30 AM	Worship Service & Sunday School