

First Presbyterian Church News

17 Royal Road South, Portage la Prairie, MB

John Zondag, Minister

June 2017

Raymond Reichelt, Clerk of Session

Margaret McNutt-Reichelt, Organist

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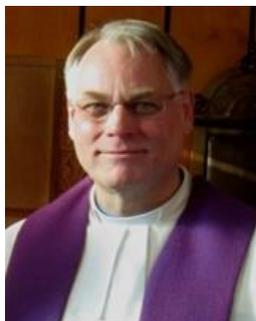
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FROM THE MINISTER



As the 2016-17 year begins to wind down, I thank everyone for their various contributions to the life and work of the congregation this year. It's a real team effort!

I wish to pay special tribute to Heather Yeo, who served in many facets of the congregation's life and work over the years. I thought I had mentioned all of them in my meditation at her funeral service, but realized later that I had forgotten to mention that she had also taken a turn vacuuming the sanctuary many times in the past few years! At the time of her death, Heather was heading up our pictorial directory project, a role that has been taken over by Shauna-Lei Leslie, for which we are grateful.

Last month, Donna Pacholuk stepped down as treasurer of the Endowment Fund, having served in that capacity since the fall of 2013, and also as a member of the Endowment Committee, on which she had served since its creation in 2011. We thank Donna for this service to the congregation.

Each person's contribution to the congregation's life and work is significant, and is greatly appreciated - thank you all very much!

OUR SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to:

- Brian Yeo and family, in the death of Heather Yeo on the 8th of April
- Pat Antoski and family, in the death of Nick Antoski on the 15th of April

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

a) Regularly-scheduled events:

- WMS Group – 1st Wednesday of the month, at 1:30 p.m.
(except July & August)
- Prayer Time – 1st Thursday of the month, at 1:30 p.m. (except July & August)
- Finance & Maintenance Committee – 2nd Wednesday of the month, at 6:30 p.m.
(except July & August)
- Session meetings – 4th Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m. (except July)

b) One-time events:

- Communion Sunday – May 28th
- Pentecost – Sunday, June 4th
- Outdoor Service & Picnic – Sunday, June 18th, 10:30 a.m.
- Joint summer services begin – Sunday, July 2nd
- Regular Sunday services resume – Sunday, September 3rd
- Presbytery meeting – Wednesday, September 20th
- Great Presbyterian Pie Sale – Friday, September 29th, 12:30 p.m.
- Communion Sunday – Sunday, October 1st

MEAL-IN-A-BOWL SUPPERS

The Meal-in-a-Bowl Supper on the 24th of May will be the final one until the fall. Many thanks to all who work diligently to make these monthly suppers a success!

SATURDAY EVENING SERVICES

We thank Keith Kelly for organizing and leading the Saturday evening service held on the second Saturday of every month. The service in May will be the final one until the fall.

SUNDAY BREAKFASTS

We thank Keith Kelly and Roberta Muirhead for organizing the Sunday Breakfast held on the third Sunday of every month. There will not be a breakfast in May or June, and they will resume in the fall.

COMMUNION



Join us as we celebrate the **Sacrament of the Lord's Supper** on Sunday, 28 May - a week earlier than usual, since John Zondag needs to be away for General Assembly on Sunday, 4 June. John will be available after Sunday the 11th to conduct Communion Services at home for any of our homebound members. If you would like to have Communion at home, please speak to your elder, or call John at the church (857-4351), and we can arrange a suitable time.

OUTDOOR SERVICE

Our annual **outdoor service and picnic** will be held on Sunday, 18 June, starting at 10:30 a.m., at the home of Bruce and Lisa Sneesby, at 78115 Highway 50, just north of Highway 16 (northwest of town). Dress casually, and bring lawn chairs if you have them. Please meet at the church at 9:45 a.m., and we'll carpool from here. The food will be provided. In case of inclement weather, the service will be held at the church, in which case a message regarding the change of venue will be sent out by e-mail. Regular attenders who don't have e-mail will be notified by phone. We thank Bruce and Lisa for offering to host this annual event!

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Raymond Reichelt and John Zondag have been appointed "commissioners" to this year's General Assembly by our Presbytery. The General Assembly is the highest governing body in our church, and meets once per year, on the first weekend in June. It will be held at Queens University in Kingston, Ont. The General Assembly consists of 1/6 of all actively-serving ministers and diaconal ministers, plus an equal number of elders. People from right across the country will be attending. Since our Presbytery has only six actively -serving ministers, it sends only one minister and one elder to the General Assembly each year. The Assembly receives reports from all of its committees, and makes decisions on the recommendations contained in those reports - on issues ranging from doctrine to policy to finances. Raymond and John's travel and accommodation costs will be covered by the national church, and their meal costs will be paid by the Presbytery. Because of this, they will be away on Sunday, 4 June. Charlie Clifford has offered to lead our service that day, and we thank him for that.

SUMMER SERVICE SCHEDULE

The schedule for our joint summer services with the two United Church congregations has been finalized. The overall theme will be "What the World Needs Now: Compassion", and the locations, worship leaders, and weekly themes, will be as follows:

2 July	First Church	John Zondag	Abraham and Sarah's hospitality
9 July	First Church	Wilma Shirriff	Shiphrah and Puah's courage
16 July	First Church	Julie B. / Beth K.	The feast that brought peace
23 July	McKenzie Church	Wilma Shirriff	Jesus has compassion on the crowd
30 July	McKenzie Church	Julie B. / Beth K.	"Give to the poor"
6 August	McKenzie Church	John Zondag	David's kindness to Mephibosheth
13 August	Trinity Church	Julie B. / Beth K.	"You yourselves were foreigners"
20 August	Trinity Church	Wilma Shirriff	The parable of the Good Samaritan
27 August	Trinity Church	John Zondag	Jesus heals on a Sabbath

The service time will be **10:30 a.m.** in all three locations. Regular services here at First Church will resume on the 3rd of September.

FROM THE SOUP KITCHEN

Mark **Tuesday, June 27** on your calendar because it is the next **Soup Kitchen Day at MCC!** This will be the third year we have had this opportunity.

On that day, volunteers from the First Presbyterian Soup Kitchen will volunteer at the Thrift Shop and Portage MCC Furniture Plus. A set amount of the day's sales will be donated to the Soup Kitchen.

The volunteers will have an opportunity to sign up for a two hour shift. They may help bag/wrap items purchased or help on the floor by refilling displays. Volunteers from previous years have enjoyed their time volunteering at the Thrift Shop.

You don't have to be a Soup Kitchen volunteer to help. *You* can help, too.

You could:

- (a) Donate special items marked "For the Soup Kitchen Day"
- (b) Tell your friends, relatives and neighbours about the day
- (c) Shop at the Thrift Shop and Portage MCC Furniture Plus on June 27.
- (d) All of the above

The stores will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

See you there!



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION CALLS TO ACTION:

In 1994 the Presbyterian Church in Canada issued an apology for its part in the hurt that occurred in some residential schools. The concluding paragraph reads “We ask, also, for forgiveness from Aboriginal Peoples. What we have heard we acknowledge. It is our hope that those whom we have wronged with a hurt too deep for telling will accept what we have to say. With God’s guidance our Church will seek opportunities to walk with Aboriginal peoples to find healing and wholeness together as God’s people.” The Anglican Church issued an apology in 1993 and the United Church in 1998. One of the calls to action concerns the Roman Catholic Church and reads as follows:

58. We call upon the Pope to issue an apology to Survivors, their families, and communities for the Roman Catholic Church’s role in the spiritual, cultural, emotional, physical, and sexual abuse of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children in Catholic-run residential schools. We call for that apology to be similar to the 2010 apology issued to Irish victims of abuse and to occur within one year of the issuing of this Report and to be delivered by the Pope in Canada.

ELECTION OF ELDERS

The results of the election of elders held in January and February were that Margaret McNutt-Reichelt and Raymond Reichelt were re-elected to the Session, and Pat Mullins was elected for the first time. Pat was already an elder of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, having served in that capacity in her previous congregation, First Church in Brandon. Pat, Margaret, and Raymond were formally admitted / re-admitted to the Session for a six-year term during the service on Sunday, 26 March. We thank them for their willingness to serve / continue serving on the Session. Our next election of elders will take place in early 2019.



SHARPE SISTERS CONCERT

Lisa would like to thank those that came to the Sharpe Sisters Concert on Thursday, May 4th. There was a **FULL** house again this year. I figure we sold about 175 tickets and as it looks right now our profit for the evening was approximately \$2000.00

I want to thank my right hand helper - Mardine, for looking after the lunch - getting it organized, & set out with Shauna, Ria and Gwen's help; Winnie & Jean & Debbi for working the doors. John for being the "Box Office" person - selling tickets here at the church and those from the congregation who took tickets to sell - **THANK YOU!!!**

I figured there was about ½ of our congregation there and the rest were outsiders - which is wonderful - to have outside money coming in!! And we even made CFRY news – they interviewed Charlie and it was a great mention of First Presbyterian Church.

Thanks again...



SESSION NEWS

Highlights of the March and April Session meetings:

- When the Session treasurer, Bruce Sneesby, reported that the Session had over \$300 in its fund, it was decided to donate \$100 each to *Presbyterians Sharing* and PWS&D. Session members make a monthly contribution to this fund.
- The Session agreed to support John Zondag's request for a couple days' Study Leave, to allow him to attend a conference entitled "Worship Words", to be held in Kingston, Ont., just before the General Assembly meeting begins. This means that John would be leaving for Kingston on Friday, 2 June, rather than the Saturday or Sunday of that weekend. It would also allow the congregation to pay expenses for the conference out of John's accumulated Study Leave allowance. The request still needs to be approved by the Presbytery.
- A request for baptism from Cheryl McPherson was approved. Cheryl recently discovered that she had not been baptized in infancy, as she had previously believed.
- An elder's district will be created for our new Session member Pat Mullins in time for the October Communion.
- It was agreed to make a \$25 donation to the Endowment Fund from the Session Fund, in memory of Heather Yeo.

SUMMER OFFERING ENVELOPE

The Summer Offering envelope will be sent out in July, rather than being sent out with this issue of the Newsletter.

VACATION

John Zondag will be taking five weeks' vacation this summer, three weeks from 3 to 23 July, and a further two weeks from 7 to 20 August. If a pastoral need should arise while he is absent, please contact Raymond Reichelt (239-5359 or raymond@mymts.net), or any other member of the Session, to find out which ministers are available to assist you.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Thank you to everyone who came to have pictures taken for the directory. There were 28 pictures taken. I don't have a timeline, as of yet, as to when they will be complete. Thank you to Debbi & Wally for helping me out with the hosting.

Shauna-Lei Leslie

ENDOWMENT FUND

At the Annual General Meeting, Shauna-Lei Leslie, came on the committee. Lisa was re-appointed as Convener. Margaret McNutt Reichelt was appointed as Secretary & Shauna-Lei was appointed as Treasurer.

FINANCES:

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - 2017

JAN – APR 2017

FINANCES:

DONATIONS RECEIVED:	31,038.45
EXPENSES PAID:	<u>34,542.24</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT):	<u>(3,503.79)</u>

PRESBYTERIANS SHARING – Total Allocation for year is \$3,000.00:

DONATIONS RECEIVED:	<u>915.00</u>
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FUNDRAISING: Burns Dinner-Catering - Meal in a Bowl - Sunday Breakfasts

INCOME:	4,801.00
EXPENSES:	<u>1,261.82</u>
SURPLUS:	<u>3,539.18</u>

Estimated Profit from our May 2017 fundraisers which is not included in the above figures:

Spring Concert	2,087.86
Spring Dinner	559.15

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of these events

Annual Spring Clean-up

Saturday, May 27th at 9:00 a.m. is the Annual Clean-up of the Church. There is a signup sheet at the back of the Sanctuary but if you are able to come and haven't signed up that is great too... Just come on down.. As the saying goes 'Many hands make light work'. See you on the 27th.

Spring Dinner

Thank you to everyone who donated towards the Spring Dinner. Unfortunately, we did not have a great turnout. Only 40 people attended!!!! Thank you to the kitchen workers, the cleanup crew, & the door workers.



CONGRATULATIONS!

We congratulate Maggie Muirhead, who is graduating from high school this spring. Maggie is planning to study Education at the University of Winnipeg, starting this fall.

Happenings in 1st Church

More pictures from the Sharpe Sisters Concert



Sharpe Sisters Concert:
L - R Colleen, Carolyn, & Kathy



Sharpe Sisters & brother:
L - R Colleen, Johnny Dietrich, Kathy,
& Carolyn,