

A few miles from where I live

there is a pottery studio where my neighbour pursues her ancient craft in a manner little unchanged from what Jeremiah saw the day he went to the potter's house (Jeremiah 18:1-4).

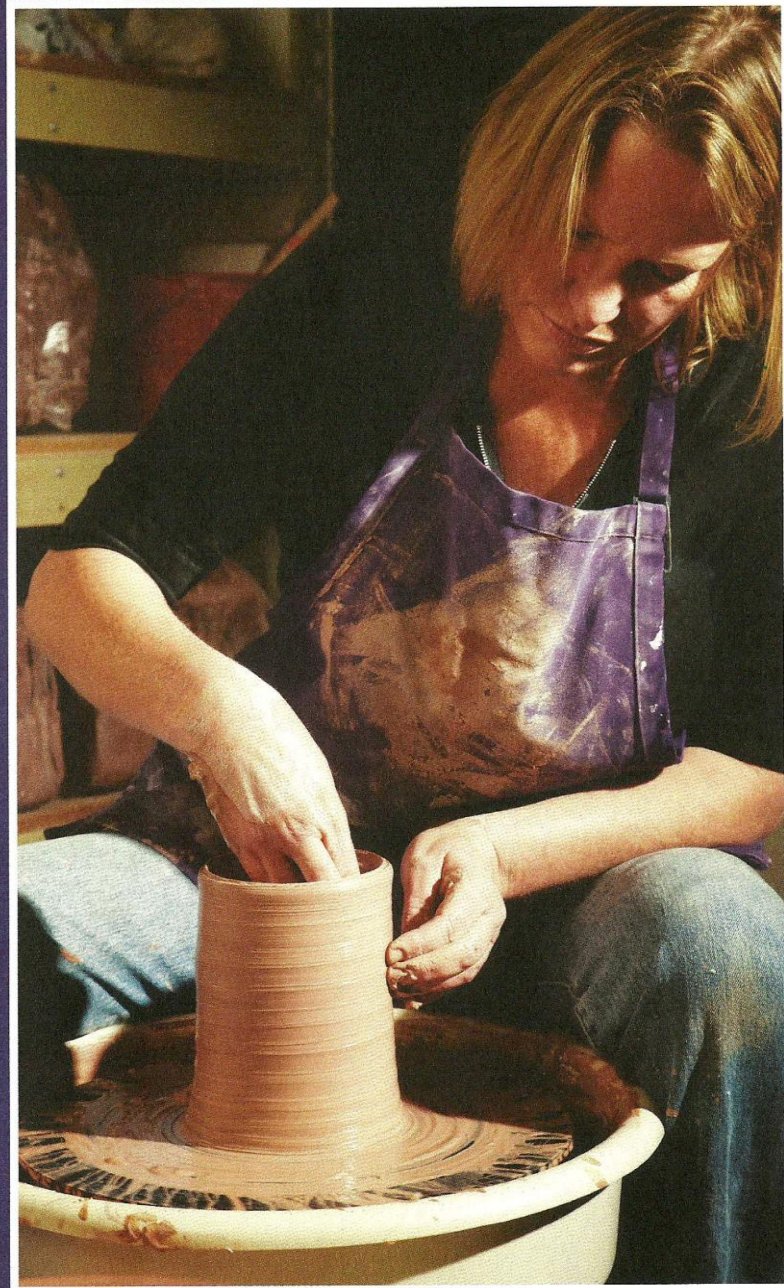
Like my neighbour, Jeremiah, too, is an artist. With the skill of a potter, he moulds metaphors. One of his finest and most unforgettable, inspired by his visit that day, is the image of God the potter.

Think how useful pottery is. Without the invention of pottery, there would be no civilization as we know it. Without the potter, we would have nothing in which to save, store and carry things.

But we don't value a piece of pottery only for its usefulness. We buy it for its beauty. Pottery is a work of art.

God doesn't give up on us until we are shaped into containers both usefully beautiful and beautifully useful.

The Rev. Dr. Cameron Brett is a retired minister living in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, September 8, 2013

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Please stand at items marked * if you are able.

Passages in **Bold Print** are to be spoken in Unison

Organ Prelude – Hymn and Quiet Reflection

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Susan Mattinson

Organist - Carol Wehrstedt Music Director- Kendall House

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Introit

* Entry of the Bible

Call to Worship

* Hymn: *Praise, I will praise* #420

Opening Prayer:

Gracious One, We come with open minds, thankful hearts, and eager spirits to worship and adore you; for you are the rock and the surety of this life and we give you our praise. You have called us to freedom, but too often we bind ourselves with fear. You have called us to new directions, but we cling to the path we know. You have called us to reach out in love, but we draw inward for protection. You have called us to choose you and life, but we choose ourselves and death. Forgive us, O God; help us to trust you and lead us to wholeness and peace. We pray in the name of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Exchanging the Peace of Christ

Anthem: *"I'll Walk with God"* by Henry Konrad

* Hymn: *The kingdom of God is justice and joy* #787
(Children come to the front during the last verse)

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Hymn of Preparation

Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am God.

Bible Readings:

Deuteronomy 30: 15-20	P. 186	O.T.
Psalms 139: 7-18	P. 577 & 578	O.T.
Luke 14: 25-33	P. 78	N.T.

Gloria Patri: 594

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

* Hymn: *I have decided to follow Jesus* #570

Sermon: *"Count the Cost"*

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Tithes and Offerings

* Offertory Response 661

We give thee but thine own, whatever the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, bless our offerings and our lives, so that by our service and kindness towards others, we will proclaim your love for the world. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer (debtsdebtors)

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

* Hymn: *Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go* #652

Blessing

Response: Praise the Lord from whom all blessings flow.
He has washed and made me white as snow.
I'm redeemed from all my sin and shame.
Now and forever, praise his holy name.
Praise his holy name. Praise his holy name.
To God be the glory now and forever.
Praise his holy name!

Prayer Concerns:

Marie Huffman (Roseview)
and her granddaughter, Bronwyn
Douglas Anderson



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Induction Service and Reception for our new Minister the Reverend Susan Mattinson will be held on Sunday, September 15th at 7 pm at First Presbyterian Church. Come and join in this meaningful celebration for Susan and our congregation.

MUFFINS AND MORE sale after Sunday Service on September 22nd.



The October Tea is on October 19th from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. We will be doing something different this year. We will be having a Dessert Tea. So all you fine bakers out there, think of your speciality and make one for this great cause. Also keep in mind something for the auction. There are sign up sheets at the back of the church including one for volunteering. Many thanks, and I know we'll have a great day again this year. Kathleen Noy (473-9309)

First Presbyterian Church

639 Grey Street, Thunder Bay, P7E 2E4
Office - 623-0717 Email: first@tbaytel.net

Pastoral Emergencies - Rev. Susan Mattinson
628-8302

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission purpose is to put our faith into action through mission education, community outreach, and personal and financial support both at home and abroad.



Thank you this week to:

Greeters: Betty Irwin and Betty Irving
Lay Reader: Janet Racey
Fellowship Time: Donna Johnson and Joan Anderson
Elevator Operator: Russ Brown
Offering Counting: Lynae Grace and Myrna Grace
Offering Collection: Russ Brown, Don Munn, Joyce Nystrom, Janet Taylor
Visiting:

Next week's volunteers: Sept. 15th

Greeters: Betty Irwin and Betty Irving
Lay Reader: Leslie Shaw
Fellowship Time:
Elevator Operator: Doug Brown
Offering Counting: Alice & Laird Morrison and Linda Rydholm
Offering Collection: Russ Brown, Don Munn, Joyce Nystrom, Janet Taylor
Visiting:

Grass Cutting:

Sept. 8th to Sept. 30th - Terry Casella

Upcoming Events at First

Wed., Sept. 11th	- Session Meeting	- 7 pm
Thurs., Sept. 12th	- Choir Practice	- 7 pm
Fri., Sept. 13th	- Crafts & Conversation	- 1pm
Wed., Sept. 18th	- Board of Managers	- 6:30 pm

The 15th FW Scouts have a new fundraiser this year. They are towing junker vehicles to the scrap yard. If anyone has a junker you want to get rid of email Kelly Hilton at her email address kkadolph@shaw.ca

Dr. Aurora Riera from Cuba and Dr. Tim Wollin from the Alberta Medical School will be sharing God's miracles related to the Breast Cancer Screening Program and the Minimal Access Prostate Surgery Program in Cuba. Don't Miss this outstanding evening of a complimentary gourmet dinner at the Valhalla Ballroom on Friday, OCTOBER 4TH at 5:30 pm. Phone Shirley @ 474-3974 for more information and to reserve your free but mandatory ticket.