

FIRST PRESS

SPRING EDITION

March 2013



Easter Greetings from Rev. Vancook

Has anyone else noticed that Easter is sneaking up quickly?

Because it is a moveable feast there are some years when it feels like Easter approaches at a leisurely pace, with lots of time to get ready for it. Then there are the years like this one, when Easter seems to be crammed in after Christmas, happening before spring even gets hold of winter and overcomes it. It is in those 'rushed' years, the times when Easter comes as a surprise, before we are really ready for it, that I think we get more of a sense of the shock that the first followers of Jesus experienced.

According to the stories in the gospels, the disciples weren't ready for the death of Jesus, despite his warnings, and they certainly weren't ready for the resurrection. And how could they be prepared for something that shook all the categories of their lives? How could they expect to find new life in a cemetery? New life- eternal life – is never something that we can be prepared for or get accustomed to.

Lent is, of course, meant to be a preparation. But even with those 40 days of extra prayer and study and reflection, we might as well admit that it isn't possible to be ready. At Easter we are directly confronted with the new life of God, and there are few words and fewer pictures that are able to describe it. All we can do is to try our new life on for size, whether we think that we are ready or not. That is all that God asks of us. So, as Easter approaches, and, even more importantly, as we are reminded of the new life of God, continue to try the new life on for size. It may mean alterations in the way we live, but the changes will be worthwhile.

Have a blessed Easter.

Bert Vancook



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Email: first@tbaytel.net

Website:

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Interim Minister:

Rev. Bert Vancook

625-1471

Office Hours:

Tuesday - Friday

9:00 am to Noon

Inside this issue:

Minister's Message	1
Search Committee	2
Election of Elders	2
Easter Services	3
Church Membership	4
Summer Camp 2013	4
Cool in the Furnace	5
April Calendar	6

Happy Easter!

Search Committee Update

Search Committee Update

As of this writing, the search committee has been successful in coming up with a short list of 3 possible candidates for a call to minister here with the people of First. (The three have been chosen from a pool of about 15 applicants).

The candidates offer a variety of experience and abilities. Over the next couple of weeks the committee will be interviewing the three (either face-to-face or by Skype) as well as hearing them preach.

Then the committee will recommend to the session that one candidate be asked to preach for a call to this congregation. We'll arrange a weekend during which the candidate can meet as many members and adherents of the congregation as possible, as well as leading worship and preaching on the Sunday. A few days later, we will have a congregational meeting to determine if the congregation would like to proceed with a call or not.

The search committee asks that you continue to pray that God will help us to discern wisely throughout this process.

Election of Elders

This year, for the first time, the members of First will be electing elders under the system of term service. This means that very two years there will be an election of elders, with five stepping down and five being elected by the congregation.

The ballot will consist of a list of all the members, with presently serving elders indicated. You'll be asked to vote for up to five people. Those receiving the most votes by the stated date will then be approached and asked to serve a six-year term as an elder of First.

The five elders who will be stepping down this year are: Ruth George, Lynda Kvarda, Don Munn, Don Murray and Sue Williams.

Please begin to consider who you would think to be good elders. They will need wisdom in making decisions and a willingness to provide some pastoral care for a district of about 10 households.

CRAFTS AND CONVERSATION

We meet on the second and fourth Fridays of the month.

In March we will get together on the 8th and the 22nd.

Bring a project and join us.



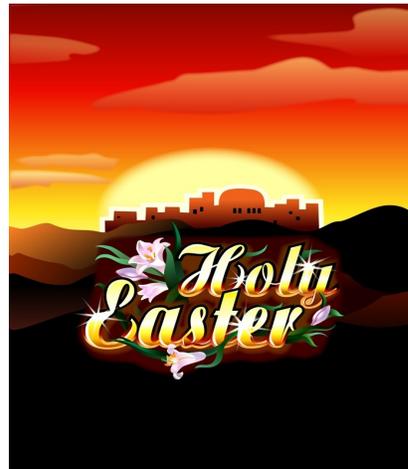
Easter Services

This year we will worship together with the people of the Thunder Bay Free Methodist Church on Good Friday, March 29th.

The service will be at the Free Methodist church beginning at 11 am.

The service will feature readings and music appropriate to the day.

Then we will have our own Easter service on March 31st at 11:00 am



Secretary Update

Robin's resignation has now taken effect. Thanks to her for the work that she has done for the congregation. The board of managers has advertised the position and is in the middle of interviewing and hiring someone else to be the secretary/bookkeeper for the congregation.

Church Membership

Any youth or adults who are interested in becoming members of First, either by transfer from another congregation or by affirmation of faith, are asked to contact Bert (first@tbaytel.net) in the next few weeks. He will gather a group after Easter to prepare for membership.



More Than Mission Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, March 5th
1 pm

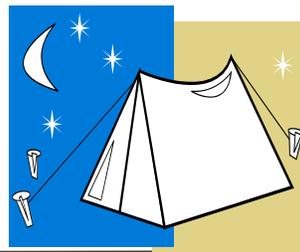
Summer Camp 2013

The dates for summer camp this year are from July 5-11. The camp will be held at Camp Duncan and the camp coordinators are Will Newton and Sarah Campbell.

Again this year we will welcome campers from Grade 3 (as of September 2013) to Grade 9. We expect that registration packages will be available by April.

In the meantime, please encourage your children or grandchildren to participate in the camp: it's a great experience and a fine way to learn more about the way of Jesus in community.

There will also be a need for staff: junior and senior counsellors, cook, lifeguard. If you, or someone you know, is interested, let Will (newton9455@hotmail.com) or Sarah (sarahmcampbell@hotmail.com) know.



It's Cooool In the Furnace

I remembered that 30 some years ago we did an inter-generational musical called "It's Cool in the Furnace". The fun thing with this musical is that everyone and anyone can be a part of it. It's the story of Daniel and his friends Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and their interactions with King Nebuchadnezzar. If you would like to read the story as told in the bible read the Book of Daniel Chapters 1 through 6.

To make this as much fun to do as possible we need lots of help.

We need:

- an adult to play King Neb
- a teenager to be Daniel
- three younger children who can memorize lines to play the three friends Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego
- people to be guards and servants.

To make this a big presentation we need:

- costume makers
- set makers
- an electrician to help with the lighting
- someone to help with the sound so everyone can be heard

Ken House has already volunteered to direct the singing and our organist Carol Wehrstedt has offered to play the piano.

It would be nice to have a small band to back them up, so please let me know if you play a musical instrument and would like to take part. You may have to transpose your part if you play an instrument that is not concert C. It would also be nice to have a dance number as a part of the presentation, so if you know anyone who has taken dance lessons please let me know and perhaps they could pick one of the songs and work on a dance number.

This can only work if the whole congregation gets behind it so if you are interested please contact me at 475-5452 or talk to me at coffee time after Sunday Service.

Thanks,

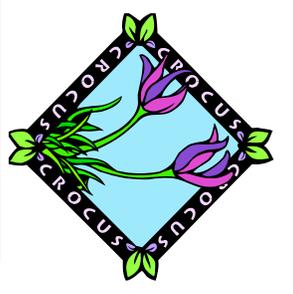
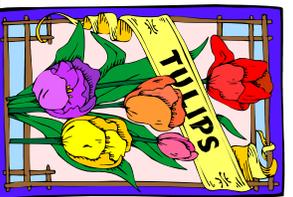
Don Murray

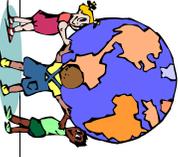


Mission Study
Tuesday, March 26th
1:15 pm



Bible Study
Thursdays
10 am



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Easter Monday	2 More Than Mission 	3	4 10 am - Bible Study 7 pm - Choir Practice	5	6
7 Communion Service	8	9	10 Session Meeting 7 pm	11 10 am - Bible Study 7 pm - Choir Practice	12 Crafts & Conversation 	13
14	15	16	17 Board of Managers Meeting 6:30 pm	18 10 am - Bible Study 7 pm - Choir Practice	19	20
21	22 Earth Day 	23	24	25 10 am - Bible Study 7 pm - Choir Practice	26 Crafts & Conversation 	27
28 Mission Awareness Sunday	29	30				