

FIRST PRESS

FALL EDITION

September 2013



Fall Greetings from Rev. Susan Mattinson

Dear Friends,

This is my first newsletter greeting to you as your new minister! Rest assured that I have also not missed the irony of this, my first church, being First Church. I am both delighted and a little daunted to be entering into this journey with you.

A Presbyterian professor (who shall remain nameless) once told a fellow student of mine, "If you want to experience what it's like to apply for a ministry position in the Presbyterian Church, try online dating". Prospective ministers create documents that are part resume and part personality profile and churches do the same. Church office helps provide ministers with church profiles and churches with minister profiles. Then, if a profile looks good, the church and minister meet in person and get to know one another. The whole process is prayerful discernment, with both sides wondering: Would we be a good fit? What might be the challenges? Will they understand me and respect me? What if they don't like me? And so on. Finally a decision is made, vows are taken in a service of Induction, and the relationship officially begins. I know—it's a little weird, but my prof's analogy seems pretty accurate.

We are still early in our relationship, you and me. It is exhilarating and fun, shiny and new, and we need to enjoy this part of the journey for what it is. But my hope is that when we've settled down, when the newness starts to wear off—when I have cranky days and you have cranky days and we both don't have the energy to cover it up like we used to—that we'll still remember what God has called us to do: "...to put our faith into action through mission, education, community outreach, and personal and financial support both at home and abroad." I know that as we open ourselves to the Spirit's leading, God absolutely can and WILL lead our church to do great things in His name.

Yours in Christ,

If you have received a paper version of this newsletter but wouldn't mind receiving future newsletters electronically by email, please have your email address added to the Church roll call. It will save paper, envelopes and stamps!

First Presbyterian has a web page designed by Leo Wehrstedt (www.fpresbyterian.ca). Weekly bulletins, monthly calendars, announcements, group information and newsletters are available.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

639 Grey Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 2E4

Church Office: 623-0717

Church Fax: 623-2658

Email: first@tbaytel.net

Minister

Rev. Susan Mattinson

628-8302

Office Hours:

Monday to Friday

2:00 to 5:00 pm

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Minister message | 1 |
| Letter from Rev. Bert Vancook | 2 |
| Christian Education | 2 |
| Worship Committee | 3 |
| Fellowship Committee | 3 |
| Mission Groups | 4 |
| Treasurer's Report | 5 |
| Fall Tea & Bazaar | 5 |
| Community Events | 6 |
| Lloyd Jones submission | 7 |
| October Calendar | 8 |

To the Session and Congregation of First, Thunder Bay

Dear friends,

Now that we've made it to our camp, I wanted to write to you in order to thank you for several gifts. The first two were the gift of money you gave me, and the prayer shawl you gave to Mary. Both will come in handy during the fall and winter if we don't get our winterization done in time.

The other gift is the cooperation and attentiveness that I experienced among you over the past year. I'm so pleased that things settled down from your previous experience, and that the future of your ministry along with Susan looks bright.

The year has been a great experience for us culturally, as well as, in faith.

God's richest blessings in the future.

Yours in Christ,

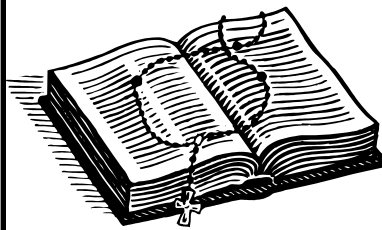
Bert Vancook

Bible Study

Thursdays

10 am

(Starting October 10th)



Choir Practice

Thursdays

7pm

Christian Education News—Sunday school

Sunday School started in the middle of September for a dozen children. I have taken on the challenge of S.S. Superintendent with some fantastic children oriented friends as teachers for a very exciting year. Right now we're delving into biblical stories that aren't talked about very often. The stories are broken up between two weeks, children answer questions of what they think will happen, and are excited for the following week to hear the answer. Some children have already brought other friends to Sunday school and we hope the trend will be continued.

The teachers are looking into various ideas for a Christmas presentation. We hope to see you there to see these very talented and expressive children.

Happy Fall, Kathleen Noy

FYI - The Schedule of Groups Using the Church Facilities

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Alanon | - Mondays (1:30 pm) and Tuesdays (8:00 pm) |
| AA | - Wednesdays (8:00 pm) and Fridays (8:00 pm) |
| Scouts | - Mondays (6:30 to 8:30 pm) |
| Cubs | - Wednesdays (6:30 to 8:00 pm) |
| Beavers | - Thursdays (6:30 to 7:30 pm) |
| Venturers | - occasional Sundays (7:00 to 8:00 pm) |
| Karen | - Sundays (1:00 to 4:00 pm) |

SILENT AUCTION

Fall has arrived.

The church tea is planned for October 19th. Once again, with your help, we hope to arrange a Silent Auction.

If you have an item or two or three, new or nearly new, which you would like to donate to this cause, we would greatly appreciate your generosity.

Please contact Kathleen Noy or Sandra Allan or Deborah Broll.

Worship Committee

The worship committee is meeting the week of Sept. 23rd and we will have our fall planning done after that date.

Sunday Dec. 1 is the first Sunday of Advent so we will have an inter generational afternoon to decorate the church, including a potluck supper on Sat. Nov. 30. More details about this event will be published in our weekly bulletin.

Please contact anyone on the worship committee if you have any concerns or comments. Susan Mattinson, Kendall House, Mickey Kennedy, Evelyn Konrad, Janet Racey and Carol Wehrstedt.

Janet Racey for the Worship Committee

THESE DAYS

Do you need a jump start to your daily spiritual growth? A subscription to **THESE DAYS**, a daily devotional, might be your solution.

Readings for each day include scripture, a brief message and a prayer. The cost is \$11.00. (\$13.00 for Large Print).

If you would like to subscribe, please drop off a cheque
Laura in the office by October 20th.

Please make your cheque payable to:

The Presbyterian Church in Canada.



PRESBYTERIAN RECORD

Our subscription list to Presbyterian Record was reviewed in September. If you have any changes to your address OR want your name removed from the list, please contact Ruth George at 475-3106

Fellowship Committee

Over the past year the Fellowship Committee has planned for and assisted in a number of activities. These include Special after Church cake and coffee to celebrate special occasions, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, the Spring Luncheon and more recently the Reception following the Induction Service for Reverend Susan Mattinson.

Congratulatory Cards are sent to Graduates from a variety of educational institutions. If you have a family member who recently graduated this past June, please let Laura know in the office and a card will be sent.

Committee members include Margaret Stein, Linda Kvarda, Leslie Shaw, Alice Morrison, Ruth George, and Bill Burn.

Suggestions for activities can be passed on to the Committee.

Mission Study Group and More Than Mission Group

The Mission Study will begin on Tuesday, October 15th at 1:30 in the John Currie room. Our topic this year is Maternal and Child Health in Afghanistan, Malawi and Canada's Aboriginal People. The studies are found in Glad Tidings magazine. Please bring your copy with you. Everyone is invited! For more information, call Ruth @ 475-3106.

More Than Mission extends an invitation to the women of the congregation to join us on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:00 at the church. Join us for an afternoon of friendship and fellowship as we learn about and share in the mission of our church.

Crafts and Conversation



Are you working on a craft project?
Bring it with you and join us at the church
on the second and fourth Fridays of the
month, at 1 pm, for an afternoon of C.C.C.
(Conversation, Crafting and a Cuppa).

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

UPCOMING FREE EVENT

AT THE SHAAREY SHOMAYIM SYNAGOGUE
AT 627 GREY ST.

THE SYNAGOGUE WILL BE HOSTING THE
FOLLOWING EVENT:

ISRAEL & MIDDLE EAST UPDATE WITH
DANIEL STERN,
DIRECTOR, CAMPAIGN AND REGIONAL
COMMUNITY SERVICES

ALL ARE WELCOME ON
OCTOBER 30TH AT 7:00 PM

Leprosy Stamp Program

We can help cure and care for people affected by leprosy with used postage stamps. Stamps sent to the Mission are repackaged into 25 pound bags and sold to dealers at \$8.00 per pound. The money is used to supply medicine and rehabilitation to people affected by leprosy.

The holiday season will soon be upon us and with it the traditional exchange of letters, cards and parcels. Please take the time to remove the stamps, leaving a 1/4 to 1/2 inch paper border and deposit them in the basket in the foyer of the church.
Tell your friends about the program and ask them to save stamps for you.

“The Leprosy Mission Canada models the love of Jesus as he reached out to those who suffered. With the touch of compassion, we reach out to the men, women and children who suffer the horrible effects and debilitating deformities of leprosy”

- Leprosy Mission of Canada.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report as of end of August 2013

I have compared the congregation's budget figures for 2012 and 2013 to the end of August for each year.

| | <u>2012</u> | <u>2013</u> | <u>Difference</u> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Operating Fund Income | \$ —,—.00 | \$ —,—.00 | + \$ —,—.00 |
| Income from Investments/Bell Tower | | \$ —,—.00 | |
| Total income | \$ —,—.00 | \$ —,—.00 | + \$ —,—.00 |
| Expenses (2012 includes new furnace) | \$ —,—.00 | \$ —,—.00 | - \$ —,—.00 |
| Net Income | - \$ —,—.00 | - \$ —,—.00 | - \$ —,—.00 |

Mission Budget

| | <u>2012</u> | <u>2013</u> | <u>Difference</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Total income | \$ —,—.00 | \$ —,—.00 | - \$ —,—.00 |
| Presbyterians Sharing | \$ —,—.00 | \$ —,—.00 | - \$ —,—.00 |
| Special Projects | \$ —,—.00 | \$ —,—.00 | - \$ —,—.00 |
| PWS&D | \$ —,—.00 | \$ —,—.00 | - \$ —,—.00 |

Respectfully submitted,
W. D (Don) Murray, Treasurer

As of preparing and printing the fall newsletter, unfortunately, Don is out-of-town until October. However, we want to assure everyone that the bookkeeping is completed and balanced up to the end of August. A comparative August 31st income tax statement (as printed off Simply Accounting) is available in the church office.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

You are invited to the annual Empty Bowls Caring Hearts Dinner on Sunday, October 20 at the Moose Hall on Fort William Road. Doors open at 4:45 and dinner is served at 6:00 p.m. The meal includes a bowl of soup donated by a local restaurant as well as delicious homemade desserts.



**Empty Bowls
Caring Hearts**



Tickets are \$30.00 and include a hand crafted ceramic bowl or a quilted place mat. Tickets are available at the Fireweed (South Algoma), or George's Market (River St). For more information, call the Unitarian Fellowship (344-5980). Children 12 and under are \$5.00 at the door – first come, first served. Proceeds support Shelter House and the Thunder Bay Food Bank.

TEEN CHALLENGE, THUNDER BAY—UPCOMING EVENTS:

OPEN HOUSE AT THEIR NEW HOME AT 401 SOUTH SYNDICATE ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH FROM 2 TO 6 PM. REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED.

8TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH AT 7 PM AT ITALIAN CULTURAL CENTRE. COME HEAR FROM THE TEEN CHALLENGE CHOIR, INCLUDING THE STUDENTS FROM THE WOMEN'S CENTRE IN BRANDON, MB AND STUDENT TESTIMONIALS . TO SPONSOR A TABLE OF 8 FOR \$200 OR TO ATTEND THIS EVENT

CONTACT ROBBY AHUJA 252-6909 OR EMAIL jennifer@teenchallenge.tc

NU-VISION MINISTRY CANADA PRESENTS A MOVIE SCREENING OF "FIGHT LIKE SOLDIERS, DIE LIKE CHILDREN". THE MOVIE IS BASED ON GENERAL ROMEO DALLAIRE'S EXPERIENCE IN RWANDA DURING THE 1994 GENOCIDE. PRIOR TO THE SCREENING, THERE WILL BE AN INTRODUCTORY TALK BY PATRICK REED, DIRECTOR/PRODUCER OF THE MOVIE.

THE MOVIE SCREENING WILL BE AT THE ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM (621 S. Selkirk St.) ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4TH starting at 7:30 PM. Regular Admission \$15. Full-time Students (ID required) \$10. For tickets, call 766-9360

ALSO, THERE IS A "MEET AND GREET" PATRICK REED AT THE FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST AT THE AIR-LINE HOTEL ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5TH starting at 8:00 am. THE PROGRAM INCLUDES AN UPDATE ON NU-VISION MINISTRY PROJECTS. TICKETS FOR THE BREAKFAST ARE IN ADVANCE (before October 2nd) AND ARE \$10. Call 345-1785

THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS presents

"Concert in the PUB" featuring Flipper Flanagan's Flat Footed Four.

Friday, October 11, 2013 at Current River Recreation Centre. from 8:00-11:00 pm

Tickets \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. In support of the Mission to Seafarers Capital fund. Tickets available at Music World (443 Simpson St), Music Place (263 Park Avenue) or Rollason's Flowers and J.B. Evans (both in Westfort).

Also the Mission to Seafarers in Thunder Bay is looking for donations for Christmas Gift Bags to be given to seafarers in December. Donations need to be to the Seafarers' Centre (100 Main Street at the Keefer Terminal) by November 19. Suggested donations include mittens, gloves, writing paper and wrapped candy.

Rules for being human

- submitted by Lloyd Jones

The unexamined life is not worth living. (Socrates)

When I arrived in Sarawak on the island of Borneo to teach at the tender age of twenty-seven, I was emerging from a narrow home life and society that discouraged me to think for myself or about myself. Conformity was the normal. Lacking confidence, I was overly defensive. I covered up this insecurity by a whirlwind of unproductive and unsatisfying activity. This psychological imprisonment made me very unsure of my motives. I had ill-defined goals. Rigid in my thinking, narrow in religious philosophy and overly critical of anything or anyone that threatened my quaking self-image, I had been imprisoned in my thoughts.

Separated from a culture in which I grew up, with familiar props withdrawn, I was on my own. The shock of a new culture, a feeling of futility, personality clashes and loneliness brought me to a point of desperation and isolation. Gradually becoming aware of my inadequacies and failures as a human being I saw the light through this dark forest. Encouraged by the warmth and approval of the students I had taught in that far-off jungle land, I had to call upon my own resources and creativity in making my own textbooks and other resources not readily available. I had more leisure time to publish a long dreamed-about songbook. Exposure to various faiths helped me examine my own religious background and involvement with various cultures further broadened my horizons increased my tolerance level. A new shock, in the form of marriage brought me even more need to confront myself. Willa and I grappled many perplexing issues with a degree of openness. I developed what I thought was a more satisfying style of communication. I learned to build a relationship that gave me confidence to take a better look at myself to examine my limitations and to realise I had a great potential. My newly emerging confidence was climaxed by my being accepted for a Master's degree after an unimpressive academic record up to that time.

How did I manifest and profit from this self-awareness? My relationships with people became more confident and trusting. As I became less defensive and more open, I was able to share of myself with others, able to accept their good and bad points with more generosity of spirit. As I became more flexible in my thinking, I became more inquisitive, questioning and broadening my conformist standards. I developed a sense of purpose. I felt a desire to improve my education. Vitality and happiness increased, fear of the unknown ahead decreased. It was the beginning of the long road of self-discovery That was over forty years ago. And of today? All of us need to continually re-examine ourselves each step of our journey. It takes a whole lifetime to know ourselves, let alone others.

When Jimmy Carter was elected president, the catchword was that he was the first born-again Christian to be president. While Carter still acknowledges his strong spirituality, he believes the tag *born-again* is a cliché that's a bit overused. At birth, it is generally acknowledged we have a *clean slate*, no mess-ups in our lives. After birth we learn to be good and we learn to be not so good. Knowing ourselves is a long-term struggle. We need to be born again when we wake up each morning. Each day starts with a new slate.



Dr. Cherie Carter-Scott has penned from her book *If Life is a Game, These are the Rules* the following guidelines for our daily existence:

1. You will receive a body. You may like it or hate it, but it's yours to keep for the entire period.
2. You will learn lessons. You are enrolled in a full-time informal school called, *life*.
3. There are no mistakes, only lessons. Growth is a process of trial, error, and experimentation. The *failed* experiments are as much a part of the process as the experiments that ultimately *work*.
4. Lessons are repeated until they are learned. A lesson will be presented to you in various forms until you have learned it. When you have learned it, you can go on to the next lesson.
5. Learning lessons does not end. There's no part of life that doesn't contain its lessons. If you're alive, that means there are still lessons to be learned.
6. *There* is no better a place than *here*. When your *there* has become a *here*, you will simply obtain another *there* that will again look better than *here*.
7. Other people are merely mirrors of you. You cannot love or hate something about another person unless it reflects to you something you love or hate about yourself.
8. What you make of your life is up to you. You have all the tools & resources you need. What you do with them is up to you. The choice is yours.
9. Your answers lie within you. The answers to life's questions lie within you. All you need to do is look, listen, and trust.
10. You will forget all this at birth. Somewhere along your journey from the spiritual world to the physical one, you simply forgot These Rules.

The Ten Rules are universal truths that apply to us all. When we lose our way, we must think upon these rules, having faith in the strength of our spirit

Helen Keller once said: *Life is a succession of lessons which must be lived to be understood.*



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| | | 1 <i>More than Mission @ 1 pm</i> | 2 | 3 <i>7 pm - Choir Practice</i> | 4 | 5 |
| 6 <i>Communion Service</i> <i>World Communion Sunday</i> | 7 | 8 | 9 <i>Session Meeting 7 pm</i> | 10 <i>10 am - Bible Study 7 pm - Choir Practice</i> | 11 <i>Crafts and Conversation 1 pm</i> | 12 |
| 13 <i>Harvest Sunday</i> | 14 Thanksgiving Day  | 15 <i>Mission Study 1:15 pm</i> | 16 <i>World Food Day</i> <i>Board of Managers Meeting 6:30 pm</i> | 17 <i>10 am - Bible Study 7 pm - Choir Practice</i> | 18 | 19 <i>Fall Dessert Tea & Bazaar 1:30- 3:30</i>  |
| 20 <i>Students and Colleges Sunday</i> | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 <i>10 am - Bible Study 7 pm - Choir Practice</i> | 25 <i>Crafts and Conversation 1 pm</i> | 26 |
| 27 <i>Reformation Sunday</i> | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 Halloween <i>10 am - Bible Study 7 pm - Choir Practice</i>  | | |