

FIRST PRESS

SUMMER EDITION

June 2015

Summer Greetings from Rev. Susan Mattinson

Greetings, Friends:

As I prepare to attend The Presbyterian Church in Canada's General Assembly 2015, and as we anticipate a presbytery visitation to our church, I've been reflecting on the structure of our denomination. It's really quite interesting! *Equipping Elders* tells us the following about how our church is structured:

"We believe that Jesus Christ is the only king and head of the church. It is necessary for Christian communities, however, to organize themselves so that they can provide pastoral care, teaching and service, "decently and in order" (while this may seem like a typical Presbyterian term, it comes from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, 14:40). Government by eldership reflects the principle that authority arises from the individual congregation and goes up through the church courts. Elders are elected by their congregations to serve, and it is from the congregational level that government begins.

There are four courts in the church, beginning at the congregational level and moving upwards:

- the session
- the presbytery
- the synod
- the General Assembly

The lower courts are always subject to the higher ones. While the word *court* may conjure up legalistic images, the courts of the church are not meant to be forums for "sparring matches, tests of will, combat forms or games" (notes from a lecture at Knox College), but rather the work of women and men working together to govern in the name of the Lord. The *Book of Forms* begins its section on basic principles for the church courts: "To take away all occasion of tyranny, our Lord wills that officebearers in his Church 'should rule with mutual consent of brethren [sic], and equality of power, every one according to his function."

In terms of authority, the church is not a democracy. Jesus Christ is Lord. In government, the church always seeks the rule of God. The elders therefore govern not as individuals but in community, in the belief that making decisions in the will of the Lord is best achieved by prayerful deliberation in community and reliance on the work of the Holy Spirit. Decision-making is therefore collective, and the church membership is legally bound by the decision-making of its courts."

General Assembly can seem like a rather daunting event. The "Book of Reports" is 455 pages long, and the meeting itself spans five busy days (then add travel to that). But, it's also a wonderful opportunity to gather with many wise and talented Presbyterian elders, students, young adults, ministers, and nation staff. Together we are honoured to seek the direction of God and 'Imagine the Kingdom' in new and exciting ways!

Grace and Peace,

Susan Mattinson

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Spring Luncheon

The Annual Spring Luncheon will be held following the regular Church Service on Sunday, June 14th. Come out for the service, bring a friend, enjoy the food and the company. The Fellowship Committee asks that you bring a salad or a dessert. See you there.

CRAFTS AND CONVERSATION

Come and spend an afternoon with us during the summer!

We meet on the second and fourth Fridays of the month at 1:00 pm in the John Currie Room.

In June, we will get together on the 12th and the 26th.

In July, we will get together on the 10th and the 24th.

In August, we will get together on the 14th and the 28th.

Bring a project to work on, join in the lively conversation and enjoy a cup of tea



2015 GRADUATES

Don & Lesley Murray's grandson, Cameron Murray, is graduating from grade 8 french immersion from Agnew H. Johnston School. He will be continuing his french immersion in grade 9 at Hammar skjold High School in the fall.

Cheong Lo Lee is graduating from Confederation College with a diploma in Early Childhood Education. Her mom has come from India to attend the graduation and to visit with Cheong Lo for a month.

Jazmyn Jordan Munn (Don Munn's granddaughter) is graduating from grade 8 from GC Houston Public School, Southampton, ON. She will now be attending Saugeen Secondary District School in Port Elgin.

Also a belated graduation announcement. Don Munn's grandson Dalton graduated last year from Grade 12 and is now attending Sir Wilfred Laurier University in Waterloo.

Lorne Clifford has completed a Political Science degree from Lakehead University. He achieved first class standing (pre law stream).

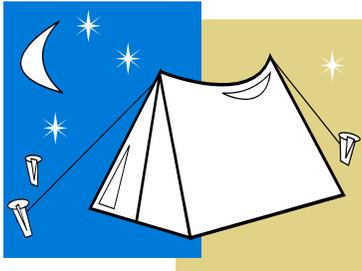
Cameron Noy and Sarah Prystay have both completed secondary high school and will be furthering their education.



Summer Worship Services

For the months of July and August, worship will begin at 10:00 am on Sunday morning.

During Pres-B summer camp, Susan will be in and out of the office.



Summer Camp

Forms for Pres-B-Camp are available in the church office. Pres-B-Camp is a week-long overnight summer camp for those entering grades 3-8 this fall. This year camp will be held on July 19-25th.

In addition, there will also be a weekend Teen Retreat for those entering gr. 9 and up on August 21-23rd. This year the presbytery has decided that if you bring a friend to camp that has never been before both of you will get half off the cost of camp! If you have any questions please contact Sarah Campbell (sarahmcampbell@hotmail.com) or Will Newton (newton9455@hotmail.com).

Summer Office hours and bulletin deadline

Please note the office will be open during the summer on Saturdays.

Please submit bulletin announcements by note or by church email. Submissions can be given up to the Saturday (the day before the particular Sunday service), however, please submit announcements as early as possible.

Normal office hours (Mondays to Fridays 1 pm-4 pm) will resume _____? The first day of school for the Catholic School Board is September 8th (however, their calendar is pending Ministry approval). The first day of school for the Public School Board is September 1st (apparently their calendar has already been approved). Long story short, my first day back to work will either be September 1st or September 8th. Thank you.



Presbyterian Record subscriptions

If you are receiving the hard copy of the Presbyterian Record, you will be contacted this summer to discuss subscription options as we review our "Every Home Plan"

Thank you, Ruth George and Susan Mattinson

Thank you

Meta Evans would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support for her daughter Carol, who has been very ill. Carol's condition is improving and she is now staying with family, but continued prayer and support will be greatly appreciated.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 NOON — More than Mission Windup Potluck 	3	4	5 World Environment Day	6
7 General Assembly Sunday	8 Cards afternoon 1 pm	9	10 Session Meeting 7 pm	11	12 World Day Against Child Labour Crafts and Conversation 1:00	13
14 Communion Service  Spring Luncheon following service	15	16	17 Board of Managers Meeting - 6:30 pm	18 Choir Practice summer windup party at Ken's House	19	20 World Refugee Day
21 National Aboriginal Day Fathers Day  1st day of Summer 	22 Cards afternoon 1 pm	23	24	25	26 Crafts and Conversation 1:00	27
28 Food bank donations	29	30				