

Craft and Conversation
 You are invited to join us on the 2nd and 4th Friday at 1:00. Bring your handiwork project and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship and conversation.

Cards Afternoon
 You are invited to join us on the 2nd and 4th Monday at 1:00.



Welcome to Fall – Word Search

S B Y
 B Z D F A Z A H Q
 E Z L R V Y Z F H E M X R
 P V P D A O B I A O T H V R J K R
 N S C I C L U O L A G B N V R H I H V
 A Z O F N U P K L U R A J O L I Z S P X M
 E D Y G N F B X A S F Y P T O O O P R I W
 Y T V W T A F M Y G H R T S B J T O X N R X E
 V G P E K G W X D G E D H A R I A P I Y F H I
 J Z S E C H E A K U K D Q H P I G B S N L O Y H H
 P D R T Q N S P R C I H I E I L N T L C R A F T S
 D S G D C I W Y N P U K V B H Z E W E E U I S Y W
 X M I S S I O N Z E W T H X E S R V O J D S U Z Z B J
 N N A P B Y E W L W F F P C S R P K I M J N T J C F A
 X V T L F A Q D B E E C N R B O V V D C D G B U P E N
 I K P N K E H U U L E G T Q W X N D A J C C P D J
 D H J E R Q V T B N F Q A M R L O Y I K H P W S Y
 H I T S O S G W E O T V A D C J S O P R U Y D G S
 T I E P S T J X I X C W J F C C X L I R X V J
 O Q V G U K S L O Z G L G H Q F V C Q C N L E
 L H E Q X N S X G N R O V E Y J Y E H I Z
 U G S V S J R C I K O J U I H V B M H P X
 G X V I C Z H M L T F A X A M L J N R
 S M B H S S O M W L E A V E S X N
 E C P S I M W V F G E R I
 F O I Z A Y P D C
 F Z E

CHURCH
 FALL
 TEA
 BAZAAR
 CHUCK-
 WAGON
 WORSHIP
 LEAVES
 MISSION
 CRAFTS
 BIBLE-
 STUDY
 VOLUN-
 TEERS
 CARDS
 ELDERS
 MINISTER
 SUNDAY-
 SCHOOL

FALL NEWSLETTER

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Greetings, Friends:

Once of the highlights of this summer, for me, was our Pokemon Go event! From July 28 to Sept. 9, our church offered hospitality to “Pokemon Go” players, by providing access to our wireless internet, washroom facilities, chairs, a roof when it was raining, power bars for charging phones, drinks and snacks of various kinds, and company. We also provided an item in the game that lured Pokemon creatures to our location, so we could catch them without wandering all over the neighbourhood. Unless you're lucky enough to receive one or two in the game, these “lures” cost real world money—money that was generously donated by one of our church Elders.

We didn't know what to expect.

What **did** happen, was this:

The Pokestop brought approx. 30 unique, first-time visitors to our church property, ranging from infant to grandparent. The average attendance was boys between the ages of 10-15. We had a core of repeat visitors, along with other occasional or one-time visitors and on a bustling day, we could have 10-13 people. The majority of people who attended, live within walking distance of our church. A couple of our visitors' parents work at Pinewood with my husband, Colin, and have told him very positive things about the Pokestop. The poster for the event reached over 35,000 people on Facebook. I was interviewed by CBC and the Presbyterian Record (for an article in the Sept. issue). One couple, who attended a Sunday service while they were in town this summer, chose our church just because they heard the CBC interview and wanted to visit the church that would do this. My favourite part of the whole thing was propping open our big front doors, sitting very obviously outside and inside on chairs, and offering friendship and snacks to anyone who came along.

Some of you might be wondering, “After all this work, will this event increase our church attendance?”

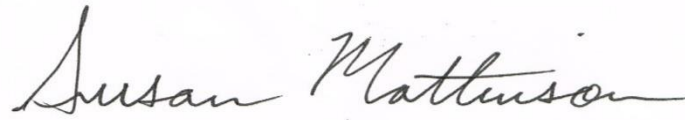
My answer is “I don't know.” But I also don't care if it does or not.

I care that we were willing to give without any expectation of receiving—that we were willing to give just for the sheer joy of giving. I care that people have been reminded that our church is here, that people in this very block now know who we are. I care that youth who have never stepped foot in a church were all-of-a-sudden spending upwards of six hours a week with a minister. I care that we were able to react to something so relevantly and so quickly that we made the news for it.

When we invest our time, energy, talents, and money into something, we like to see results. We like to know that it's been “worth it”, that our hard work has paid off. But the problem is that we so often have expectations of how that's going to pay off—expectations that might be completely different from God's plans. The challenge for us is to trust that God will bless the good we do for others, even if the results look different than we hoped or planned.

This stands true for all the events that our church hosts—Fall Tea and Bazaar, Chuckwagon Dinner, and more. May we have fun providing hospitality to others and trust that God will bless the good we do, in God's way and in God's timing!

Grace and peace,



Rooted In Love

Several hundred women will gather in May 2017 for a weekend filled with opportunities to learn, meet, worship, share and praise. Guaranteed, you will experience many moments to take away with you. Register early and save \$100! Details can be found at www.womensgathering.ca. There have been women from our congregation who attended previous gatherings and would love to share information with you.

MORE THAN MISSION

On September 6, we began another season of monthly meetings for the More Than Mission group. We presently have 18 women who attend these meetings. Our Mission Statement that we begin each meeting with is: "The More Than Mission Group is a gathering of Christians who, in response to the love of God, support local and world mission projects, through prayer, study, service and fellowship". Reciting this Mission Statement (or Purpose, if you prefer) allows us to be centered on the reason we attend and contribute to this worthy cause.

Some of the projects we are involved in are:

- Monthly bake sales (Our Sept. bake sale proceeds went to Parkinson's Canada)
- Bake sale proceeds last year went to a project we selected that provided a women's self-help group in Malawi with training. With the tremendous support from our congregation, we were able to meet our goal of providing \$870 to this project. The project we selected allowed for our donation to receive matching funds from the Government of Canada. Various projects are available through The Presbyterian Church in Canada's *Gift of Change* program. These gifts change lives, both here in Canada and around the world. We are presently looking at various projects and will choose one to support this year.
- MTM works with the Crafts and Conversation group to send hats, scarves, slippers, playing cards, pens and writing pads, etc. to the Seafarers organization. Seamen who come to the Port of Thunder Bay from numerous countries (many of them unprepared for cold temperatures) really appreciate these articles of warm clothing.

We have decided that every second month we would frame our monthly meeting around a topic of interest from activities being carried out within our community. We had a program led by Carol Townson which explained the need for proper nutrition in meal planning. We also had a presentation by Erin Moir, Youth and Community Outreach Coordinator of Ecosuperior. Many health and environmental concerns were addressed.

More Than Mission meets in the John Currie Room at 1 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month from September through June. We encourage and welcome new members. Meetings are always concluded with tea and refreshments. Come, Join Us, We Would Love to Have You!!

Thanks to everyone who supports us and our mission work!

Worship News

We would like to thank Carol for being our organist for September and also the first two Sunday's of each month until she goes away for her winter vacation. Min will be our pianist when she returns from Korea for the remaining Sundays of each month and we would like to thank her as well.

If anyone is interested in becoming a lay reader or participating in the Worship Service, please contact our minister or anyone on the Worship committee.

Upcoming events are:

Sunday Oct. 9 Thanksgiving Sunday
Sunday Nov. 6 Remembrance Day and Communion Service Daylight Saving ends
Sunday Nov. 20 Deadline for ordering poinsettias
Saturday Nov. 26 11:00 AM Christmas Church Decorating Party
Sunday Nov. 27 First Sunday of Advent

HOPES/DREAMS/GOALS at 1st Presbyterian Church for 2016-2017

When I work in the vegetable garden at First Pres, the members and adherents often come to mind - people from the past, present and future. I say prayers as I tend the vegetables. Our church has been and still is made strong with the faith, perseverance and talents of the members and adherents. As we go into the Fall Season, there are 4 hopes/dreams/goals for which I pray, and invite you to pray:

1. Children will be brought to Sunday School by their parents, grandparents or volunteers every week! Childhood passes quickly. Our children need to be nurtured and appreciated as an important part of 1st Pres.
2. We will glorify and enjoy God in all things! (Our chief end - Westminster Catechism). Whether we are able to attend the Sunday service, are at work, are confined to home/hospital, at camp or travelling.....wherever we arelet us praise Him.
3. Communication will be awesome at 1st this year! Our designated Elder is our communication link with the Session and Church in general. We are welcome to contact him or her if we want a visit or chat, or if we have comments for Session. A message can be left in the office at 623-0717 or at first@tbaytel.net if we need an elder or Rev Susan Mattinson.
4. The Social and Fundraising Events will be well supported! The Tea and Bazaar on Sat Oct 22 and the Chuck Wagon Dinner on Sat Nov 5 will be fun for the church family and guests.

Submitted with love and faith,
Linda Rydholm, Clerk of Session