

FIRST PRESS

SPRING EDITION 2018



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

639 Grey Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 2E4
Church Office: 623-0717
Church Fax: 623-2658
Email: first@tbaytel.net
Website:
www.fpresbyterian.ca
Rev. Susan Mattinson
625-1471
Office Hours:
Tue, Wed and Fri
9:00 am to 1:00 pm

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Greetings, Friends:

I'm writing this greeting on the official first day of spring! Although, it doesn't look a whole lot like spring. Outside my window I don't see a single blade of grass. And the only robins I've encountered are coffee shops. But spring will come! Each seasonal change is a meditation on faith: "faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1) As sure as the seasons change, God's promises will hold strong. In fact, they are even stronger! Scripture tells us: "The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever." (Isaiah 40:8).

It's with faith in God's promises and God's eternal, unchanging goodness that we move forward with the activities of our church.

One of the major activities we will be involved in for the next year is fundraising for re-shingling our church roof. At our Annual General Meeting, we accepted the plan for a Roof Fund, with an estimated total of approximately \$70,000 (with 61% being the target for 2018). There are many obvious reasons that keeping a "roof over our heads" that is in good repair is necessary: Our church

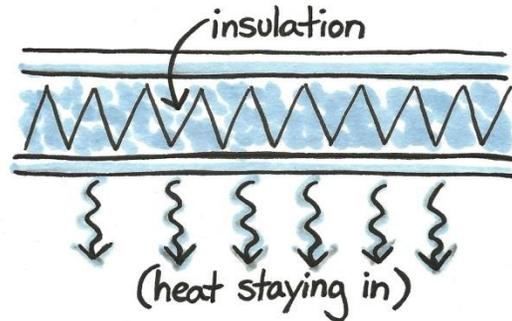
is our home away from home, our place of worship, and a location for many important ministries, events, and community groups. Having a church building in good repair helps us to show God's love to others through offering hospitality. And whatever the choices that face our church in the years or decades to come, our building will continue to be an important asset. Even with all of this in mind, the cost of such a project can look daunting. And the fact that the money goes to a physical repair, instead of the mission work that we are so passionate about, can be a little disheartening.

I could have included pictures of the missing roof shingles, or the warped and water-stained ceiling in my minister's office, but I'd rather provide these pictures instead:

Step 1: Raise the money to fix the roof.



Step 2: In the process of repair, the sanctuary roof will finally be insulated!



Step 3: Money saved in heating bills = more money to use for mission projects!



I'm actually quite excited about the opportunity to try new events and connect with our community in different ways! It may just take a roof project for us to discover avenues of ministry and connection with our community that we didn't see before. Stranger things have happened for those who follow Jesus.

Grace and peace,

Susan Mattinson

EVENT SCHEDULE 2018

Sat April 14 - Pot Luck Haiti Presentation
Sat May 26 - Yard/Plant/Bake Sale
Sun June 10 - Congregational Lunch

Yard/Bake/Plant Sale - Saturday, May 26

Our annual yard, plant and bake sale is coming soon. Our goal this year is to raise \$1000.00 for the operating budget and an equal amount for the roof fund. To reach this goal, we will need lots of volunteers and lots of donations (baking, plants, collectibles and yard sale items).

We will have tables for baking-anything you want to make (priced if you can), plants (including cut rhubarb) and yard sale items.

Again, this year we will have a fixed price table. This table will have collectible and nearly new items at a fixed price. A couple of years ago, someone dropped off a beautiful crystal bowl in its box and we priced it at \$25. (still a steal) and we sold it for \$25. If we had left it on the general tables, we probably would have received \$1.00 max. If you have an item that you think is more valuable please contact Linda @ 577-9260, Deborah @ 577-2781 or Janet @ 939-1620 for pricing and pick up. If you have a large item, we can display a picture without contact info. We want to make it easy to donate special items.

Of course, we need all of the usual yard sale items but no electronics please. If you have anything electronic to sell, take a picture, price it and send it to one of us and we will let you know who is interested. Please note: we cannot resell helmets, car seats etc. due to government regs.

Janet plans on Sat. morning to have muffins, coffee, tea and hotdogs for sale.

WE NEED MANY VOLUNTEERS: To sort and price on Fri. night, sell on Sat., clean up on Sat. and sell again on Sun. morning.

Please contact Linda 577-9260 or Janet 939-1620 if you can volunteer in any capacity.

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT FUND RAISER FOR OUR OPERATING BUDGET AND OUR ROOF CAMPAIGN.

Thank you,
Linda and Janet

CRAFTS AND CONVERSATION continues to meet on the second and fourth Friday of each month at 1:00. Join us for an afternoon of lively discussion as you work on your own project. We have been donating items of warmth to several local charities.

PRAYER SHAWL Craft and Conversation continues to knit prayer shawls. Please contact the office if you know someone who would benefit from the comfort of a prayer shawl. We would be happy to let you choose one for family/friends. Prayer shawl ministry is an outreach project and not just for our congregation.

Pot Luck Supper April 14th

Bring your family and friends to a potluck supper on Saturday, April 14th at 5:30 at First Presbyterian. Following the meal, Rev. Susan will give a presentation on her recent trip to Haiti. She travelled with a delegation from the Women's Missionary Society PCC. Come and see what our denomination is doing in Haiti.

EASTER SERVICES

March 25th Palm Sunday
March 30th Good Friday Service at 10:00 at First Presbyterian Church with Free Methodist Church
April 1st Easter Sunday Communion service at 11:00 am

From the Treasurer's Desk

Revenue (All Sources) to Feb 28, 2018

Operating	\$ 19,131.94
Pres Sharing	1,072.00
Mission	537.00
Roof Fund	50.00
Sunday School	3.50
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	\$ 20,794.44

Expenses to Feb 28, 2018	<hr/>	\$ 24,523.70
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Income Loss	-	\$ 3,729.26
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(This is a bit less than we were doing in 2017 where net income was -\$3,472)

While our revenue from all sources is down when compared to the previous year, so was the temperature and likely, attendance at Sunday services. So let's not be discouraged! Spring is coming.

I came across an article about the church union of 1925 when the Methodist Church, the Congregational Union and 70% of the Presbyterian Church in Canada entered into a Union to become the United Church. It got me thinking how discouraged the remaining Presbyterians of First Church must have been when over half their congregation left to join the union, taking the church building with them! But they didn't get discouraged.

The Depression of the 1930's was also hard on First. I recall my grandfather, who was Treasurer at that time, saying that people just didn't have any money to give. But the congregation managed to continue on.

And then things bounced back and by the end of the '50s we were building our present building. But 10 years later, finances were bleak again, as expenses in the new building out-stripped revenue. I

remember going out on a team (one youth and one member of Session) as part of an all-member visitation programme specifically to address the revenue issue. Even in those lean years, the congregation didn't get discouraged, they persevered and continued on.

We did another upswing in the 80's and now, seem to be on a down-swing and are thinking back nostalgically to those "good years". Likely there were times in the late '20s, during the Depression and again in the late '60s, when members did exactly the same walk down memory lane to better times.

However, in all those down times in our history, the congregation at First continued on. It would be fun to see transcripts of services in our long history to see how many times Joshua 1:9 was the focus; **"...Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged...."**

If the congregation of First could recover from the Union of 1925 and was able to build a new church and then survive the Depression and WW II and again, build a new church.....surely, we should be able to carry on and re-build just a part of a church (the roof)! First step: **do not be discouraged!**

Summer Camp 2018

Before we know it, the snow will be gone and summer will be here. That means Pres-B-Camp!!! This year Junior Camp will be July 22-26th and is for those entering grades 3-8 this fall and Senior Camp will be August 27-30th and is for those entering grades 9-12. Volunteer forms are also available for those interested in helping out! Pres-B-Camp is a wonderful chance for you and your friends to make new friends, have fun times, and create memories that will last a lifetime. It would be helpful for the planning of camp if you could submit your forms or indicate your interest in camp by May 15th. We hope you, your children, or your grandchildren can come out and enjoy Pres-B-Camp with us this summer!

The resurrection of
Jesus Christ

from the Books of Matthew and Mark

Bible Crossword
No.3



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Across

- 1 where they laid Jesus after He died (Matt.27:60)
 4 the place where Jesus died (Matt.27:33)
 5 Jesus and two thieves were _____ together (Matt.27:38)
 8 mother of Jesus
 9 The angel said "He is _____ He is not here" (Mark 16:6)
 10 They made Jesus wear a scarlet _____ (Matt.27:28)
 12 Jesus was betrayed for _____ pieces of silver (Matt.27:3)
 14 Jesus was _____ of any crime (Matt.27:4)
 15 The 12 companions of Jesus

DOWN

- 2 Jesus shed His _____ for our sins
 3 Judas Iscariot _____ Jesus (Matt. 27:4)
 5 Roman commander of a hundred men (Matt.27:54)
 6 Jesus said " My God, My God why hast thou _____ me" (Matt.27:46)
 7 a title of Jesus (it means anointed one) (Matt.27:17)
 11 They laid the _____ of Jesus in a tomb (Matt.27:59)
 12 Jesus wore a "crown of _____"
 13 our Lord and Saviour