



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Est. 1786

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Newsletter - October 2017



OCTOBER 1 ~ THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION WILL BE HELD DURING
THE REGULAR 11:00 AM SERVICE.

We regularly receive 15 copies of the new Presbyterian Connection newspaper that has replaced the Presbyterian Record. They get put on a table in the upper hall. Please help yourself to one if you would like. Individuals are encouraged to subscribe for free home delivery. Visit presbyterian.ca/connection or call 1-800-619-7301 ext. 243.

ON JUNE 25, THE SESSIONS OF FIRST AND ST. ANDREW'S AGREED TO SHARE VACATION FOR THE SUMMER. WE WERE CLOSED FOR THE MONTH OF JULY AND WORSHIPED AT THE KIRK. WE WERE OPEN IN AUGUST, WITH THE KIRK WORSHIPING WITH US. THE OFFERINGS WERE COLLECTED AND GIVEN TO THE APPROPRIATE CHURCH AND ALL SERVICES WERE AT 11:00 AM. DURING JULY, REV. DR. JOON KI KIM COVERED FOR PASTORAL EMERGENCIES, AND DURING AUGUST, REV. KEN COVERED.



You can now sponsor a weekly bulletin in memory of a loved one or in celebration of someone's accomplishment. The cost is \$20.00 per week. You can also sponsor more than one week or even monthly. Please contact the office if you would like more information or to sponsor a bulletin.

On June 18, a Congregational Potluck luncheon was held after the service. We honoured George Durning for his long and dedicated service as an elder of this church. Thank you to Lynne Ann MacLellan and Ruth Anne MacIntosh for decorating the lower hall and also for putting together a wonderful photo collage for the occasion, You may view it in the upper hall. Also thank you to the Alcorn family for their musical contributions and to the trio from Pictou County Community Orchestra for providing background music for the luncheon.



We lost two members of the congregation since our last newsletter in June. We extended our Christian love and sympathy to the family of Gordon MacNeill, whose funeral was held from here on July 14 and to the family of Robert (Inky) Porter of Abercrombie. There was a private graveside service held for him on July 17.

May God gently comfort all who grieve.

Office hours were further reduced by 2 hours.

New hours are Tues and Wed from 10-1 and Thurs and Friday from 9-12.

To maximize your contributions, you may sign up for **PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance)** which is a monthly deduction from your bank account and gives the church some stability in our income. For info, contact the office.

SEPT 10 - SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGAN FOR THE YEAR. WE ALWAYS WELCOME NEW CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES!



Update

Over the past year, your interim minister had held “visioning meetings,” with all interested people from the congregation. These meeting were well attended and the results were an agreed-upon Mission Statement and Vision for this congregation over the next 3-5 years. In order for this vision to be enacted, a structure needs to be in place to carry out the various components of our vision. The recommendations are that the following teams be designated to carry out the goals set out in the visioning process and that each team be comprised of three elders and up to five people from the congregation at large. These recommendations were approved by Session at their meeting on September 6th.

Worship & Music Team

While the minister is responsible for the conduct and content of worship, along with the supply of the pulpit, the session decides on the hours of worship and any special services, as well as the appointment of the organist and any other leaders of praise, whether voluntary or salaried. The team will also review the organist's contract yearly. **Responsibilities also include:** a greater variety of music included in the Sunday service, modernize the present worship service, provide opportunities for the congregation to share in Sunday services by reading scripture, sharing musical talents and greeting at the door, making youth feel a part of the service by taking communion and taking up the offering.

Pastoral Care Team

The duties of this team consist of recommending person for membership, baptism, transfer of membership to another church and restoring members whose membership has lapsed. The pastoral care team will also make sure there are elder's districts and when necessary recommend the addition of new elders. **Responsibilities also include:** education the congregation on the teaching of the Bible, visitation to all who may want contact, arrange drives for those who no longer drive, build up men's group and reach out to members and adherents who no longer attend.

Finance & Stewardship Team

The Session is responsible for all decisions relating to stewardship, including how and when the financial needs of the church at all levels, are to be presented to the congregation. They also work hand in hand with the Board of Managers. **Responsibilities also include:** increase church revenue, greater use of hall and sanctuary, explore all fund raising ideas, maintain church property, short & long term priorities and develop a plan to sustain the long-term life of our church congregation.

Congregational Life & Christian Education Team

The Session is responsible for providing for the program of Christian Education for persons of all ages in order that they may be confronted by the gospel, may grow in faith, participate in the life of the Christian community and be active witnesses to Christ in the world. **Responsibilities also include:** educate children in teaching of the Bible, offer Bible study one evening a month, provide regular classes from Sept – June with daily Bible School offered in the summer, combine with other congregations, expand Sunday School, reach out to youth, encourage grandparents to bring their grandchildren, hold a Saturday a.m. children's event and coffee house and social groups.

Mission, Outreach & Hospitality Team

The Session is to keep before the congregation, the life and work of the church around the world and seeing that the congregation develops and maintains programs of mission and outreach, both related to its immediate community and beyond. **Responsibilities also include:** expand help to the hungry and homeless in conjunction with other churches, reach out to the public by advertising in printed and social media, special night with speakers, support seniors with pot luck, tea, rides, “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner” night, and encourage visitors to stay for coffee hour.

First/Kirk co-ordination Team

This team will work with the Kirk Church on matters of similar interest such as summer vacation time, congregational picnic, special services etc. **Responsibilities also include:** expand interaction with the Kirk, joint summer services and joint congregational picnic at Camp Geddie.

Please give prayerful consideration to joining any of these teams, so that we can move forward as a congregation. The Interim Minister may be visiting you to seek your help in serving on one of these teams.

“The pain and discomfort of change is not the enemy. It is just a sign you’re on the right course. Learning to tolerate and then embrace discomfort is the foundation for change, for individuals and businesses alike.”

Amanda Lang - quote from her book “The Beauty of Discomfort”

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Financial Report to August 31, 2017

	<u>Actual to Aug 2017</u>	<u>Budget to Aug 2017</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Envelope Offering	\$ 58,342	\$ 80,864	\$(22,522)
Loose Offering	2,264	2,580	(316)
Special Donations	4,087	5,000	(913)
Interest Income	-	-	-
Rent & Fundraising	<u>6,384</u>	<u>7,850</u>	<u>(1,466)</u>
Total Revenue	71,078	96,294	(25,216)
Fuel	9,050	10,300	(1,250)
Dues (Synod/Presbytery)	4,804	5,804	(1,000)
Manse Expenses	1,867	2,000	(133)
Office expenses	2,779	3,080	(301)
Miscellaneous	931	1,675	(744)
Repairs & Maintenance	1,767	2,070	(303)
Insurance	-	-	-
Salaries & Benefits	70,730	74,027	(3,297)
Utilities	<u>3,262</u>	<u>3,911</u>	<u>(649)</u>
Total Expenses	95,190	102,867	(7,677)
Net Income (Loss)	<u><u>\$(24,113)</u></u>	<u><u>(6,573)</u></u>	<u><u>\$(17,540)</u></u>