



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Est. 1786

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# June 2018

**JUNE 17**- SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION. PLEASE JOIN US, AS THIS WILL BE THE LAST COMMUNION WITH OUR INTERIM MODERATOR/MINISTER, REV. DR. KENNETH MACLEOD.



In April at noon we started something NEW. A potluck luncheon was held and will be held monthly (except August). This is free because it's potluck and everyone brings something that's ready to eat. It will be held on the 3rd Friday of each month. It's a social time and will be followed by games, so bring your checker board, crib board etc. You are invited to bring a friend or neighbor, as this is not just for our church. Please use the James St. entrance. This is a new endeavor by the Mission/Outreach and Hospitality Team. **Future dates are: June 15, July 20, September 21, October 19, November 16 and possibly December 21.**

**New Glasgow Music Festival was here from April 17<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>. We received a thank you from them for the use of our building.**

June 9 - The Pictou County Community Orchestra will be presenting its' Spring Concert at 3pm here in the Upper Hall. Special musical guests, the St. James Brass Quintet, will also perform. Tickets are \$10 per person, or \$25 per family and are available from either Brent or Lloyd and will also be available at the door.

**CAMP GEDDIE NEWS** - With the summer camping season fast approaching, there are many jobs to be completed to get the Camp ready. Can your Church provide a “**Volunteer Team**” of a few people to come to Camp to help (painting, small plumbing, etc.)? Tasks will be outlined and supplies will be provided, but please bring along any tools you think might be useful. For example, a team of men came from St. James Church, Truro, and did a great job of re-siding the Leader-In-Training Cabin. That was a huge boost for the Camp!

If your Church can provide such much-needed help, please contact Chris MacDonald at 902-485-4011 or [g.macdonald@eastlink.ca](mailto:g.macdonald@eastlink.ca).

### **CAMP GEDDIE Wish List - 2018 Wish List**

Each year, the generosity of churches and business in the area astounds us! From scotch tape to LCD projectors, we have been gifted with so much. Not only does this help our budget and our programming, it encourages the staff so much! Thank you to all!

- A** Archery kit
- B** Brooms, BBQ lighters, batteries (AAA)
- C** Canoe, canoe paddles, craft supplies
- D** Duct tape, dish detergent, dish clothes
- E** Embroidery floss
- F** Fire wood, flash lights, first aid kit supplies, fridge
- G** Gravel for road, Gift certificates (for gas, office supplies, sports equipment, etc.)
- H** Halloween costumes
- I** Insect repellent
- J** J-clothes
- K** Kayak, kleenex
- L** Liquid laundry detergent
- M** Mops
- N** Nets (soccer)
- O** Office supplies
- P** PFDs (lifejackets) , paddles (canoe)
- Q** Quality shower curtains (thick plastic)
- R** Rope, rescue tube for beach
- S** Sports equipment, Styrofoam (blocks & sheets)
- T** Tempera paint, tape (duct, masking)
- U** Uniden walkie-talkies for safety purposes, utility cart
- V** Vim cleaner, video camera
- W** Wireless speakers, wasp spray
- X** XX-Large Garbage bags
- Y** Yoga mats, youth bedtime story books
- Z** Zillions in Canadian Tire Money

*We will be collecting items on the stage in the upper hall, and the items will be delivered later in June before the camp opens.*



Pastoral Care Team - education of congregation on the teaching of the bible, visitation to all who may want contact, become a close church family, arrange drives for those who no longer drive, build up men's group and reach out to members/adherents who no longer attend.

**If you would like to join any of these teams, please contact the church office.**



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MISSION, OUTREACH &  
HOSPITALITY TEAM IS STEPPING UP TO TRY  
SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT!

### **GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER?**

**Date: June 15, 2018**

**What is it?** This is more of a "fun raiser" than a "fund raiser". The object of this event is focused on fellowship and getting to know each other and spend time together.

**How does it work?** Either you are a host or a guest.

The host will know how many people will be attending, as well as when and where. Hosts will not know who their guests are until they answer their front door.

The guests, however, only know when and where to go at 5:00 pm on the date of the dinner (they will meet at the church at this time to be given the address of where to go).

To participate in this event as either host or guest, there are sign-up sheets at the office entry and in the hallway going to the upper hall (bright neon green paper). To sign up as host(s) or guest, please contact, Cathy Lewis (752-6660), Jean McComb (921-0872) or Sheila at the office (752-5691).

There will be a \$10.00 charge for adults to participate and no charge for children. All monies go back to the church to help defray daily expenses.

**COME JOIN THE FUN!**



The Search Committee chaired by Mark Thibeau, has done an excellent job carrying out its duties on behalf of the congregation. They have interviewed one candidate whom the Session invited to preach for a call, but the candidate, after prayerful consideration, decided to remain in his present location.

We have, as a congregation, over these past two years made significant movement in terms of future direction. We have a Mission, and a Vision arising from that mission which speaks, at least in part, to what a congregation is for. The various teams are meeting and discussing issues relating to the church.

First Church, and I suggest other congregations in this town, are facing a bleak future if significant changes do not occur in the near future. The annual reports of this congregation since 1990 indicate that in most years, seventy plus percent of the income of the church went to salaries and benefits. When you factor in fuel costs, there is very little left to work with. So, as we look ahead we must face the fact that we have decreased numbers of members, giving patterns that are not growing but decreasing, and an ageing base of current givers.

As I indicated, this is not unique to First Church, for most of our sister churches are facing the same problem. We, in many ways, are like canoeists enjoying a lovely day on the river, not realizing that the river is the Niagara and that the falls are a couple of miles downstream. So in terms of finances, many churches are closing in on the Niagara and the current is getting stronger and faster.

Among other things, this means we end up spending more time looking after a building than people's spiritual life.

In other words, we are using our time and energy to maintain a building and survive. At the same time more and more people are trying to make sense of their lives without the church. The purpose of the church, if we are going to take the New Testament seriously, is to bring about human transformation, which is rather difficult if our resources are used only to hold on to what we have.

One of the dominant themes of the Christian faith, according to the letter to the Hebrews, is journeying into uncharted territories. We are now in uncharted territory. The Presbytery of Pictou is facing difficult decisions in terms of how to deliver ministry to the people under its care.

The two Presbyterian churches in the town of Pictou, which were vacant at the same time, have just called a minister to serve both congregations. This is but one way to deal with a declining membership and declining finances.

In the early church, Paul advised Christ's followers to focus on faith expressing itself in love. (Galatians chapters 5 v. 6), so we are called to nurture faith in God and to translate that into acts of love. The buildings, structures and resources we keep need to be tested against their ability for enabling us to be a people who express our faith through love. May God bless us on this journey.

~ *Rev. Kenneth MacLeod*