



From the *Pres*

SEPTEMBER 2017

Apples and Other Good Things

OK, my iPhone didn't really capture the beauty of this apple tree. But up close and personal it was quite spectacular. I was jogging down the Bateaux Rd outside of Nottawa, the sun was gorgeous, and I noticed this tree, and it stopped me in my tracks. It was absolutely exploding with produce, and I was again, as I have been so many times before at this time of year, blown away by the miracle of growth, and how one spindly little tree can produce so much fruit. For me, it's a symbol of what God gives to us and does for us. There's a part of me that doesn't think I need to write anything at all to go with this picture, that it pretty much says it all. God provides, abundantly. For us, and for all of creation.



Here's the thing. I don't know how many times I've run by this tree and not even noticed it. For most of us, it's all too easy to run by things laden with goodness and not even notice them. We get busy. We're on our way somewhere, focused on something else, and we miss the blessing. This Thanksgiving, let's not miss the blessing. Even better, when we finally see it, let's be sure to share it with all of those around us. Whatever you harvest in your life, spread it around. That's when you'll see a second miracle exploding all around you.

Rev. Tim Raeburn-Gibson

Children & Youth Ministries

by Julia Sheffield, Director

While in Canada we have only one official start to the new year, the reality is that we have three separate times each year when we mark new beginnings. In January, we ring in the new calendar year and set goals for ourselves to attain on our official New Year's Day. In the spring we see new life budding and are invigorated by this natural, new beginning; perhaps you clean your home or a closet to symbolize a similar fresh start. And in the fall we begin again through a new school year and by starting or re-starting our regular activities. This fall marks my new beginning at First Presbyterian Church as the Director of Children and Youth Ministries. It is the start of something new for me, as well as for the youth, their families, and the church overall. I am excited to share some of the activities and programs that are in the works for the coming months.

Youth Group

Youth Group will meet at the church every Monday from 4:00 - 5:30pm. It is a time for students who are in grade 6 and up to gather together in fellowship. We will start each Youth Group with a snack (food for the belly) and a short bible study (food for the soul). Games, activities and friendship will be a focus for this group and we will strive to engage the community through Acts of Service throughout the year.

First Contact

First Contact is the name for the Christian Education that the children participate in during Sunday service at both the 9:00am and 10:30am services. Programming for ages 4 - 6 and ages 7 - 12 will be delivered through a new curriculum, **Orange**. The Orange curriculum is developed with the knowledge that two forces (parents and church) working together can impact a child's faith far greater than either working alone. The curriculum provides resources for parents to continue the conversations and connect with their children during the week, between Sunday lessons. These Parent Cues are emailed weekly and monthly, as well as posted on our new Youth specific facebook page.

Facebook: We have a new Children and Youth Facebook page. www.facebook.com/youthFirstPresCollingwood Details about youth events will be posted on this page, as well as the Parent Cue suggestions from our Orange Curriculum. Following us on Facebook will increase the ways through which we can communicate, and will ensure that you don't miss out on any of the fun.

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National Presbyterian Women's Gathering

I was honoured to attend the third National Presbyterian Women's Gathering on the long weekend in May in Richmond Hill. I joined approximately 450 other women from across Canada, along with international and ecumenical guests, to pray, praise, learn, play and celebrate.

The weekend featured inspiring keynote speakers such as Cindy Blackstock, an indigenous author and educator, and Dr. Jean Chamberlain-Froese, an internationally recognized expert in women's health. There was uplifting worship each day, led by ministers Patricia Dutcher-Walls, Mona Scrivers, Linda Ashfield and Karen Horst. I was asked to be the resident worship pianist, so accompanied Rev. Hugh Donnelly, the praise leader, at each service. Tori Smith was the gathering host, while Rev. Cho from Nevada headed up the Spirituality Centre.

Through a variety of workshops and forums, special dinners, exciting entertainment, a marketplace of useful resources, and an interactive mission fair, I concluded this was indeed a transforming event. I met with new friends and caught up with some old ones. I was reaffirmed of the faithful service, dedication and continued vision of the Presbyterian Women in Canada.

Ephesians 3:16-21
"Rooted In Love"

My sincere gratitude to the Session for their spiritual and financial support, as a representative of our congregation to this conference.

Catherine Brown

Ephesians 2:10: *"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."*

Volunteers

The quest to find volunteers is unending. We need more volunteers for our Nursery program (specifically the 10:30 service). Also needed are volunteers who would like a leadership role in implementing our curriculum for First Contact groups at either service. If you are able to volunteer some time throughout the year for our children on Sunday, please contact Julia Sheffield. Please email me at: youthatfirst@rogers.com or call the church 705-445-4651.

PA Days

PA Day camps will also remain a focus for youth programming. There are six PA Days throughout the 2017/2018 school year, and our intent is to provide free, faith based programming for each one. The first PA Day Camp theme is "I am a Masterpiece", based on Ephesians 2:10. Registration for campers is open and will be accepted until October 11th, or until we meet our quota of children.

Trick-or-Can

Trick-or-Can is an exciting new initiative for our High School Students. This Halloween Food Drive is a great way for teens to connect with the community and with each other, all while having fun and doing good. High School students are encouraged to dress in costume to participate in this "Trick-or-Treat" style adventure around town. We will go door to door to collect non-perishable food items for the Food Bank. After we have finished collecting, all participants are invited back to the church for pizza and a movie.

Home

Little did we know that helping our daughter find an apartment would lead to relocating in this beautiful town and a new chapter in our life. Leaving our home (Holland Landing) and church (St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Aurora 20+ years) was not an easy decision. Collingwood wasn't on our radar, but one year later, we could not be happier. What a great adventure life is.

Faith is important to us. Our plan upon arrival, explore other Churches, test them out, be the 'new people'.

We wanted to:

- Belong to a church that tries new things, worshiping using different formats, incorporating music to inspire all ages
- Find a welcoming church with people doing their best to care for one another, with a social concern supporting the community.
- Find a Minister that teaches us how to walk deeper in our Christian Faith.

On Sunday, June 26, 2016 we walked into our first church and knew we were home.

God bless,
Gordon and Kim McCallum

Christmas Card Creation

During the month of November, as Christmas preparations are starting to begin, we will host Christmas Card Creation on Friday afternoons (excluding Fri. Nov 17th) from 4pm - 5pm. This event is open to children and youth of all ages to create Christmas Cards on behalf of all children from First Presbyterian Church. These cards will be given to the Pastoral Care team to distribute during their visits throughout December. Children 6 and under are encouraged to participate, with the help of a parent. Different Christmas card templates, in a variety of difficulty levels, will be chosen each week.

Proverbs 22:17
"A merry heart does good like medicine"

Ask and it will
be given to you;
seek and you
will find;
knock and the
door will be
opened to you.
-John 3:16

Chili & Advent Wreaths

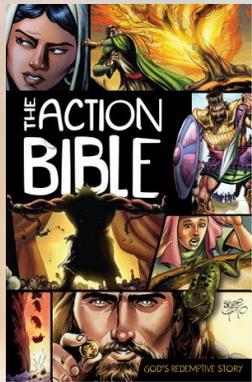
On December 2nd, the Saturday prior to the First Sunday of Advent, families of all ages are invited to gather together to create an Advent wreath to take home and use in their family's celebrations. Wreath making will start at 4pm, chili will be served for supper and the event will conclude at 6pm.

Christmas Pageant

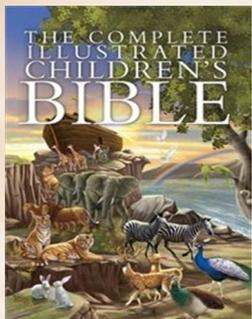
The First Contact Christmas Pageant will be presented on Sunday, December 17th at 10:30am. Practices for the pageant will take place during First Contact throughout the month of November, at both the 9am and 10:30am service. A Saturday dress rehearsal will take place at the church prior to December 17th; rehearsal details will be confirmed and made available to parents closer to the date.

Church Library by Judy Milley

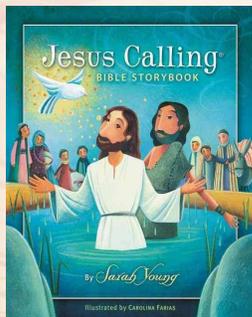
We are often asked by parents, grandparents and great-grandparents to recommend the best child's Bible. From our experience in the library and at VBC, we find it best to match the Bible to each individual child, considering the age, preferred reading style, and interests. Also, children are gravitating to the well-illustrated Bible Storybooks, rather than the small-print Bibles that many of us received in our childhood. Some of our suggestions are listed here, and are available in the church library for your perusal.



- Absolutely most popular in our library, especially for boys 9-12
- A graphic novel, illustrated by Sergio Cariello
- Vividly illustrated, fast-paced narratives in chronological order.



- Perfect picture & storybook for young ones
- Ideal first reader
- Two-page illustrations per story



- Written by popular Sarah Young
- Engaging book with kid-friendly devotions & charming illustrations
- Ages 4-7

In this season of harvesting, we are reminded that "we reap what we sow". Thus, a perfect time to plant some "seeds" by giving a child his/her very own Bible, being mindful that we reap in a different season that we sow.

Christian Ed Committee

The Christian Education Committee: This committee is responsible to Session and serves to support and guide the Director of Children and Youth Ministries with existing programmes, creating new programmes and recruiting volunteers to support our young people. The committee ensures that this ministry is following the Leading with Care Guidelines as set down by the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Children and youth are the future and precious to us. The goal, therefore, is to present the message of God's love, through a vital core curriculum for Sundays, weekly events, mission, outreach activities and more. It is the hope that through our service we can create an environment that will provide a lasting impact on young lives within the church and within the community. The committee members are: YD Director: Julia Sheffield; Chair: Barb Sharp (session member); Co-chair: Doug Brown (session member); Deb Shackell; Shari Robinson; Monica Foley (youth Rep.)

Respectfully submitted by Barb Sharp

M & M's at VBC

When we were asked to do the crafts for VBC, we both agreed that not only was it important to be fun for the campers, as well as the invaluable volunteers, but also be appropriate to the theme of the camp (Super Heroes). Crafts were that the campers would be proud to take home.

The younger group painted and decorated picture frames (we are Super Heroes). The middle age group strung beads and hardware to insert in a clay pot as a wind chime painted with Super Hero logos. The older group painted a tree on canvas, decorated with buttons and wrote inspirational words on the branches.

As the craft organizers, we certainly enjoyed ourselves and believe **we met our goals**. We hope the campers and the parents agree! We are looking forward to next year!

Maggie Sears
Marnie Hillier

Study Series



**Tuesdays from 7pm – 8:30pm
beginning Sept 26th**

Sign up sheet in the Welcome Center

This is another great series from Andy Stanley (google him if you've never heard of him) It give us an informal opportunity to ask questions, make new friends, learn from a great teacher as well as from the perspectives of other people.

This is six sessions (no worries if you can't make them all) They focus on how the perception of who God really is so easily gets twisted in our culture. He takes us through six truths that get twisted, and talks about how we can recognize and overcome them.

Session One: The Source of Deception

Session Two: All Is Not As It Seems

Session Three: Says Who?

Session Four: Facing Forward

Session Five: It's Only Physical

Session Six: It's No Mistake

Accounting Restructuring

The restructuring of the Accounting processes is making excellent progress and a number of duties have been taken over by the Office Administrator. These include: preparation of cheques which is done on a weekly basis; handling of expense reports also weekly; administration of the PAR system; and payroll. Over the next few months we will continue our restructuring and will inform you as we make changes.

In the meantime please contact Marlene for any matters concerning reimbursement of expenses or changes in PAR.

Pastoral Care

The motto of First Pres Church is "Where no one stands alone". This has been my goal as Director of Pastoral Care since February:

- To provide one-on-one visitation for those members in nursing, retirement and private homes.
- To coordinate short-term help for those convalescing or needing transportation, meals etc.
- To form a Pastoral Care Team to assist in all aspects of this Ministry.

I am pleased to have 29 members on the Team. The following are three examples of Pastoral Care Visits:

- ◆ Veronica Easdale visits Julie and Marilyn in a nursing home almost every week. She plays Elvis CDs with Julie, does exercises and goes for walks. She chats with Marilyn and listens to stories about her family.
- ◆ Len Logozar visits "Perk" on a regular basis, taking him for rides in the country, treating to ice-cream and has even had him to lunch at his home. Len also helped Craig make birdhouses for a Mother's Day project. That was special!!
- ◆ Ros Edwards visited Doreen each Friday in a nursing home for three months before Doreen passed away. Ros read chapter books, the Daily Bread devotional and ended each visit with a sacred poem or prayer. What a difference Ros made in the last days of Doreen's life.

The Pastoral Care Team needs more people who have a heart for visiting. If you would like to volunteer some time, please let me know. I will meet with you.

Visiting the elder, sick or infirm, is a way of putting our Christian faith into practice. I ask for your prayers, encouragement and support for all involved in this Ministry.

In Christ,

Catherine Brown, Director of Pastoral Care
cjbrown1@rogers.com; 705-445-6941 (home)

Special Services

Sunday, November 5th at 7pm



**A Service of
REMEMBRANCE
& PRAISE**

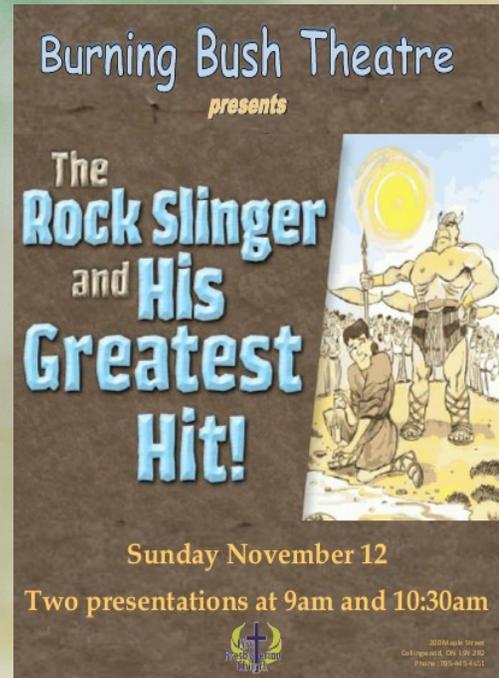
**An Evening of Music, Drama and Readings
To Honour Those Who Serve and
Have Served Our Country**

**Sunday November 5th, 2017
7:00 p.m.**

First Presbyterian Church
200 Maple Street, Collingwood
705-445-4651
www.firstprescollingwood.com

A free-will offering will be taken.
All proceeds go to the local Veterans' Poppy Fund
Refreshments will be provided by Tim Horton's

Sunday, November 12th at 9am & 10:30am



Burning Bush Theatre
presents

**The
Rock Slinger
and His
Greatest
Hit!**

Sunday November 12
Two presentations at 9am and 10:30am

200 Maple Street
Collingwood, ON L9Y 2H2
Phone: 705-445-4651

Wed. Dec 6; Sun. Dec 10; Mon. Dec 11; Tues. Dec 12; Wed. Dec 13



First Presbyterian Church
Presents

The First Christmas Story

2017

"There Can Be Miracles"

**THE NATIVITY STORY
RECOUNTED THROUGH MUSIC**

Wednesday, December 6th 7:00pm Seniors
Sunday, December 10th 3:00pm & 7:00pm
(nursery provided at the Sunday afternoon presentation)
Monday, December 11th 7:00pm
Tuesday, December 12th 7:00pm
Wednesday, December 13th 7:00pm

Reading Buddies

Our church is known throughout Collingwood for its involvement in the community. It feeds people's souls with the First Christmas and First Easter Story and VBC. It warms people's hearts by opening its doors to entertain the community with A Little Night Music. It feeds people's physical hunger with community dinners.

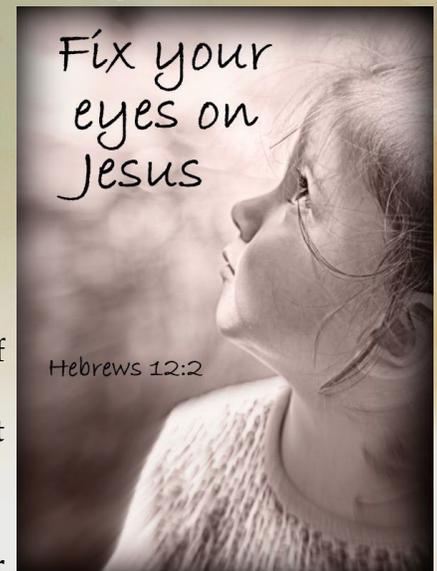
Tim invites Session Elders to envision one new way to help the community each year. Two years ago, we hoped to help children feel better about themselves by improving social and academic skills. We started out by providing Student Mentoring monthly for an hour before the community dinner. During that time volunteers play educational games with some students, assist others with reading or help children who are unable to sit and concentrate for a period of time by engaging them in large muscle activity. One of the volunteers went into the school to help a student with grade 3 math. At the end of the school year, the student's mother approached me, stating that her daughter wanted to show her report card to the volunteer. Not only had the girl's grade in math improved; all her grades had improved. Thus, a new ministry was formed - Reading Buddies...

Last year we thought of the many children who struggle academically and how many families are not in the financial position to pay for tutoring to help them. We saw how teaching a child basic skills not only improved her grades but also helped her feel better about herself. Out of the success of one volunteer helping one child learn to believe in herself, we hoped to help more children. This church is blessed with a number of members who are gifted with the ability to give children the extra help they need to learn what they need to know to do well in school and what they need to know about themselves: that they are not stupid, they are capable of learning.

Last year we sent a call out to members of the congregation to share their gifts to help more children learn to believe in themselves. Approximately 20 volunteers answered that call and volunteered for an hour a week at Cameron School. Volunteers chose the day of the week and time of day that was most convenient for them and advised when they would be vacationing and not available. Each volunteer was assigned to a particular teacher, who let the volunteer know what help to give the child, how they wanted them to provide the help and provided the materials to do so. A monthly meeting was held with the volunteers in order to provide support and answer any questions they might have. Volunteers discussed the challenge of facing changed school norms. Gone are the days where children are seen and not heard, sit in rows of desks and put up their hands to ask a question. One of the teachers from Cameron school who acted as our liaison explained the new ways of interacting with and teaching students and the school board guidelines which teachers must follow. Volunteers told stories of how the children thrived from the individual attention and what a pleasure it was for them to see the child's reading skills improve. The principal and teachers expressed their gratitude to the volunteers by giving them a certificate and a small gift at a special gathering.

This year, the call will go out again to help children - once a month, by volunteering as a Student Mentor before community dinners and/or once a week, as a Reading Buddy. I hope you will join us in sharing your blessings by being a blessing to the children.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Wolfe



New Session—New Season

if you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care – then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Phil 2:1,2 MSG

This was my verse of the day, a day after our first Session meeting for the season. It sums up what we as Session strive for as we work together and what we want for our community of First Pres. We welcomed our new elders Barb Sharpe, Al Salcedo, Kim McNabb, Doug Brown and Rob Newman. Our new youth director, Julia Sheffield was also welcomed and she shared her hopes and programs for children and youth in our church.

Session carries the responsibility to oversee the life of the church in a way that will allow us all to grow in faith as followers of Jesus Christ as we engage in the mission of the church. A meeting is full of reports and updates of the many ministries in our church. We celebrate the things that are going well. We dream about what else we could and should be doing. And we discuss areas of concern. All this is done with full participation and lively discussion around the table.

Session elders are all expected to be part of a committee, team or other aspect of church life. These committees are the action part of Session, taking on projects and moving the ministries and outreach of our church forward. These committees or teams are also places where members of the church can serve as they put faith into action.

Are you looking to become more active in your church life? Currently our biggest needs are volunteers for Children and Youth Programs - Sunday morning and during the week, and for our Mission and Outreach committee. But if that's not where you feel called to serve, please do not hesitate to contact an elder with your dream of how you can use your gifts to serve this faith community.

As we work together, following Christ, we hope and pray that in our community of the Spirit, we will have a heart and a care for all those around us in a way that remains true to our mission and values while allowing for new ways to reach out to the community at large.

Respectfully submitted by Joan Vanderkooy, Clerk of Session

First & Forever Endowment Fund Update

The Endowment Fund was established in 2002 upon the recommendation of the Congregation of First Presbyterian Church. The purpose of the Fund is to provide an opportunity for members and friends of First Presbyterian Church to make bequests, or gifts, to the church with the knowledge that these gifts will be retained as capital. The interest income, dividends and realized capital gains are distributed annually to support the mission and ministries of our church. The Endowment Fund ensures not only a secure future for ongoing generations, but its income provides the opportunity for enhanced ministry.

The market value of the Fund at June 30, 2017 was \$758,855.05. The income for the first 6 months of 2017 was \$10,465.66 and was transferred to the Church. Since the inception of moving the Endowment Fund assets to Beutel, Goodman (December 2009), the interest income, dividends and realized capital gains amounts to \$219,071. If you have any questions about the Fund please contact Linda Grendon, Chair.

Music Ministry



'Grains of Sand' is our Worship Band.

They practice once a week to prepare worship music and special music for the 9am service, and occasionally the 10:30 service.

Their style encompasses the whole gamut of contemporary music, and sometimes even a plugged in traditional hymn!

If you have instrumental skills that you are interested in sharing, please contact Kimberley: karg@rogers.com

The Adult Choir rehearses on Thursdays from 7-8pm and sings during our 10:30am Sunday services.

They are usually accompanied by piano, and sometimes organ, flute, trumpet, violin, drums, guitar and bass!

The choir is comprised of approximately 26 voices that sing an eclectic mix of music in SATB format.

If you have an interest in joining this wonderful group, please contact our Director of Music Ministries: Kimberley Raeburn-Gibson karg@rogers.com



The Cherub Choir is a choir for school aged children. They meet on Thursdays, 6:15 - 6:45 in the conference room.

The cherubs use their voices to JOYFULLY sing praise to God!

They sing five times each year at the 10:30 service.

New members are always welcome.

For info, contact Angela Girdwood: agirdwood@scdsb.on.ca

Refugee Committee Update

Thank you to the First Pres community.

We appreciate your support that has allowed us to be where we are today.



On August 7, our committee sent a small welcome team along with a translator to Pearson International to greet the Issa family. From a tent in a refugee camp in Iraq to a home in Collingwood, it was a long journey for them.

Thanks to the dedication, commitment, time and energy of all the committee members, the Issas are settling in well. In August we completed the official applications, registrations and other stuff, so their September could be like most families in Canada - with kids going to school. And with the kids in school, the parents will focus on

Thank you for your monetary support to get the process started. Thank you for your many and amazing donations of time, talent and needed things to get the house ready. We asked and you responded. And through this whole process, we know that prayer was a part of it too. Please continue to pray that the Issas would continue to settle well, for good health, for happiness and for learning English easily.

First Pres Tappers



The tappers meet on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 7:30. Last year this great group performed at The Remembrance Tribute here at the church, The First Pres. Spring Fling, and they "took their show on the road" to Sunset Manor. What a wonderful outreach to share the joy of dance with others. No tap background is necessary and the group welcomes those from our community; not just the church membership.

"Praise him with tambourine and dancing... Let everything that has breath praise the Lord."

Psalm 150: 4-6.

Our Woman of Faith Nominee – “Inspired to Inspire”

God leads us through different and varied experiences depending on our gifts and circumstances in life. To learn of someone else’s life experiences, and in particular, how they have been spiritually led, can be very enriching. Barb Dufton and I had the privilege of meeting with Catherine Brown on a few occasions to learn of her life’s work.

In 2016, the committee of Session elected to have Catherine’s name put forward to receive the Women of Faith Award at the next National Presbyterian Women’s Gathering to take place in May 2017. The Presbyterian Woman of Faith Award was established in 2014 by our National Church to recognize the courageous and faithful work of women in 3 different categories: For Faithful Service; For a Lifetime of Achievement; For a Specific Accomplishment.

Barb and I were given the responsibility to submit a précis on Catherine. It was difficult to choose which category fitted her lifelong work best, but in the end, we chose “Specific Accomplishment” to demonstrate how her gift of music has been and still is used to enhance the spiritual life of so many to create an awareness of God’s love and presence. The motto used for Catherine was “Inspired to Inspire”. And although Catherine was not the winner under this category, we can only imagine what a hard choice it must have been for our National Church. Her list of accomplishments is astounding. As well as being our music director for a number of years, it includes: Director of VBC and the Singing Christmas Tree, the formation of the Outreach Singers, organizing various music and drama programs for children, raising funds to buy musical instruments for Romania, providing music to the infirm, promoting the street pianos in Collingwood. And the list goes on – all to inspire and bring the message of God’s love to all. On behalf of First Pres, we were proud to present her with a certificate of recognition from the National Church that celebrates her faithful work. She is an inspiration!

Respectfully submitted,
Jansje Lawrenson

Upcoming Events

- Oct 1st— Communion at 9am & 10:30am
- Oct 20th – PA Day Activities
- Oct 22nd—New Member Sunday
- Oct 24th – Community Dinner
- Nov 5th— Remembrance Tribute Service, 7pm
- Nov 12th—BBT presents *The Rock Slinger and His Greatest Hit* at 9am & 10:30am
- Nov 17th—PA Day Activities
- Nov 26th—Communion at 9am & 10:30am
- Nov 28st—Community Dinner
- Dec 6th, 10th, 11th, 12th & 13th—First Christmas Story
- Dec 17th—Children’s Christmas Pageant at 10:30am

