

Scottish Heritage Celebration

While First (Scots) includes and welcomes members of all cultural backgrounds, it celebrates its Scottish heritage ordinarily on the third Sunday of each September as the culmination of the Scottish Society's Highland Games weekend. Our church sponsors the "Kirkin' of the Tartan," which is a parade of clan flags by church members as well as guests of the Scottish Society. The flag bearers carry their flags, led by a bagpiper as part of the procession to the pulpit. After the blessing of the tartans, the flags are left at the dais and recessed after the benediction. Bagpipers from the Citadel play for the recessional and entertain the congregation on the portico after the service.

Other than the "Kirkin' of the Tartans," the most significant part of the service is the guest preacher, most often of Scottish origin. The choir provides very special music and the format of the service is that of the Church of Scotland.

After each of the two services, a reception, including many varieties of Scottish goodies, is held in the Molly Wier Fellowship Hall. The decorations are appropriate to a Scottish theme and emphasize the colors and cloths of our own church tartan.

Among the many opportunities of this committee is that of providing a brunch for the Citadel Pipers between services. Church members who live nearby graciously offer their homes for this brunch and committee members provide food. The cadets look forward to this event.

When the church celebrated its 275th anniversary, much historical research was done and eight names of the twelve founding fathers were documented. A Tartan Committee was established to develop a First (Scots) tartan which resulted in using strands of color from each of those early family tartans in the weaving of our own. Many members, both Scots and other, now wear ties, skirts, etc. made from our very own tartan.

The Scottish Heritage committee sponsors an annual church Ceilidh (a party or "gathering") at the Wednesday night supper preceding the Sunday service. Our church sponsors a page in the program for the Highland Games and First (Scots) sponsors a tent at the games where members can congregate and where church information can be disseminated. Volunteers from our Heritage Committee help at the games as well as set up our church displays and answer questions of guests.

There are many opportunities for all members to join this committee, so feel welcome.

"Cead mile failte" (100,000 welcomes).