

*First-St Andrew's*  
**UNITED CHURCH**

Where liberal theology meets the best of tradition



# PROGRAMME GUIDE 2014-2015



## INSIDE

Editor's message.....	2
Church committees .....	2
Sunday morning roles .....	4
Caring for others.....	5
Music programmes .....	6
Adult spiritual growth .....	6
Family programmes.....	8
Making a difference .....	10
Fellowship .....	11
United Church Women .....	12
Sharing your gifts and talents.....	12

**WE ARE AN INCLUSIVE CHRISTIAN FAMILY,  
ENCOURAGING SPIRITUAL GROWTH THROUGH  
WORSHIP, FRIENDSHIP, LEARNING  
AND ACTION**





# PROGRAMME GUIDE

A publication of  
The Communications & Marketing Committee

First-St. Andrew's United Church

350 Queens Avenue, London Ontario, Canada, N6B 1X6

519-679-8182 • [mail@fsaunited.com](mailto:mail@fsaunited.com)

[www.fsaunited.com](http://www.fsaunited.com)

## THE EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Pat McGregor

In one of her sermons in early summer, Kate spoke about burdens and how we can lighten our individual loads by sharing a hypothetical yoke with others.

This analogy can be applied to FSA and the many programmes offered within our congregation, organized and run by dedicated members of our church community. But no one person should have to carry the weight of running a programme on their own. By spreading the wealth as it were, we can all benefit from the shared experience of learning and/or

helping, and heavens to Murgatroyd, you might even have fun doing it.

Take a look at what's available this year. There are some new ventures, as well as the ones with which we are familiar from previous years.

*"There is a yoke which is easy and a burden that is light awaiting each one of us here. Take up what is offered, and cling to Christ; let his strength be your strength, now and forever." (The Rev. Kate Crawford, based on Matthew 11.)*



## READY TO TAKE A TURN ON A CHURCH COMMITTEE?

### COUNCIL

The Council of the church is composed of Chairs of all the committees reporting to it, the president of the UCW, the church minister(s) and administrator, director of music, secretary, Chair-elect, and FSA's lay representative to presbytery. The term of the Chair is two years. In general, Council is the final arbiter of all significant actions proposed by its committees, and acts as the official spokesperson for the church when this is called for. Council is responsible also for organizing and holding the Annual Congregational Meeting, which is usually held in mid-February. Meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm. The current Chair of Council is Jo Ann Silcox ([silcox3@sympatico.ca](mailto:silcox3@sympatico.ca)) and the secretary is Katherine Wonfor.

Scan the description of the following committees to see if one might be a good fit for you.

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board has four committees with responsibilities for insurance, investment, memorials and long-term giving. The full Board meets five times per year, usually on a Monday morning. The **Insurance Committee** is

responsible for negotiating appropriate insurance for the protection of the church's assets. The **Investment Committee** is responsible for establishing and executing the investment policy for the church, intent on the performance of those funds, and authorizes the allocation of funds for major capital purposes. The **Memorials Committee** receives and recognizes the receipt of memorial gifts and maintains registers of such gifts. **Long-Term Giving** supports the Council in planned giving initiatives for the church. Contact John Eberhard (519-471-3065) or David Manness (519-433-9117).

### COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

This committee sets the communication vision for the church by reviewing how best to get out a consistent and clear message to our members and to the community at large about what the church is doing.

Members include representation from the *Tidings* and *Programme Guide* staff as well as the webmaster, and consults to facilitate the communications and public relations pieces which the various committees, staff and agents for the church have identified as priorities.

Meetings occur monthly, usually on the fourth Wednesday at 7:00pm. Contact Doug Gonder (519-657-7707).

## **CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT**

This committee is responsible for the Christian development of the entire congregation. There are programmes for specific groups and others which are multi-generational. We are always trying to offer new things and enhance our current programmes. Check out [pages 6, 7, and 8](#) for opportunities for 2014–2015. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month. Contact Allyson Watson for information (519-913-1025).

## **FINANCE**

This committee reviews church operational expenditures against a budget prepared annually, and approved by the congregation at its February annual meeting. Using a review and recommendation audit approach, Finance helps all committees of the church manage their expenses on a fiscally sound basis. Meetings are held, as a rule, in the evening of the second Tuesday of each month, excepting July and August. Contact Harold Jackson ([h.n.jackson@sympatico.ca](mailto:h.n.jackson@sympatico.ca)).

## **MEMBERSHIP AND NURTURE**

This committee is responsible for:

- promoting membership and encouraging active participation of all members in the life and work of the church.
- assisting with recognizing the efforts of all volunteers.
- assisting with formally welcoming and integrating new members.
- working to arrange opportunities for supporting individuals and fellowship within the congregation
- assisting the visitation minister by visiting those no longer able to attend worship
- assisting the office secretary to maintain the historic role, the mailing list, and to record changes.
- assisting with keeping archival records current.
- overseeing many of the special care functions for members of FSA. (See listing of individual programmes on [page 5](#).)

The committee meets at least four times annually at the call of the Chair. Contact Audrey Coulthard ([ajcoulthard@bell.net](mailto:ajcoulthard@bell.net)).

## **MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL**

The M & P Committee is a confidential consultative body that supports the functioning relationships of all FSA employees and strives to ensure that the church is a safe and enjoyable place to work. The committee is also responsible for creating and updating policies for the FSA Staff Handbook. The committee meets once every month. Contact Bruce Moor (519-636-9411).

## **MISSION, OUTREACH AND ENVIRONMENT (MOE)**

This committee is involved in a wide variety of outreach programmes here in London and throughout the world. In particular, MOE is responsible for activities of the United Church's Mission and Service Fund at FSA. The MOE programmes are described starting on [page 10](#).

The committee usually meets at least once each month on a Monday evening. If you are interested in being a part of this very active group, please contact Linda Badke (519-432-5240).

## **MUSIC**

This committee is responsible for providing leadership in all aspects of the musical life of our church. We act as a liaison among musical groups, professional staff and church members, on matters related to music. We also act in an advisory capacity to the director of music.

Members may have specific expertise in church music or just enjoy and support it. If you are interested in being a member of this committee, please contact our Chair, Paul Cooper ([paulcooper.davidhiebert@gmail.com](mailto:paulcooper.davidhiebert@gmail.com)).

## **PROPERTY**

First-St. Andrew's is a historic structure at the heart of London with beautiful grounds. As our infrastructure ages, we continually have projects that need attention. The Property Committee looks after the ongoing maintenance, grounds, capital projects and rentals at FSA, including Farquhar House. We are continuing to work through the restoration projects as outlined in the Avis Report, an engineering audit undertaken in 2008, with a current focus on the heating system. You will find periodic updates on our progress on the FSA website.

If you have an interest in building-related issues we would enjoy having you become part of our team. We meet the third Monday of each month. Contact George Jolink (519-520-9724) or Heather Vouvalidis (519-434-7054).

## STEWARDSHIP

This committee is working toward the development of a year-round programme that celebrates our stewardship in action at FSA and elsewhere. Through stewardship we demonstrate to ourselves and others what it means to be “an inclusive Christian family encouraging spiritual growth through worship, friendship, learning and action.”

Meetings are at the call of the Chair, usually monthly, other than July and August. Contact Tara Gonder (519-657-7707).

## WORSHIP

In addition to overseeing our regular Sunday worship service, the Worship Committee also assigns responsibility within its membership for a variety of functions relating to worship services.

Along with the minister, the **baptism coordinator** ensures that families wishing a child baptised understand the meaning of the sacrament and are prepared for their role in the service. At the service itself he/she announces the names of the children and ensures that each is presented with a tangible remembrance of this special occasion.

The **communion coordinator** solicits members of the church to act as servers in the communion service and ensures that they are prepared for their roles. He/she is also responsible for preparing the ceremonial aspects of the sacrament: purchasing and setting out the bread and wine and setting the communion table.

The **coordinator of welcoming greeters** solicits monthly coordinators for welcoming at Sunday services. The monthly coordinators recruit help for the individual Sundays in their month and are responsible for ensuring that they understand their roles.

The **banner coordinator** ensures that banners are rotated in the sanctuary to mark the liturgical seasons.

The **scripture-reader coordinator** recruits monthly coordinators to arrange for the reading of scripture

during each Sunday's worship service.

The **lay liturgist coordinator**, along with the minister, prepares and coaches those who have expressed an interest in assisting with liturgy on Sunday mornings.

Contact Kerry Stover ([kestover40@hotmail.com](mailto:kestover40@hotmail.com) or 519-672-0469) or Joan Bancroft (519-472-4661).

## LGBT COMMITTEE (AD HOC)

The LGBT community is involved in many aspects of the community of faith here at First-St. Andrew's. The first workshop that FSA embraced in the year of Welcoming Well (2013) was on how all sexual orientations and gender identities are welcomed within the FSA community. The outcome of the workshop has enabled the congregation and ministerial team to focus on inclusive language in our prayers and committee work. An ad-hoc group was formed with members of the Worship Committee and other interested members of FSA. This committee's focus is to assist us in being intentional about our welcome to the LGBT community. Last year this culminated in FSA becoming an Affirming Congregation. If you are interested in any of the work of the committee contact Kerry Stover ([kestover40@hotmail.com](mailto:kestover40@hotmail.com) or 519-672-0469).

## WELCOMING COMMITTEE (AD HOC)

This new committee of Council is charged with the responsibility of developing ways and means to extend our welcome as a congregation to all people, regardless of age, differing abilities, economic circumstance, ethnic background, gender, gender identity, physical or mental health, race or sexual orientation. The purpose of this work is to deepen the welcome, to build our membership and reach out to diverse individuals and groups who may be seeking a liberal theology, a social justice mission and a spiritual home. Contact Heather Locking-Cusolito (519-433-6344).

## UNITED CHURCH WOMEN ([See page 12](#))

## WANT TO PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE ON SUNDAY MORNINGS?



### BE A WELCOMING GREETER

Each month a designated coordinator of welcoming greeters recruits four people per Sunday from a list of volunteers who have expressed a willingness to welcome and greet those attending our worship services. They are stationed in the atrium and narthex, hand out bulletins and also take up the offering. We are always happy to add to our volunteer list. Contact Charlotte Oldham (519-471-8861).

### LIGHT THE CHRIST CANDLE

The lighting of the Christ Candle at the front of the church at the beginning of the worship service symbolizes the intentionality of the congregation to invite Christ's presence into our midst, and so prepares us for worship. For the candlelighter, participation can also mark a special occasion such as a birthday, anniversary, or recognition of a loved one. Contact Kerry Stover ([kestover40@hotmail.com](mailto:kestover40@hotmail.com) or 519-672-0469).

## READ SCRIPTURE

For each Sunday service, different people read the scripture selection. We believe that the Word is active and living to the extent that it is enunciated and heard through many voices across all generations and abilities. Contact Joan Bancroft (519-472-4661).

## BE A LAY LITURGIST

A team of interested and dedicated members is assembled each year to assist with the liturgy on Sunday mornings. Team involvement includes a commitment to training. Contact John McDonald (519-439-4906 or [jmcdonald.consultant@gmail.com](mailto:jmcdonald.consultant@gmail.com)).

## SERVE AT COMMUNION

We celebrate communion six times a year and require between four and ten servers each time depending on the occasion. Never done it before? Don't be afraid!

Coaching and tender loving care are always provided and you will feel good about your contribution to worship. Contact Jim Silcox (519-642-2152).

## PLACE FLOWERS OR RUN THE CHURCH FOR A DAY

Would you like to display flowers during the Sunday service in memory of a loved one or in celebration of an event? Contact the church office (519-679-8182) to book a date. Arrange delivery by 4:00pm the Friday before and advise the office by Wednesday morning before your chosen Sunday of the wording you would like in the bulletin, and if you plan to take the flowers with you after church or leave them for distribution. Please choose flowers without highly scented blooms.

You can also contribute to running the church for a specific day of the year to honour or remember someone of your choice. Contact the church office for information.



## DO YOU GAIN MEANING IN LIFE BY CARING FOR OTHERS?

*In addition to the pastoral care provided by Kate Crawford and Tom Hiscock, members of our congregation regularly reach out to others in a variety of ways.*

## CARING CALLERS

Approximately 10 dedicated callers make five or six calls, four times a year to members of the congregation whom we do not see at church or church activities on a regular basis. These members are kept up-to-date on church services, concerts, and special activities. The callers are also a very valuable liaison for the ministers and the office regarding illness, moves, and other potentially stressful times.

More callers are always needed and if you would like to share in this very special programme, contact Annabelle Logan (519-471-2518).

## CONGREGATIONAL VISITING TEAM

Our congregational visiting team comprises members of our congregation who offer ongoing support to our shut-ins. We have a visiting team of 10 who maintain contact with these members on a regular basis, and especially at birthdays and holiday times.

If you are interested in becoming involved in this very rewarding experience contact Audrey Coulthard (519-686-5996).

## COUNSELLING

There is a confidential counselling service available to FSA members staffed voluntarily by Dr. Jo Ann Silcox, a psychiatrist, who provides initial assessment and follow-through counselling for individuals, couples, families or groups facing personal transitional crises. Referrals may be made through Jo Ann (519-642-2152).

## CARE FOR THE CAREGIVER

The fourth Monday evening of each month from 7:00–9:00pm, in the parlour, is a time of confidential sharing and caring among those called to give care to others in their personal and professional lives. Contact Jo Ann Silcox (519-642-2152 or [silcox3@sympatico.ca](mailto:silcox3@sympatico.ca)).

## COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Every Sunday, following our worship service, the congregation is invited to remain for refreshment and deepening of friendships. During the summer months, this takes the form of lemonade on the lawn, and in the fall we move inside to Proudfoot Hall for coffee or tea. This is an opportunity for each person to make contact and share his/her journey as a valued individual within our community of faith. Volunteers are always needed.

## PRAYER CHAIN

Do you need prayers for yourself or others? Call the church office (519-679-8182) and the name or concern

will be passed through the prayer chain. First names only will be used unless permission is granted to use the full name. Confidentiality will be respected.



## IS THERE MUSIC IN YOUR SOUL?

*First-St. Andrew's is committed to a music ministry that is rich in variety, grounded in spiritual integrity and inclusive of all ages. Consider the many opportunities—both choral and instrumental—to rejoice with us in 2014-2015.*

### THE SENIOR CHOIR

Our senior choir sings weekly at the 10:30am Sunday service and in the Music at First-St. Andrew's outreach concerts. Rehearsals are Thursdays from 7:30–9:30pm. Some music-reading ability and prior choral experience would be helpful, and regular commitment is essential. Contact Paul Merritt (519-679-8182 or 519-679-9173).

### THE CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

Our children's choirs rehearse on Wednesdays at 6:15pm. If your child/children would like to join in the excitement, please call the contacts listed:

#### **The Joyful Singers—ages 8 and up**

Co-directors, Enid and Paul Merritt (519-679-9173).

#### **The Junior Joyful Singers—ages 4 to 8**

Director, Joanne Richardson (519-657-0241).

### **Tunes, Tots & Teddies Too—age up to 4**

Director, Margaret Trethewey (519-679-8182).

### **THE LAUDAMUS BELLS**

Our Laudamus Bell Choir is a friendly group of musicians who rehearse one evening a week and play in services about once a month. New members are welcome. Prerequisites include an ability to read music, and knowledge of music to approximately the grade 6 level. Specific training on the bells is provided. If you are interested in joining the bell choir, call Paul Merritt (519-679-8182).

### **THE FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S STRINGS**

The FSA Strings is an accomplished performing group that has enjoyed increased exposure over the past years. If you are—or have been—an active string player and are from high-school age to much older, and wish to play with our group, leave both your phone number and e-mail address with Bruce Richardson, conductor (519-473-1023).

### **THE CONCERT SERIES**

First-St. Andrew's is committed to musical outreach in the London area through year-round concert activity made possible through the generous support of *Friends of Music*. Please see our 2014-2015 brochure for this season's details.



## FEELING THE NEED TO TOUCH UP YOUR SPIRITUAL ROOTS?

### **LIBRARY**

Our church library has something for everybody including, of course, inspiring books for all ages and church-based periodicals—all available for your use on an honour system. Come in and check us out!

### **ADULT MINISTRY**

#### **Bible Studies**

Feeling awkward about not knowing your Jezebel from your Jehosephat? Wonder where it says “blessed are the peacemakers” in the Bible? Want to join with others to prepare for the Sunday morning worship by reading the lectionary selections? Join

a Bible Study! We aren't experts in the Bible—rather seekers, trying to hear God's voice for today in these ancient texts. Choose from **Thursday Morning** 10:00am–11:30am with Rev. Kate or **Sunday Morning** 9:00am–10:00am with Jo Ann Silcox. Drop in!

### **SPECIAL INTEREST**

#### **Meditation**

Join a small group of dedicated meditators in practising this ancient spiritual discipline. We have two Meditation Retreat Days planned, November 15<sup>th</sup> and April 11<sup>th</sup>. These will be luxurious days of sitting practise hosted by London-based Spiritual Counsellor,

2014–2015

Deborah Carter, with a delicious catered lunch. Watch for details and registration in the fall. As well, we will continue with the Chapel Sangha each Thursday from 12:15pm–12:45pm, silent meditation with no instruction, open to all, in any discipline. You must arrive by 12:14, as the doors are locked at that point. Occasional Dharma Talks are also offered, using the teaching of Gil Fronsdal (Insight Meditation Centre). Watch for details. If you want to be on the e-list, let Rev. Kate know.

### **Book Club**

A very informal gathering of bibliophiles, who select books to discuss based on **spiritual values**. Usually we choose more than one book, to provide selection for various reading tastes, often on a theme. Recent selections include the Indigenous People's experience with the Residential School system; local novelists Alice Munroe, Joan Barfoot; learning more about Islam. We are so relaxed that we welcome you even if you haven't read the book! Talk with Rev. Kate for more information.

### **Adult Development Committee**

A new working group within the Christian Development Committee, focused on providing a range of adult faith development opportunities. If you are an educator, or have interest in supporting FSA through curriculum/event planning, please join our monthly conversations. Speak with Rev. Kate.

### **Adult Learning Opportunities**

The first event planned is a workshop series, **What Does Walter Say?** This will introduce us to the thought of contemporary American biblical scholar, Walter Brueggemann, who is coming to Metropolitan United in London, October 24<sup>th</sup>–26<sup>th</sup>. He has written more than 90 books and has inspired generations of preachers, scholars and people of faith with his wit, insight and passion for faith. Join Rev. Kate from 7:00pm–9:00pm on any or all of these dates for a taste of what is to come: September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>. To register for the event at Met, go to <http://www.metropolitanchurch.com>.

Another distinguished theologian, **Marcus Borg**, is being hosted at Wesley-Knox United, October 17<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Borg was a Proudfoot Lecturer at FSA. He is internationally known in both academic and church circles as a Jesus and biblical scholar, lecturer and author whose interests are also broader, focusing on what it means to be Christian today—especially what it

means to be an American Christian in a time of a deeply divided American Christianity. To register for the event at W-K, go to <http://www.wesleyknox.com>.

Other events are being explored for the winter and spring, including learning more about Judaism; quietly preparing for Advent; connecting meaningfully with each other in small groups. We will develop these ideas based on the results of the recent congregational survey.

### **Confirmation**

Every year we offer a confirmation programme for the senior youth in our Church School programme, as well as individual conversations for adults wishing to explore their personal faith more deeply. Both use the *Making Disciples* resource by United Methodist theologian and bishop, William Willimon, and depend on a dynamic relationship with a Christian mentor from the congregation. If you are asked to be a mentor it is a sign of trust and friendship. Please consider it carefully! The senior youth programme starts in January. The adult programme is available at any time by request. Watch for registration in late fall or speak with Kate.

### **Good Neighbours**

This heading refers to our long-term partnership project with the London Muslim Mosque, in which our two communities have committed to building relationships over many years. This year we are looking forward to multiple opportunities to **Learn** together, to **Serve** together and to **Play** together. Watch for a Muslim-Christian dialogue in January (learn); a community meal at the mosque which we will help to prepare and serve in October or November (serve); and collaborating together on the Thames River Cleanup on the weekend of April 18<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 (play).

### **New Membership**

If you are interested in joining the FSA community as a member, please speak to Kate. New members will be received on November 16<sup>th</sup> and April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

### **Baptism**

Baptism is the sacrament of welcome into the community of faith. We are happy to welcome children and adults for baptism, without any membership requirement. Speak to Kate about the dates for the next baptism and evening preparation.





### CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG FAMILY MINISTRY

#### Overview

- Our programmes and services are intentionally inclusive; everyone is welcome.
- We connect with each participant; everyone is equally important.

### RALLY DAY AND PROGRAMME REGISTRATION

Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 is a specific day each year for welcoming families to FSA (but please join our programmes at any time).

- This day allows us to gather current information about the families we serve.
- Registration forms include parent/guardian consent. Please note: All families with participants in the Nursery, Church School, TNT and God Squad are asked to register, please.
- There is no cost to register; our programmes and services are not fee-based.
- Save time by printing your forms from our website at [www.fsaunited.com/public/family](http://www.fsaunited.com/public/family).

#### Contacts

- **Jane Dockrill, Youth and Young Families Coordinator**, (519-679-8182 X 224 or [family@fsaunited.com](mailto:family@fsaunited.com)) to get more information about our programmes, services or special activities, to pay sign-up fees or to request financial assistance.
- **Church Office**, (519-679-8182 or [mail@fsaunited.com](mailto:mail@fsaunited.com)).

#### Scheduling

- The most accurate and up-to-date information can always be found on our website, which is [www.fsaunited.com/public/family](http://www.fsaunited.com/public/family) where an online calendar is also provided.
- A rolling bulletin board with current information and programme locations is positioned in our atrium.

### SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

- **Family-Friendly Worship** (intergenerational)

Sundays from 10:30–10:45am. Worship to include music and language for the whole family.

- **Children's Time in Worship** (intergenerational)

A gathering of children with church leaders before church school participants and their teachers leave the sanctuary each Sunday morning.

- **Annual Youth Service** (intergenerational)

An innovative, inspiring, and thought-provoking worship service led by our youth.

- **Christmas Pageant, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014** (intergenerational)

A seasonal, joyous celebration of Christmas presented by the children and youth of the church programmes accompanied by music and bells.

### SERVICES

#### Lending Libraries

Holdings include books of interest to children, youth and families.

- Bibles for children and high school students
- New books about families, welcoming well, First Nations and LGBT issues now available.

#### Nursery

(infants to age two)

This is a bright, safe space to run, slide, laugh and play.

- Open Sundays from 10:00am–12:00pm.
- Staffed by early childhood educators Sonya Grant and Amanda Ingrey.

#### Quiet Room

Located within the nursery, this is a quiet space for sleeping and nursing complete with a crib, change table, rocking chair and 'fridge.

### YOUNG ADULTS IN TRANSITION (YATS)

(ages 19 through 29)

Join us on our Facebook® page for YATS.

### PROGRAMMES ON SUNDAYS

#### Big Circle

(ages three through grade 12)

- An open session for all children and youth to meet before leaving with their peer groups.

- May include music, drama, games, dance, puppets, and prayer.

### Church School

(ages three through grade 6)

- Christian development for children achieved through weekly times to gather, engage, respond, bless, and reflect.
- Our curriculum is called *Seasons of the Spirit* and often includes Bible stories, art, drama, crafts, cooking, gardening, sharing, and prayer.

### Spirit Games

(Church School with help from TNT)

- Non-competitive, Spirit-based outdoor games on sunny Sundays during the month of June.
- Spirit Camp weekend in June is an opportunity for FSA members to spend the night at Camp Kee-Mo-Kee on Saturday and then worship on Sunday morning, followed by a church picnic. This was awesome last year and we are looking forward to hosting this again in 2015.

### Teens in Transit (TNT)

(grades 7 & 8: a teen youth group)

- September through May from 10:45–11:30am.
- Teasing-free and bullying-free; friends always welcome.

### Confirmation Class

(multigenerational)

- Confirmands are guided through a variety of experiences to strengthen their understanding of their faith and connect them with their church community.
- Our topically-oriented curriculum is called *Making Disciples*.
- Mentorship-based and involves family commitment.

### God Squad

(grades 9 through 12)

- A parent-free Sunday youth group for teenagers in high school.
- In a safe, welcoming space; come as you are.
- Big screen for movies, Wii room, ping-pong room, and camping.

### NEW THIS YEAR: YOUTH GROUPS

The CD Committee is committed to supporting our

youth and young adults with opportunities to develop their faith through deepening relationships, community outreach, and of course—lots of fun! Meeting dates to be announced.

### PROGRAMMES ON WEEKDAYS

#### Sing For Your Supper

This is a community meal before the children's choirs on Wednesday nights. All are welcome to join us for lots of fun and food before singing. The main course is provided and families rotate bringing dessert and drinks. We start at 5:30pm and finish at 6:10pm. You are welcome even if you are not going to sing afterwards.

#### Music Programmes

(preschoolers through grade 6)

- Musical programmes for children are offered on Wednesday evenings for those who wish to experience music for the first time or for those more practiced to further develop their voices individually and in a choir.

- Check out the children's choirs section of this guide on [page 6](#) for more information.



#### Moms & Tots

(multigenerational)

We meet in the nursery on the second and fourth Friday of each month, from 10:00–11:30am. Bring a nut-free snack for sharing, and come for a relaxed time of conversation and playing with our children.



For up-to-date information on all our programmes and special events scheduled throughout the year, check out our webpage at [www.fsaunited.com/public/family](http://www.fsaunited.com/public/family).

### FAMILY LOVE AND SHARE EVENT

Save the date: September 27<sup>th</sup> 9:00am till noon. This is a family event to raise funds for Growing Chefs programmes to be provided to ELUCO youth. This event is a kids' stuff rummage sale with face-painting, food, live music, used books and awesome deals.

All proceeds will support ELUCO and Growing Chefs. We started accepting donations of kids' used items in August, and you can also have your own table to sell your stuff for \$25. Contact Allyson Watson ([allysonwats@gmail.com](mailto:allysonwats@gmail.com)).



*FSA looks outward in a variety of ways. You can too by linking up with the contacts for the various church-supported agencies and activities listed below.*

## **THE MISSION AND SERVICE FUND**

### **Gifts with Vision**

The United Church of Canada publishes an alternative gift catalogue, called "Gifts with Vision." Gifts purchased from this catalogue for birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas and other special occasions support local and global projects of the Mission & Service Fund. There are copies in the church office or go to the website, <http://www.giftswithvision.ca/>

### **Communion Overseas Relief Offerings**

Special offerings on some Communion Sundays are sent to the United Church to help it respond to urgent humanitarian crises around the world. Contact Barb Dalrymple (519-433-4460).

### **Los Quinchos**

Los Quinchos is a school for child street-vendors in Managua, Nicaragua, and is supported by a block grant from the Mission & Service Fund of the UCC. The proceeds from our sales of coffee from Nicaragua (at Coffee and Conversation) support this project. Contact David Manness (519-433-9177) or Barb Dalrymple (519-433-4460).

## **LONDON OUTREACH**

### **ELUCO**

[ELUCO](http://www.eluco.ca) (East London United Church Outreach), located on Marconi Blvd., has been assisting low-income families for over 25 years. The community support worker, Nancy Howard, offers emergency services and support for families in need. FSA is a partner church of ELUCO. Learn more at [www.eluco.ca](http://www.eluco.ca)

We provide two members for the ELUCO Board, and fundraise for ELUCO through events such as the walkathon and cinnamon bun sales. In addition FSA provides direct financial support for the programmes of ELUCO. In the past, this church has donated approximately \$4000 per year. Contact Linda Badke ([linda.badke@rogers.com](mailto:linda.badke@rogers.com)) or Janice Elliott ([janiceelliott04@gmail.com](mailto:janiceelliott04@gmail.com)).

### **Hospitality Meals**

We are embarking on a new partnership with Bridges out of Poverty, a programme that assists those living in poverty to make positive changes in their lives.

FSA will provide space and meals three times per month. Our current hospitality meal programme wound up August 25<sup>th</sup>, with our new venture commencing in November.

Meals will continue to be held on Monday nights beginning at 5:30 in Proudfoot Hall. If you are interested in helping regularly or covering for those on holidays please contact Joanne Girvan ([jgirvan@rogers.com](mailto:jgirvan@rogers.com) or 226-663-4435).

### **LIFT (London Interfaith Team)**

Eleven downtown churches, including FSA, are involved in various projects to aid downtown residents. The three LIFT houses provide affordable housing for Londoners, and LIFT also supports the Youth Action Centre with snack food at their location on Dundas, just west of Richmond. Contact Bill Knowles (519-657-9156).

### **Mission Services, London**

The Mission Store is always in need of good used sheets, towels, pots and pans and small appliances. They may be dropped off at the store, 300 William Street, south of the CNR tracks, or call for pick-up (519-438-3056).

### **St. Paul's Daily Bread**

The Daily Bread Food Bank project provides food to over 300 families a week as well as feeding approximately 200 people every day in their Fellowship Centre. FSA donates approximately \$2500 each year through the MOE Committee and individual donations. Food and toiletry donations are collected weekly in the white baskets, as well as in the shopping cart in the Atrium.

During Advent the Little White Christmas Tree appears with tags requesting gifts for the Christmas Share Programme. Contact Jean/Bill Knowles (519-657-9156) or David Knoppert (519-668-4063).

## **ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVES**

Mission Outreach and Environment is looking for someone with a passion for and interest in the

environment. Contact Linda Badke ([linda.badke@rogers.com](mailto:linda.badke@rogers.com)) if you'd like to join our committee and keep us mindful of environmental initiatives.

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

### **Amnesty International**

The Amnesty *Write for Rights* event occurs each year on a designated Sunday after service. At this time the congregation has the opportunity to write letters, sign petitions, and add their voices to the fight against tyranny and persecution around the world. Contact Janice Elliott (519-657-7183 or [janiceelliott04@gmail.com](mailto:janiceelliott04@gmail.com)).

### **Comfort Quilts**

The Comfort Quilts group creates quilts for Project Linus. This is an organization which supplies quilts to children who are experiencing difficulties in their lives, whether it be from medical procedures, fire or domestic violence. We are a group of people with varying quilting skills. Some of us are beginners, and some have been quilting for a while. We are very happy to have new members join us on the first non-holiday Monday of the month from about 9:30am to 2:00pm. Bring a lunch and sewing equipment. Contact Jane Westmorland (519-473-1273 or [westmorland@sympatico.ca](mailto:westmorland@sympatico.ca)).

### **Grow-a-Row**

This is our 19<sup>th</sup> year—working in conjunction with St. Marys United Church (2013 was jointly our best year ever)—raising funds to help our neighbours in the Third World. The crop is grown near St. Marys on the farm of Bob Ready. The kick-off is in the spring, but envelopes are available for numerous months to contribute to this wonderful project; each dollar raised is matched 4–1 by CIDA: \$1 = \$5!! The now famous corn roast with all the trimmings will be held this year on September 7<sup>th</sup> after church—mark your calendar! Contact Bill Jean Knowles (519-657-9156) or David Knoppert (519 668-4063).

### **White Squirrel Golf Tournament**

The White Squirrel Golf Tournament, which includes dinner, a silent auction and also a nature walk, is held each year at the Ironwood Golf Club in Exeter.

The golf tournament is MOE's biggest fundraiser of the year. It is also a great opportunity to have some fun and get to know other members of the congregation!

The 9<sup>th</sup> annual tournament will be held on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Mark your calendars now and plan to come! Contact Diane Knoppert (519-668-4063).



## **TIME TO TRY OUT SOME NEW SOCIAL LIFE?**



### **SUPPER CLUB**

A group of 60 to 80 people meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month, except during the summer, for a potluck supper and programme. We each donate \$3 for dishwashing, which makes it an inexpensive and fun evening. Everyone is welcome to attend our gatherings and bring a friend. Watch for details in the bulletin and plan to join us! Contact the church office for more information (519-679-8182).

### **MEN'S BROWN BAG LUNCH**

Every Wednesday, 12:00–1:00pm, year-round, a group of men meet in the parlour to talk as they eat lunch, accompanied by prepared coffee and tea. What do they talk about? Sports, politics (carefully), our work

(and play) and religion. Contact David Flynn (519-438-9098 or [pdflynn@rogers.com](mailto:pdflynn@rogers.com)).

### **MIXED MARATHON BRIDGE GROUP**

This non-competitive group meets from October through May, with a wrap-up party in June. The schedule is arranged to suit the teams involved. Contact Jean or Jim Young (519-681-8119).

### **MOVIE NIGHT**

Please join us in the Chapel on the last Wednesday of the month, September through April (omitting December), to view a movie and discuss it afterward. Contact Anne Cummings (519-660-6106) or Deanne Pederson (519-432-1583).



## ARE YOU A WOMAN WHO LIKES TO GET INVOLVED?

### UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

*The purpose of the UCW is to unite women of the congregation for the total mission of the church and to provide a medium through which they may express their loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service.*

#### Organization

The current president is Laurel Kenney (519-439-9300).

#### Meetings Scheduled

Executive meetings

- Held on the second Friday of every month at 1:30pm.

Unit meetings

- Sept 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.
- Oct 8<sup>th</sup>, Noon potluck at Annabelle Logan's.

Annual General meeting

- Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5:00pm Proudfoot Hall, potluck.

#### Activities

##### Holly Boutique Bazaar

The Holly Boutique Bazaar, to be held on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014, uses the creative gifts of everyone to stock the gourmet, bake and crafts tables, Christmas gifts section and to do much much more. The ever-popular turkey pot pies will be available again this year, and can either be pre-ordered or purchased on the day of the bazaar. Watch the bulletin for details. Contact convenors, Glenda Robinson (519-495-3310) or Shelley Kostecki (519-657-9522).

#### Isabel Getliffe Sewing Group

The sewing group meets Wednesdays from 9:30am–2:00pm from spring until the bazaar in November. Everyone who is interested in doing hand and machine sewing, cutting and stuffing is welcome. Bring a lunch—coffee is provided. Contact Lorraine MacDonald (519-433-8815) or Dallas Knight (519-471-5274).

#### KnitWits

This friendly group of beginning/experienced knitters meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 1:30–3:00pm in the parlour. Projects include knitting warm articles of clothing for adults and children in the London community, and prayer shawls for those in emotional or physical crisis. We welcome all who enjoy knitting or anyone who would like to learn. Contact Ann Mackenzie (519-659-5055) or Marion Wilson (519-434-0530).

#### Rummage Sale

The spring rummage sale, to be held Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> 2015, 9:00am to 12:00pm, offers church members a place to recycle clothing, kitchenware, books, etc., which still have use for others. The sale also offers the community a shopping bonanza for good merchandise at an affordable price. Contact Jim and Jan Hendry (519-471-8492).

#### Marathon Bridge

The UCW invites interested ladies to sign up each fall for Marathon Bridge. Friendly, non-competitive games are played once a month, from October to May, with each partner hosting twice during the season. We welcome new players. Contact Joni Pypka (519-681-6900 or [pagegirl@rogers.com](mailto:pagegirl@rogers.com)).



## HAVE SOME SPECIAL GIFTS AND TALENTS TO SHARE?

### ARCHIVES

A committed group of individuals meets once a month to maintain our church archives. If quiet work piecing together history and searching for contextual clues in old documents appeals to you, contact Jim Hutchinson (519-471-4267).

### TIDINGS TEAM

If you like to meet and interview people, are comfortable writing brief articles, are a bit of a shutterbug, or could help solicit ads, you could fit right in with the team that puts together our quarterly newsmagazine, *Tidings*. Contact Pat McGregor (519-472-5449).