

Tidings



First-St. Andrew's United Church

VOLUME 15 ● NUMBER 3

FALL 2004

WILL AND GRACE LIVE HERE

by Rev. Dr. David McKane

Will and Grace is a popular TV comedy about two best friends. Will is gay and Grace is straight, but these two people share a special bond and their personalities balance one another. It is a comedic look at contemporary values and life styles.

Within the Christian context will and grace are two very important theological concepts. The will of God refers to God's wishes or God's intention as it applies to creation, the human community and the kingdom or commonwealth of God. When our will and God's will are in conflict there is conflict in us and in the world. When our will and God's will are in harmony there is harmony in us, between us and others, between us and creation, between us and God.

All of the great religions speak of this state of harmony and disharmony, of our will and willfulness and of the Creator's will. Within the Christian faith family the way we deal with God's will is via the kingdom of God, or God's desire that God's will should be done on earth as it is in heaven. Our understanding of justice and moral law and Christian ethics all flow from this Judeo-Christian concept of God's will.

Grace in a Christian context refers to God's unmerited, spontaneous love for us as revealed in Jesus Christ. As such it lies at the very heart of the Christian faith and is one of our most distinctive features. Grace makes us gracious, grace-full, tolerant of and kind towards the other. God is the source of such grace and Jesus embodies this grace in himself as Emmanuel, God-with us. Such grace is seen in the obedience of Jesus in extending God's grace and unconditional love to everyone. Such grace is not our right but is freely given with the expectation that it will be freely shared.



As we live out such grace we discover two things. One we become more gracious, more Christ-like, and two, God's will becomes our will and we and creation begin a process of restoration.

Grace and Will pictured on the front of Tidings are members of the FSA family. Their very names remind us that as a church we strive to teach God's will and share God's grace, strive to discern God's will and live graciously within our world and local communities.

Our Christian Development programs strive to do this on several levels. Our Mission and Outreach ventures are a tangible expression of this desire. Our financial commitment is a personal testimony that we are supportive of such a mission, and our worship is hopefully a weekly celebration of these two central pillars in the foundation of our faith.

Will and Grace live at Queens and Waterloo and daily season the city like salt and lighten our lives like laughter.

TIDINGS - A FIRST

This edition of Tidings has been printed in-house for the first time. As a result of some production glitches, it is slightly late in arriving. But the GUIDE items are still timely. Thank you for your patience.

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MEALS ON WHEELS AT 35

We congratulate our neighbour, Meals on Wheels, as it celebrates 35 years of service to London. Meals on Wheels is one of our outreach projects. We rent Farquhar House (the former Manse) to MOW for use as its head office.

MOW offers services to people who live full and independent lives in their own homes. And if you're around the church entrance, you'll see dozens of cars picking up meals to take to some of the thousand people who receive this service. More than 400 volunteers are involved.

The first meal delivery was made in 1969 from Byron United Church at the request of a local doctor, Earl Russell, who was concerned about patients coming out of the hospital without any support in place.

Today, MOW receives its support from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, United Way of London and Middlesex, individual and corporate donations and fundraising events.



Bob Vosper (standing), Jessie Vosper (seated right) and Church Administrator Sue Scorgie (seated, middle) join guests in the annual Meals on Wheels picnic on the front lawn of Farquhar House in June.

Tidings

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Submissions are accepted only from members of the First-St. Andrew's Family. The Tidings Team reserves the right to select and edit submissions. Obtain information from Group and Committee Secretaries or members of the Tidings Team. The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors, not necessarily those of First-St. Andrew's Church.

FROM THE SUMMER MAILBAG

By Rev. Dr. David McKane

Last April in response to the vandalism of Jewish cemeteries and the burning of the school library in Montreal, Susan and I wrote on behalf of FSA to the 4 local synagogues in London expressing our/your disgust and sorrow at such willful acts of hatred and intolerance. Two of the rabbis responded by phone and one by letter. The letter reads:

Dear Friends,

In April, when a series of anti-Semitic acts unsettled the Canadian Jewish community, you very kindly sent us a letter expressing both your outrage and your support.

That letter has occupied a corner of my desk for two months, and its expression of solidarity has touched me deeply.

Today, I realized that to take comfort from the letter without thanking its writers was simply unacceptable, even though the long period of silence on my part is an embarrassment to me.

Allow me, therefore, to acknowledge receipt of that letter, the contents of which are quite cherished by this recipient, and to express our thanks for your conveying your thoughts to us. Unfortunately, it was the only such letter we received, and, although that makes it even more appreciated, the silence of others makes me somewhat nervous. That you made this statement to us likewise reinforces a simple lesson for me: I have the responsibility to act as you did and to let others know that they are not alone when they are in pain. Thank you for the reminder, also.

Let's pray that the day will come soon when no one will have to write such statements of support, because the evil which prompted them will have vanished like smoke.

L'shalom,

Rabbi Joel Wittstein

Info-Line

RUMMAGE SALE OCT 30

Saleable items needed such as clothing, shoes, books, jewellery. Please drop off for sorting before Oct. 28.

HOLLY BAZAAR NOV 13

This is an opportunity to stock up on Christmas gifts. Still needed: jams, jellies, pickles, frozen foods, baking.

JOHN SPONG NOV 8

The Controversial author will be at FSA to talk about what the church means today. Tickets \$20.

ELUCO WALK SEPT 26

Sponsor a walker or be a walker. Springbank Park at the parking lot at Storybook Gardens at 2pm

DOORS OPEN OCT 2 AND 3.

We open our doors to let Londoners see what a treasure we have in FSA

A EUROPEAN ODYSSEY

by Paul Merritt

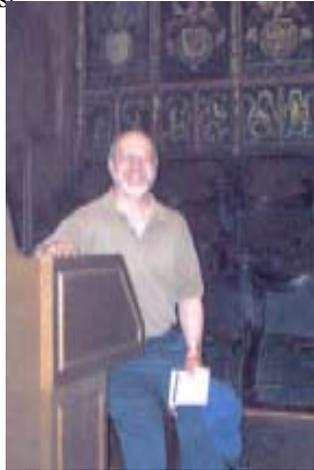
As part of our extra time away this summer, Enid and I traveled to Europe for a month, visiting England, Ireland, Spain and southern France. We saw many wonderful sights and here are just a few of the highlights.

We were in Dublin, Ireland for just a few days to take in some of the James Joyce celebrations of "Bloomsday" (the day on which his novel Ulysses takes place). Seeing the Book of Kells, the place where Handel's Messiah was first performed, and meeting the friendliest people on earth, made this a memorable visit indeed.

We enjoyed a similarly brief visit to Barcelona, Spain. What a city this is! The architecture of native son Gaudi is spectacular and unique, and we saw a number of interesting churches and organs.

From Barcelona we went to the South of France near Perpignan, where we stayed for two weeks. We were able to tour by car here and visited vineyards, castles, beaches and many historic churches before flying back to England to stay with relatives who live just outside London. We took the train into London a number of times and renewed acquaintance with the National Gallery, the Globe Theatre, the National Portrait Gallery and the Tate, while seeing the Tate Modern, the Victoria and Albert Museum and the British library for the first time.

However, it was good to return to "our" London after this memorable few weeks. We are very grateful to the congregation of FSA for making this opportunity possible and hope to share our experiences with many of you in the weeks ahead.



JOINING HANDS

Have you ever tried to sing to one beat, clap hands to another and move your feet to yet another? Well, South Africa's spirited Polokwane Choral Society did just that, energizing an audience of more than 500 people at FSA in June. The choir, founded 25 years ago performed a repertoire that included tradition tribal songs, songs from the struggle against apartheid and hymns from various black church traditions.



(Above) The Polokwane Choral Society was joined, in one of their numbers, by members of the Amabile Boys Choir.

(Below) members of the group display some of their energetic choreogra-



Polokwane Choir leaders and members put on a seminar for youth, before and after their performance, in the Lower Hall. The attentive groups included the Amabile singers and the Clinton, Iowa, High School Accapella Choir from the U.S. who were on a cross-Canada tour.

175TH ANNIVERSARY ON THE HORIZON.

By Ted Kostecki

Planning has started in preparation for the 175th anniversary in 2007. This will be a wonderful year of celebration of the history and work of First-St. Andrew's.

But plans have to be made and events coordinated. And to be successful, such an event requires the participation and help of as many people as possible. Hopefully, everyone in our congregation will play a part in it.

I'm in the process of doing some of the very early planning and I'm hoping there are others who share my enthusiasm. If you're interested, please let me know what your interest is, or what project you have in mind, and there will be a place for you. For example, we hope to put together a history book. This project is in the hands of a very active Archives Committee headed by Jim Hutchinson. His corps of helpers is already out interviewing members of the congregation who have special memories of this church.



Be part of ensuring the future of First-St. Andrew's United Church through a planned gift.

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN OF FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S

by Jean Comfort

Our Purpose

To unite the women of the congregation for the total mission of the church and to provide a medium through which we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service.

How do we try to fulfill this purpose?

We meet each month for worship, study, work, and friendly camaraderie as we plan and grow together. There are three opportunities available:

1. The Thursday Evening Unit meets in the Parlour at 7:30 pm the first Thursday of the month.
2. The Tuesday Evening Unit meets in the Parlour at 7:00 pm the third Tuesday of the month.
3. The Wednesday Morning Unit meets at 1 Grosvenor St. in the "Bridge Room" at 10 am on the second Wednesday of the month.

Changes of date, time and place do occur when circumstances dictate.

You are invited to join any or all of these units as we learn and work together and have fun.

September 2004 Meetings

September 21, Tuesday Evening unit will enjoy Dessert together at 7:00 pm. A shower of gifts for Helen Mahabir's new daughter is planned. Contact Mary Vernon at 657-7568

Sources of our UCW income and how this money is distributed:

1. We receive gifts as bequests from former members. These are invested wisely and the interest is used annually.
2. Regular Green Envelope givings and "Phantom Tea" project in the spring.
3. Unit projects - e.g. Marathon Bridge, catering for special events, financial contributions to funds such as: Medical Electives, Fellowship of the Least Coin, sale of crafts, etc.
4. Rummage Sales in spring & fall.
5. The Holly Bazaar.
6. Others - funeral receptions, rentals, etc.

Distribution:

1. Our annual donation to the Mission & Service Fund is \$15,000 and our share of Conference and Presbyterial Expenses is \$250.
- *2. Priority I - gifts are made annually to six local organizations in January - total \$3,200.
- *3. Priority II - 10 other organizations receive donations after the annual meeting if funds are available - total \$2,623.

*These figures are in the 2004 Budget. Greater detail is available in the F.S.A. Annual Report 2004 on pages 32, 33, 34.

Projects for Fall of 2004 sponsored by UCW and supported by all of us.

1. Rummage Sale - Saturday October 30th from 9 - 12 Noon

We need saleable items - clean clothing (for all ages - men, women and children); shoes, books, jewellery, kitchen items, toys, books, furniture, etc. etc.

We need helpers to provide the items, to help sort on October 28 and 29. and to sell! sell! sell!

The more hands to serve, the more profit we make.

2. Holly Bazaar - will be held on Saturday, November 13th from 9 am - 1 pm

We will have wonderful items for everyone to purchase, such as: jams, jellies, pickles and frozen food, handcrafted decorative items, and sewn and knitted gift items. As well, there will be things for pets and things for children to buy. Of course, our famous tables of Baking, Treasures and Jewellery will be overflowing. You are also invited to visit CAFÉ Noel for tea or a light lunch after shopping. Everyone is welcome to get involved by contributing any hand made or other suitable items of your choice. This is a major project of FSA. Please come to

THE HOLLY BAZAAR.



Jean Comfort (right), UCW President this year, joins other UCW members at the General Meeting in June.



One of the beneficiaries of the FSA UCW outreach program is Rev. Betty Sangster, who was a member and a candidate for ministry from FSA. A capital grant has been sent to help build the Hagensborg United Church in B.C. The groundbreaking (left) for the addition took place this summer. That's Betty kneeling in front. Earlier, our UCW helped with funding in the construction of Betty's new church in Bella Coola

Changes...

**First-St. Andrew's United Church:
a Christian Family encouraging spiritual
growth through worship, friendship, learning
and action**

MARRIAGES

*"Love is always supportive, loyal, helpful and trusting.
Love never fails!"*

May 8 - Erin Crookes and Matthew Pearson
June 5 - Tina McFadden and Stephen Goneau
June 25 - Lori Van Houtteghen and Jason McIntyre
June 26 - Sarah Mansell and Kristian LeMay
July 24 - Allison Listarand and Timoty Silcox
July 31 - Shawna Audet and Clint Fisher
Aug. 7 - Janet Davies and Jeff Holmes
Aug. 7 - Laura Barker and Michael Kennedy
Aug. 21 - Ofelia Tolentino and Jeremy Manning
Aug. 28 - Cynthia Hudson and Paul Grigg
Sept. 4 - Jennifer Neron and Michael Cooney

BAPTISMS

"I will be with you always, even until the end of the world"

Kaylah Eve Boorman, child of Rachel Conron and Scott Boorman
Samuel Gordon Neron, child of Jennifer Neron and Michael Cooney
Serena Kathryn Spencer, child of Kari and Andrew Spencer

A MID-SUMMER'S ENCOUNTER

By Ted Kostecki

We had all just finished our lemonade on the front lawn of First-St. Andrew's on one of those (rare) warm Sundays after the service. Most of the congregation had gone home and the Volunteer Group was gathering up the empty jugs and foam cups.

One of our FSA members had been standing on the sidewalk on Queens Ave for some time looking at the front of the church.

I walked over to see if there was a problem. Did he spot a hole in the new steeple cladding? Or was there some other problem?

"That's my church" he said. "But it doesn't belong to just me. It belongs to everyone over there having lemonade and everyone at home. And to the community."

"And every one of us is standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before and had lemonade on this lawn. And I'm just standing here remembering them." He said these words in such a poignant way.

"Them, of course", he said, "are the people who planned the church, who built it, who kept it in great repair, who supported it with their time and energy, who gave us this place where we can pray, and rejoice and celebrate so that we can stand on this lawn and have lemonade".

"We are all standing on their shoulders and we should all remember that".

He reminded me that these people had left a great legacy behind. And we should seriously consider the legacy we leave behind.

DEATHS

"Well done good and faithful servant."

May 20, 2004 - Reginald Arthur Hill
May 30, 2004 - Catherine Scott
June 5, 2004 - Mary Ellen Fellows
June 10, 2004 - Harvey Bailey
June 11, 2004 - Noble Stevenson
June 23, 2004 - Anna Marion Rankin
June 24, 2004 - John Stewart McKim
Aug. 26, 2004 - Charles Alexander Thompson

GOODBYE & GODSPEED

*"May kindness and peace be yours from Jesus Christ,
the faithful witness."*

Peggy Williams is leaving First-St. Andrew's to live in Toronto. It will be the first time in 150 years that her family has not been part of the church.

The family connection began when Peggy's great grandparents, the MacDonalds, arrived in the early 1850s. Their daughter, Flora, married William Carson, Peggy's grandfather. Peggy's father was the eldest of Flora's six children. They had 6 children one being Peggy's father William.

William Carson married Pearl Ashwell. Peggy, who was born in Toronto, came back to London to be baptized.

Peggy and husband Carl, then president of UWO, moved back to London in 1967 when she rejoined FSA. She is the last remaining MacDonald descendant and is now moving back to Toronto to be closer to her daughter.



Pat Sole accepts flowers in June from Barb Plante, chair of the Ministry and Personnel Committee. Looking on are Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad, Church Administrator Sue Scorgie and FSA council chair Doug Jones.

STRAWBERRIES ON THE LAWN

On a beautiful Sunday in June, after the service, Strawberries on the Lawn replaced Lemonade on the Lawn and dozens of FSA members enjoyed strawberries and ice cream. The preparations were made by were members of the Circle of Friends. It was wonderful day of community. And the strawberries weren't too bad, either.



THE BELLS WERE RINGING....

There were more than 600 Bell Ringers and they were ringing for several thousand people who were in the Air Canada Centre in Toronto in August for the final concert of the International Handbell Symposium. The audience included a bus load of people from FSA.



(Above) Ringers from as far away as Japan filled the floor of the Air Canada Centre.



(Left) Laudamus Bells Conductor Barb Plante during rehearsals. Barb led the massed choir in performance of the Canadian composition "Borealis".



(Left) The Laudamus Bells of First-St. Andrew's United.

(Below) Susan Carscadden-Mifsud in performance with the Bellissima Ringers.



INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

(Left) The group "Bleu" rocked the sanctuary, putting on four performances here during the International Children's Festival in June.



(Right) Lyn Carapella (right) and daughter Olivia (centre) joined in on the dancing.



CHAOS, ORDER AND COMPLEXITY: THE HOLY SPIRIT MOVES IN WONDROUS WAYS

by David Flynn

"You can't depend on anything anymore. Someone at Council suggests a change and off we go in a new direction. I don't know what we stand for anymore."

"The trouble with this Church is that we're too conservative. Whenever a new member makes a suggestion, an older one says, 'We tried that before and it didn't work.'"

"I remember when FSA was at the forefront of new projects in London. We were willing to experiment and yet everything we did clearly reflected our Christian mission."

Recently, I have become very interested in a new approach to organizations derived from complexity science. This approach identifies three phases for all social systems, including, I believe, First-St. Andrew's. The three phases, corresponding to the three (fictional) quotes above, are known as chaos, order and complexity.

During the phase of chaos the system responds to every idea by dashing off madly in a new direction. It is difficult to find any central core of belief. The ordered phase is quite the opposite. The structure tends to be quite bureaucratic and rigid, resisting almost all pressures to change. This phase may be quite dangerous during times of outside change, since ordered systems are less able to adapt.

In the complex phase, there is a good combination of flexibility and predictability. When this region was first discovered it was known as the "edge of chaos," since it occurs within the region of order but close to the boundary with chaos. It is in this area that new systems and new forms emerge.

In many ways, the region of complexity is the healthiest place to be, and it seems that there is an underlying spirit which has pushed nature to gradually evolve into this region of complexity. On the other hand, during stable times, there is also a tendency for social systems to become overly ordered, leaving them vulnerable to failure when conditions change in the rest of society.

It also seems that before an organization can move from order back into complexity, it is necessary first to go through a period of chaos, with all its lack of clear direction. Because the processes are so complicated and complex, most investigators of complexity agree that much of what goes on as systems move among the three regions is impossible to analyze. At the same time, there are ways to encourage and speed up change from one type of region to another.

Complexity science, then, seems to indicate that there is a mysterious force at work in the universe, a kind of holy spirit, which helps move all of nature into more complex and more creative directions.

For First-St. Andrew's this means, I am convinced, that while we should let this holy spirit move us forward, we need to be prepared for interim periods of chaos, and be careful about becoming too ordered. Perhaps it becomes a kind of voyage of faith.

RUN THE CHURCH FOR A DAY

Celebrate a special occasion with a \$100 donation to help pay the operation costs of our the church Call the office at 679-8182 for more information.

FSA Program Guide

Fall 2004

WORSHIP

Sept 12 9:00 & 10:30 am
 Recovenanting Sunday
 Guest Speaker: Rev. Stephen Mparinkoi

Sept 19 9:00 am & 10:30 am
 Rev. Dr. David McKane

Sept 26 9:00 am & 10:30 am
 Welcome Back Sunday
 Baptism
 Rev. Dr. David McKane

Oct. 3 9:00 am & 10:30 am
 World Wide Communion Sunday
 Dr. David McKane

Oct. 10 9:00 am & 10:30 am
 Thanksgiving Sunday
 Rev. Dr. David McKane

Oct. 17 9:00 am & 10:30 am.
 Food Day
 Rev. Susan Shelstad

Oct. 24 9:00 am & 10:30 am.
 Music Appreciation Sunday
 Rev. David McKane

Oct. 31 9:00 am & 10:30 am
 Rev. David Mckane

Nov. 7 9:00 am & 10:30 am
 Remembrance Day Sunday
 Rev. David McKane

Nov. 14 10:30am only Celebration Sunday
 New Members Sunday
 Rev. David McKane and Rev. Susan Shelstad

Nov. 21 10:30 am only
 Anniversary Sunday
 Preacher: Donna Sinclair
 Salvation Army Band

Nov. 28 9:00 am & 10:30 am
 1st of Advent
 Lessons and Carols

Dec. 5 9:00 am & 10:30 am
 2nd of Advent
 Communion

Dec. 12 9:00 am and 10:30 am
 3rd of Advent
 Rev. Susan Shelstad

Dec. 19 9:00 am and 10:30 am
 4th of Advent
 Rev. David McKane

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve
 7pm Pageant
 10pm Candlelight Communion
 Rev. David Mckane

Dec. 26 1st of Christmas
 Preacher: Richard Bain



During the summer months, worship services were held in the Lower Hall, where it was cooler and a bit more informal.. On the Labour Day weekend, we had three Baptisms.

MUSIC



FALL CONCERTS

A UWO CHORAL CELEBRATION

CHOIRS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WEST-ERN ONTARIO

Saturday October 23

8pm

Admission: \$10 & \$5.

AN EVENING OF JAZZ

With Sonja Gustafson and Friends

Saturday November 6

8pm

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CHURCH SCHOOL

Regular church school program will begin on Sun. Sept. 12th at the 10:30 a.m. service. Teachers and helpers are always needed, so if you can help, please speak to Chris and Monique.

Check out the new Children's Library off the Fireside Room!

Church School Coordinators: Chris and Monique Silcox (293-



CRADLE ROLL

A kit called *Growing in God's Love* is sent to families with a new baby to help celebrate important events to age 3.

Coordinator: Nancy Stanlick (451-9491)

NURSERY

Our nursery is available at both services for infants to two years. The nursery room is next door to the Chapel on the main floor.

Coordinator: Judy Cull

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

TEENS IN TRANSIT (TNT)

For young people in grades 7 and 8. This group meets on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am in the Upper Room during the regular church school year.

Leader: Nancy Howard (289-0540)

TEEN CONFIRMATION CLASS

A new class will begin meeting this fall.

If you are about to enter grade 9, you are eligible for confirmation.

Call to register at 679-8182 by Tues. Oct. 12th.

YOUTH COUNCIL

The Youth Council is run by the young people of the congregation under the supervision of Debbie Maund and Erin Linforth, and supported by the Christian Development Committee. They decide on programs, activities, and worship that is relevant to them.

Advisors: Debbie Maund (679-0716) & Erin Linforth

ADULT DEVELOPMENT

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Rabbi Jesus: The Matthean Community Re-members The Rabbi From Nazareth.

Sunday mornings from 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. beginning Sept. 19th.

Please join this lively and friendly group as we explore the attempt of a late 1st century community to find meaning in the life, death, and memory of the man from Galilee.

Leader: Dr. Jo Ann Silcox (642-2152)

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

10 am in the Parlour. This popular lectionary Bible Study group is guaranteed to make you laugh and help you grow in your Christian faith. Why not join us? We begin the fall season on Thurs. Sept. 9th.

Leader: Susan Shelstad (679-8182)

DREAM GROUP

Come and discover the amazing world of your dreams. We meet usually on the last Friday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Parlour. For more information, contact Anne Cunningham (433-9663) or Susan Shelstad (679-8182).

LABYRINTH WALK

Our next walk will be on Sunday, November 28th at 7 p.m. in the Lower Hall.



SPIRITUALITY ON TAP

An informal evening of a movie and discussion about faith in a pub setting. The movie is at Rainbow Cinemas. The pub is the Elephant & Castle.

Both are at Galleria Mall. Watch the announcement insert for dates, movies and times.



NEW OFFERINGS FROM THE CD COMMITTEE THIS FALL:

*Book study on Tom Harpur's new book, [The Pagan Christ](#).

Wed. Sept. 22nd, Wed. Sept. 29th and Wed. Oct. 6th at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

*Book study on Bishop Spong's, [A New Christianity for a New World](#), in preparation for his visit to FSA on Mon. Nov. 8th.

Wed. Oct. 13th, 20th, and 27th at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

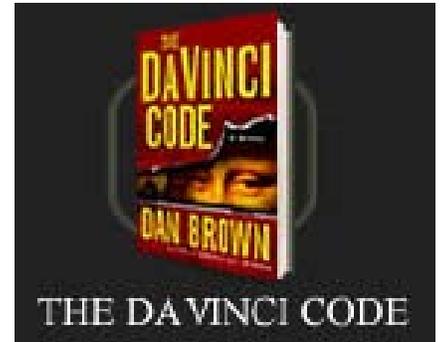


*Dr. James Schmeiser of King's College will again lead a series here at FSA on Wed. Nov. 3rd, Wed. Nov. 10th and Wed. Nov. 24th at 7:30 p.m. in the Parlour. This series is called "**The Prodigal Story**." Register by calling the church at 679-8182.

Registration fee - \$25.00 per person.

COMING THIS WINTER:

*A closer look at [The Da Vinci Code](#) by Dan Brown. We'll explore some of the interesting topics included in this bestselling mystery novel.



OTHER LIBRARY

Our church library contains many wonderful things — good books for all ages, videos, and periodicals — all for your use. Come in and check us out! New material arriving all the time.

CD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Donations to this fund are used to help children, young people and adults attend programs and events such as youth retreats, camp, and Conference events. The fund is currently depleted after sending several children to camps this summer. Your help is appreciated.

PASTORAL CARE

In addition to the pastoral care provided by David McKane and Susan Shelstad, members of our congregation reach out to others in a variety of ways.

CARE FOR THE CAREGIVER

This group is for those who find themselves in the role of caregiver, and who are feeling a bit overwhelmed. Please contact Heather Bedford (685-1714) or JoAnn Silcox (642-2152) for

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 30 who maintain contact with the members of our congregation on a regular basis, and especially at birthdays and holiday times. If you are interested in becoming involved in this very rewarding experience, please call David McKane (679-8182)

PRAYER CHAIN

Do you need prayers for yourself or others? Call Pat at the office (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.

COUNSELLING TEAM

There is a counselling service available to FSA members staffed voluntarily by the following: Kerry Hill, a management consultant and career counsellor, detailed vocational assessment by appointment when mutually convenient; Ardath Finnbogason-Hill, a nurse-educator with considerable experience in personal counselling, and Jo Ann Silcox, a psychiatrist, work as a team to provide initial assessment and follow-through counselling for individuals, couples, families or groups facing personal transitional crises. Referrals may be made through Ardath Hill at 657-3000.

RIDES FOR SENIORS

If you need a ride to and from church and/or church events, please call Helen and Bill Cockshutt (858-9454).

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Every Sunday, following our 9:15 am and 11:00 am worship services, the congregation is invited to remain for refreshment and the deepening of friendship. 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 needed to make and serve coffee and to clean up.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

A Baptismal preparation session is held prior to every Baptism (usually the Thursday evening) to prepare the parents who are bringing their children for Baptism. We explore the meaning of Baptism, and prepare for the Sunday service. The Sacrament of Baptism will be administered again Sept. 26. Call the church office if interested. (679-8182).

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Stewardship Mission Outreach is involved in the Hospitality Meals, preparing baby layettes, organizing food collection for the Youth Action Centre and St. Paul's Daily Bread, actively supporting the ELUCOC in special projects, working with St. Marys United Church in support of the Canadian Food Grains Bank, and occupying a chair on their board, sending two members to the LIFT Council meetings and more.

HOSPITALITY MEALS

This program runs year round on Mondays, 5:30 p.m. providing hospitality meals for more than 100 persons. One hundred or more volunteers have been involved, many of them from other churches. We are looking for team leaders for the fall. For information, contact Donna Travis, 672-6116, or the church office, 679-8182

FOOD BANK CONTRIBUTIONS

Please keep in mind the Committee's food collection for St. Paul's DAILY BREAD. Baby food is also a special need and may be left at any time. Baskets are placed at the entrance of the Chapel, and Narthex and Atrium entrances of the Sanctuary where you may leave your donations. Financial contributions are also welcome. Thank you for helping others!

GROW-A-ROW PROJECT

Over the past five years, money has been provided for the Canadian Food Grains Program through the efforts of St. Marys United Church and FSA. The donations are matched 4:1 by CIDA. This summer, the project is using a farm outside London owned by Tom McLarty. Over the last four years, the congregations of FSA and St. Marys United have donated about \$84,000 to the Grow-A-Row project and when matched by the government, that means \$420,000 worth of food was shipped to countries where the need is high.



Bill Knowles stands beside the sign showing the location of this year's Grow A Row. You can see it for yourself on Richmond Street, north of Arva, at Nine Mile Road.

BIFOCALS

Bifocals resumes in the fall. Last season finished with a Talent Night and the new season promises another full schedule of events beginning October 25, and continuing November 23. Get ready to come and enjoy good food, warm fellowship, plea sing song and varied programs. New members and guests are always welcome. Call Shirley Wynne, 474-4788, or June McKay, 471-5668, for information.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

All persons twenty and over who enjoy fun are invited to join with the Circle of Friends. Look for information in the weekly bulletin. Contact Ann MacPhail for more information at 645-8867.

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 we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service. First-St. Andrew's has three units meeting monthly as follows:

The first Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlour

The second Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. at 1 Grosvenor Gate

The third Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the church parlour

New members are always welcome.

BRIDGE GROUP

The Marathon Bridge Group is ready to resume and is looking for players for the sessions. If you're interested, call Jim or Jean Young at 681-8119. And watch the bulletin for more information



A FINAL WORD

Fall 2004

FROM THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL WELCOME BACK!

On behalf of Council, to the FSA family and friends, **Welcome Back**. We trust that you have had a truly enjoyable and refreshing time with family and friends during the summer months. Even though it was a bit cooler this summer than for the past 50 years in London and much of Canada, I've talked to many who enjoyed the summer and activities not encumbered with high temperatures and accompanying humidity. The variety can be good. We also remember that for some there was sadness and loss, such as for the family and friends of long time members of our Congregation like Charles Thompson at the age of 96, whose funeral was held on August 30th.

During the summer, we were again treated to a wealth of musical talent, as Paul and the Choir(s) took their much deserved break. Particular thanks to the various members of the Kennedy family who exhibited their multiple musical talents while Paul was on an extended study leave to some of the classical musicians and cathedrals of Europe. We look forward to some new inspirations from his experiences.

David and Susan alternated summer months of service and vacation while providing leadership for the summer and hopefully have also been refreshed for the start of an exciting year. To all, including the ushers, greeters and providers of lemonade and juice "on-the-lawn", a heart-felt THANK YOU from your family at FSA.

As we headed into our fall season, we celebrated our service on September 12 with our sister congregation from St. Mary's, with whom we share the "Grow-a-Row" project. We shared some of Ontario's other "fall bounty" with a corn roast. Many members from both congregations participated in the luncheon and heard more about one of our many successful outreach projects.

Also, as you may know, we are in the planning stages for our 175th anniversary year in 2007. During the fall there will be information sessions and many opportunities for members to participate in the planning for this celebration of our past historic, theological and personal underpinnings.

Council is very aware of our financial deficit and is developing plans to reduce it as well as improving the long-term financial health of FSA. We look forward to your participation in this fall's financial campaign run by Wendy Thompson and Ian Wright, the co-leaders.

Council hopes you had a very happy and healthy summer and are rejuvenated for the new season. I remind you that the Council meetings are held on the second Tuesday evening of the months September through June, and that all Council meetings are open to congregational members.

Respectfully,
Doug Jones
Chair of Council
September, 2004



First-St. Andrew's Ministry
Rev. Dr. David McKane: Minister of Worship and Administration
Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad: Minister of Christian Development
Paul Merritt: Director of Music
Ted Kosteci: Community Development Coordinator
Sue Scorgie: Church Administrator
Maureen Scarborough: Secretary/Receptionist
Rusty Robertson: Custodian