

Tidings



First-St. Andrew's United Church

VOLUME 17 ● NUMBER 2

SUMMER 2007

A THIN PLACE

Rev. Dr. David McKane



On Christian Family Sunday, a.k.a. Mother's Day, Gavin McGregor heard a young member of FSA exclaim to her mother, "Mummy, isn't this a beautiful place?" (see Gavin's account in the adjoining column)

This *is* a beautiful place. We do not always take time to ponder that, to appreciate that. We work hard at making our programs interesting and our mission relevant but we often overlook the ministry of the building itself. And believe me, the building has its own ministry.

This is a beautiful place. Our prayer for all of our members, regardless of age, is that this will also be a safe place, a place where persons are valued and cherished as they journey through life; that this will be a welcoming place for all persons, a place where we are not only made welcome but become welcoming persons ourselves, open to the gifts of others; that this will be a healing place, a place where we can find a quiet centre and recharge our depleted batteries and find also a community that cares and affirms that we are not alone, especially at those fragile and difficult moments in life; that this will be a thin place where we can encounter God in a variety of ways.

For 175 years it has been so for countless generations. It is what makes FSA a beautiful place.



Two young angels that help make FSA such a beautiful place: Naomi Tufts and Jade Mahabir

A BEAUTIFUL PLACE

by Gavin McGregor



The Christian Family Sunday service had reached the stage where five wee boys were ready to be baptized. As I looked around, I noticed a young couple with a little girl sitting at the end of the pew near the East "healing" window. They had not been there at our greeting session, so I thought they must have been held up by the Forest City Marathon and slipped quietly into a seat under the balcony.

The baptisms were over. The singing of the choir, along with the sunlight diffusing brilliant colours through the windows gave me a sense of well being. Then, as if part of my reverie, a voice whispered softly and clearly, "Mummy, isn't this a beautiful place?" I looked along the row and there was the little girl, her face beaming as she looked around the church... what bliss!

As David McKane, in his sermon, pointed out the Window of Healing, illustrating Jesus healing the sick man beside the pool, I again saw her little face carefully taking in the scene.

At the end of the service she was still absorbed by the window. Her parents were getting ready to leave so I slid along the seat to say hello, and remarked to the girl, "So! you think the church is a beautiful place." "Yes I do." she replied, "But quick, take a look at all the faces in the window". She started counting, and suddenly the many other characters around the pool began to appear, bringing new meaning to the scene.

The parents were eager to go, so I returned to enjoying the wonders of our special place and the magic of Family Sunday seen through the eyes of a little child.

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EDITOR'S MESSAGE



Going into the World

by David Flynn

As we move through the season of Pentecost and into summer holidays and travel, we are inspired by the spirit we sense in the 'thin places' where God seems close. Both David McKane's Front Page and Gavin McGregor's story of the child viewing one of our Stained Glass Healing windows, refer to our church building as one of those thin

places.

The other stories—God's Steward Marg Hamilton, newcomers Bob and Linda Kennedy, the multigenerational Fysh family, Ignatius Cockshutt and his Christian family values—refer to people who walk with God into the world.

The other accounts and reports in this issue reflect a church aware of its past but eager to go out of our beautiful building and carry the spirit of FSA with us. Susan Shelstad's summary of the results of the spring survey (See the Final Word) seem to confirm that we are, indeed, a congregation *Where liberal theology meets the best of tradition*.

Again, the FSA website www.fsaunited.com will have this issue online next week.

Tidings

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Where Liberal Theology meets the best of tradition

MARCUS BORG AT FSA



First-St. Andrew's continues in its attempt to bring in the best speakers possible for its annual Proudfoot Lecture series. This year, Marcus Borg, a best-selling writer and one of the most influential voices in progressive Christianity will speak at First-St. Andrew's November 5th at 7:30pm.

Borg advocates entering into relationship with God as more important than belief about God. He is said to have an understanding of God, which sees God as

both indwelling in everything and transcendent. He teaches that a historical-metaphorical approach to the Bible is more meaningful for today's world than the historical-grammatical approach or that of biblical literalism.

There is no reserved seating and tickets are \$25.

THE BIG CIRCLE BREAKFAST A BIG HIT



Sunday school coordinators Chris and Monique Silcox and the Children of the Church organized a highly successful congregational breakfast on Palm Sunday.

The top picture shows the crew at work in the kitchen to produce what we see in the bottom picture: waffles and bacon.

The proceeds from the will-offering went to the Los Quinchos Project.



Info-Line

WHITE SQUIRREL GOLF TOURNAMENT

by Paul Mansell

Not a great golfer—but like having fun? This party is for you!!!

Saturday July 28th 2:00 pm at Exeter's Ironwood Golf Course is FSA's White Squirrel best ball Golf Tournament. Green fees, electric cart, dinner and silent auction: **\$100 each, all inclusive**. All proceeds to Los Quinchos School for street children. Come for it all or just for dinner (\$35 each).

For more details, including a registration form, go to the Bulletin Board on the FSA website (www.fsaunited.ca)—or phone David Knoppert, 519-688-4063.

Come and be with the fun lovin' crowd from FSA—and bring your friends.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION UPDATE

By Donna Ellis



How quickly the fourteen months of celebration in honour of our 175 years are passing. We are more than half way through our celebrating! It continues to be a wonderful year with many activities.

One of the highlights of this spring was the release of Don Jones' DVD entitled "Stories in Stained Glass". If you haven't picked up a copy, I urge you to do so. Don has done a marvelous job of highlighting the meaning and significance of our sanctuary windows. Having seen the DVD, I think the First-St. Andrew's family will begin to look at the windows in an entirely different way. Our awareness, appreciation and insight will change! Thanks to Don for creating what will become part of the legacy that is First-St. Andrew's. Many thanks, as well, to all those who worked with Don to make the project so successful.

We also celebrated spring with marvelous music. Paul Merrit, along with the choirs and music groups, have helped to make us all joyful through their ongoing gifts of music ministry. The very successful concert series provided a wonderful outreach to the community at large.

On the subject of outreach, the Anniversary Committee invited all our FSA business neighbours to lunch on June 22nd. Representatives from the surrounding businesses on the block came to help us celebrate in another way our 175 years at the heart of downtown London. It is our hope that our gathering helped those who work on the block to feel part of the celebration and that our time together continued to foster the positive neighbourly relationships that are vital to the working of the church. (It probably didn't hurt that we also used this opportunity to showcase our new Proudfoot Hall!)

Summer is upon us and during that time we collectively pause and take time to rejuvenate. Certainly it is the hope of the Anniversary Committee that the summer provides some opportunity for quiet time and reflection. Get rested up for the fall because our last few months of anniversary celebrations are jam packed with exciting events! See you then...

AN UPDATED DIRECTORY

Editing is now underway for the new photo and phone directory. Our thanks especially to Ron and Annabelle Logan who coordinated the appointments for the photographs early in May--and to all the volunteers who helped make the process run smoothly. Look for an announcement in the Fall when the directories become available.



Ron and Annabelle Logan at the registration table for the photo sessions

ALEX FARQUHAR RETURNS TO SPEAK

by Ellen McKim



For those who knew Alex Farquhar during his Ministry from 1964 to 1980 at FSA, Sunday, April 29th was a memorable occasion when he returned from his retirement home in Halifax to address the congregation. For others, it was an opportunity to become acquainted with a truly gentle man, full of grace, warmth, knowledge and wisdom.

As a young boy he damaged his vocal cords in a mishap, leaving him with a rusty, husky voice. A source of embarrassment for him—and his mother, who constantly reminded him to "watch your voice." With determination, he diligently trained his voice by practising tone and enunciation, eventually and unexpectedly leading him to the ministry, where he became one of Canada's outstanding preachers.

He was accompanied by his wife Glennis—to whom Marion Wilson presented a prayer shawl made by the Knit Wits—and his seven adult children (See Don Farquhar's article on growing up in the manse in the last issue of Tidings).

We wish him good health and happiness in his retirement.



Above: The Farquhar clan came from across the country to gather together at FSA



Right: Marion Wilson presents Glennis Farquhar with a prayer shawl made by the Knit Wits on behalf of First-St. Andrew's

GOD'S STEWARD:

MARGARET (MCQUEEN) HAMILTON

by Mary McKim



Marg was featured on the front page of the 1999 Advent Tidings in a story by daughter Sue, but agreed to an update. Some of the information here is from the earlier writeup.

Since 1929 four generations of her family have attended FSA, and she and all her children were baptized and confirmed here, as well as several grandchildren. A brass flower urn is inscribed in memory of her father Jack and son Spence, who both died in 1951. Husband, Roy, an elder for twenty-five years, died in 1998.

In 1938, when a member of the Youth Group, Margaret successfully petitioned the Church Board to allow dancing in the church for the first time.



Margaret's more recent presentation on the church's stained glass windows and ceiling symbols to the Wednesday morning UCW group soon after my return to FSA, persuaded me to join that group. As partners in this year's Ladies Bridge Group, we lost only one game!

Marg lived in her William street home for fifty-six years until son John's marriage two years ago. Prior to that event she fell, injuring her back, and was also diagnosed with pneumonia. She attended the ceremony from hospital, wearing her long dress, but in a wheelchair with oxygen tank attached! She then moved into a cosy apartment in Masonville Manor where she is "content" and happy not to be shopping and preparing meals. She misses her garden, and related that once Roy presented her with a load of topsoil for Mother's Day!

On thrice weekly renal dialysis since 1994, and plagued by other health problems such as a recent painful bout of shingles, Marg attends services and other events when she feels able. She continues to maintain her warm, friendly and cheerful demeanour. Marg, we salute you!



Left: Michael Roberts and Ray Egan spent hours pulling apart the palms in preparation for Palm Sunday. The pair has taken on the responsibility of decorating the sanctuary

MULTIGENERATIONAL FAMILIES

The Fyshes: Hand to Hand

by Jean (Fysh) Young



Four generations giving a 'hand' at FSA. My father Murray Fysh came from First Church to be an elder at FSA. One of his responsibilities was guiding parents and children to the font for baptism. I was baptized there as well as our two children, Laurie and David, and our grandsons, Aidan and Alex. I received welcoming handshakes when I joined FSA (1958), as did Laurie (1985) and David (1988).

My father's sister, Jean Fysh, was very involved in First Church and continued to lend a helping hand in the FSA Nursery—where her picture still is. As her namesake I like to think her gift of loving and nurturing children was passed on. Jim and I taught Sunday school for several years, which our children also attended.

My mother, Florence Fysh, was active in Delta Ro. She was a wonderful cook and made many a casserole for events. She did not sew but made tea for the quilters. I, on the other hand, am not the greatest cook but love to sew and am a member of the Isabel Getliffe sewing group.

My parents were one of the original six FSA couples who founded a bridge club in the early 40s. Murray hand painted bridge tallies which are now collectors' items.

All four generations enjoyed the music here. Jim's and my marriage in 1967 was the last wedding with the organ at the front. Since we recorded our wedding we can still hear Barrie Cabena and the voices of the choir from forty years ago. In 2001, our daughter Laurie walked down the same aisle to join her hand in marriage with Jeff Moore. Our son David played violin with the FSA strings and Jim has sung bass in the choir since 1977.

....Passed from hand to hand—four generations of memories at FSA.

PALM SUNDAY AT FSA



Above: The children and youth of the church paraded into church on Palm Sunday holding the palms

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!"*

March 11, 2007 Lucy Medeiros and Jason Marino
 May 12, 2007 Kristin Classen and Dean Floyd
 May 26, 2007 Aisha Ahmed and Tim McPhee
 May 26, 2007 David Hiebert and Paul Cooper
 June 16, 2007 Steven Lovenjak and Erin Mickle

BAPTISMS

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

May 13, 2007
 Ashton Blake Boorman child of Scott & Rachel Boorman
 Alex Alfred Murray Moore child of Jeff & Laurie Moore
 Cameron William Muise child of Kyle & Jennifer Muise
 Brayden Avery William Oldham child of Tim & Karen Oldham
 Andrew Dawson Richardson child of David & Joanne Richardson

June 17, 2007
 Ella Rose Way child of David & Elisa Way

DEATHS

"Well done good and faithful servant."

February 24, 2007 Mary Reddon Leslie
 March 1, 2007 Lillian Enid Knoppert
 March 10, 2007 Eileen Mae Archer
 March 24, 2007 Ralph Stewardson Charles Peterson
 March 29, 2007 Charles Peterson
 April 5, 2007 Jacqueline Ann Krojer
 May 2, 2007 Leslie Andrew Biddie
 June 8, 2007 Dr. Gerhard Wuensch
 June 8, 2007 Dr. Douglas Wickware
 June 9, 2007 Leslie Cull
 June 11, 2007 Nancy Somerville
 June 21, 2007 Gertrude Bergey

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FSA

Top Right: The Antique and Collectible Sale in March. Paul and Roberta Wenn, Dallas Knight and June McKay get ready for the rush. Organizers considered the sale a success.

Bottom Right: Three strong men Doug Jones, Barrie Williams and Adam Plante strike a pose at the annual Rummage Sale in March hoping to attract customers. It must have worked. They sold a lot of goods.

Below: The Spirit Games drew a large crowd of youngsters during the last three weeks of June for games on the lawn. There's more information about the youth "impact" group on page 9 of Tidings.



WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

by Mary McKim

The UCC WMS was created in 1925 out of the three merging churches' women's missionary societies. Each of those were formed around 1880 over the objections of their Foreign Mission Boards, who feared a diversion of funds. The founders, however, concerned by reports about the plight of women in "heathen lands", were determined to send out young, single ladies. The first, Annie Blackadder, a Presbyterian, opened a school for indentured labourers in Trinidad. Thereafter teachers, nurses, physicians and evangelists worked in India, China, Japan, Formosa, Korea and Angola.



Nurses arrived in Honan, North China in the late 1880s, and when the Mission was forced to close in 1947, thirty had served, working in hospitals and opening Nurses' Training Schools. In 1913 two first cousins went as teachers to Honan: Margaret Brown, Margaret Wonfor's aunt, and Margaret Walks, my mother. Margaret Brown worked in the Christian Literary Society in Shanghai and Hong Kong, writing stories for newly literate Chinese women.

In the early years, illnesses took a heavy toll—as did marriage, since married women were transferred to the Foreign Mission Board with their missionary husbands, sometimes creating hard feelings. Mother married Dr. Ernest Struthers in 1916, and later taught Latin, Greek and English to Chinese University students. I have her Presbyterian WMS Lifetime Membership pin indicating that she was in good standing.

The WMS were still sending missionaries in the 1960s. Currently, what were once called "overseas missions" has become for the UCC a variety of global and Canadian partnerships, where women and men from both Canada and less developed countries are part of a wider mission supported by the M&S fund. People still share, however, the same sense of dedication which inspired those first women who left Canada as missionaries more than a century ago.

THE GREENING OF THE CROSS



One of the most meaningful worship services on Environment Sunday. David and Winifred Wake hold the cross which has been festooned with flowers and greenery.

UCW REPORT

by Mary McKim

We are happy to report that the proceeds from the March rummage sale were \$1764 after expenses, and for the newly inaugurated Antique Sale an astonishing \$6272. Congratulations to all who were involved and worked so hard to make both events a success.

Eva Archibald reported on her attendance at the UCW Conference in Sault Ste. Marie, April 29th and 30th. It was an excellent Conference but a long bus journey!

Our General Meeting took place at noon, June 6th in Proudfoot Hall, beginning with a catered lunch. The speaker was Cathy Luk of Eldon House, who shared the history of that famous London landmark.

Westminster Weekend's 40th year celebration was at the Stoneridge Inn, Hwy 4 & 401, June 8-10.

London Conference UCW Summer Event is at Siloam UC on July 14th, 9:00am to 3:30 pm. The theme will be "Memories and Dreams." Fee is less prior to July 1st—ask Jean Comfort for registration forms. One of the speakers is Janet Matthews, co-author of "Chicken Soup for the Canadian Soul."

The Christmas Bazaar will be November 10th.

AMNESTY LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN

by Paul Mansell

The UN Bill of Human Rights guarantees basic human rights for



all people. Many of the governments who signed it, ignore it. When non-violent human rights activists in these countries speak out they are often harassed, arrested, tortured and their families threatened. If these recognized people can be silenced no one will be left to speak out for the average citizen. That is why more than 60 members of FSA gathered on Sunday, March

25th to write letters of support for several human rights activists who are currently at risk. In this, our 4th letter writing event, we appealed to their governments to abide by the documents they themselves signed. This reminds them that the world is watching and holds them responsible for their actions.

In particular, more than 70 people signed a petition to George W. Bush asking that prisoners at Guantanamo Bay be charged and tried in a USA court of law or released, and that after which, this prison be closed.

The SMO committee, sponsors of the event, provided hearty homemade bean soup and buns to sustain the writers.



In between sips of soup for lunch, the letter writers were hard at work. Clockwise from left: Chuck Travis, Pat Tripp, Katherine Wonfor, and JoAnne Girvan.

CHRISTIAN FAMILY PRINCIPLES:

Ignatius Cockshutt

by Bill Cockshutt



James Cockshutt, his wife Mary and teenage children Jane and Ignatius sailed from Lancashire, England for York, Canada West, (Toronto) in 1827. After five successful years operating a General Store, James sent his son Ignatius to establish a branch in Brantford. Soon Ignatius increased the fortunes of his father while, at the same time, practising his Christian

principles.

The Cockshutts were devout followers of Benjamin Ingham, a close associate of John and Charles Wesley. Ingham's strong religious principles included living a spiritual daily life, using the talents the Lord has given us, and sharing one's wealth with the less fortunate. Ignatius Cockshutt followed these Methodist-inspired principles, with particular emphasis on education for children and help for the elderly.

Although it was Ignatius' son James (a namesake of Ignatius' father) who started the Cockshutt Plow Company, Ignatius became its financial manager. He made sure that his individual and family charity were given privately—the Cockshutt family businesses were not charities! Still, Ignatius believed it was his Christian duty to be generous with others, and that recognition and gratitude should belong to the deed not to the giver. His gifts to Brantford over fifty years included the first fire department, a school for Six Nations children, and most of the cost of a YMCA. He built and paid the operating costs of a Widows Home, an Orphans Home, and a Home for the destitute elderly. He established a Christian Mission in Jamaica and paid most of the annual expenses, including the wages of the doctor who ran it. His sister operated a free boarding school for children whose parents could not support them, and descendants of the Cockshutts maintained that school for over 60 years.

Ignatius, who grew up with Christian family principles, applied them whenever he saw the opportunity to serve others.

BREAST CANCER QUILT

by David Flynn

This quilt was donated to the 2007 Breast Cancer Project in Stratford by the Westview Baptist Piecemakers, a group of quilters from various churches, including FSA. Our Isabel Getliffe Sewing Group, named after a much loved victim to breast cancer, had acquired the cross-stitched squares and, in turn, donated them to the Piecemakers for final quilting.



Ignatius Cockshutt

SMO: STEWARDSHIP—MISSION—OUTREACH

by Barb Dalrymple



Six years ago the Stewardship, Mission & Service, and Outreach Committees joined to form SMO because many of our goals overlapped. It was a great amalgamation. We've been "cookin'" ever since. Maybe that's because we have so many pots on the stove—

ELUCO, Grow A Row, St. Paul's Daily Bread, LIFT, Out of the Cold, M & S, the Observer, Baby Layettes, Christmas Share, Amnesty Letter Writing, Habitat for Humanity, Earth Stewardship, Overseas Relief, and Social Justice issues.

Many of our efforts do involve food—soup for Amnesty Writing Day, our Golf Tournament Hot Dog Lunch, a fund-raising lunch for Out of the Cold, the Corn Roast, making desserts for Marathon Bridge, selling coffee, chocolate, soup mix and cinnamon buns, providing food for the Habitat for Humanity builders and collecting food for St. Paul's Daily Bread. By supporting the Canadian Foodgrains Bank through Grow A Row we send food to countries that experience natural disasters such as famine and earthquakes. Our Los Quinchos project is going to feed children lunch and provide library books—food for the body and food for the soul!

We've been "cookin'" in other ways. Our two 175th Anniversary Projects are called AHA!—At Home and Away. Our **At Home** project to raise money for LIFT affordable housing was a huge success—approximately \$40,000. Our **Away** project, Los Quinchos, continues with the Golf Tournament on July 28 and a final Nicaraguan dinner on November 20. Whoever said "too many cooks spoil the broth" wasn't talking about SMO. We have 19 committee members who are "cookin'" but we would be delighted to welcome anyone else who wishes to join us. Perhaps it's coincidental—but I think not—that one of our first fundraising activities for Los Quinchos was a shopping night at the *Kiss the Cook* kitchen supply store!

LOS QUINCHOS SCHOOL—GREAT NEWS

by Barb Dalrymple

The members of FSA have responded generously to our 175th Anniversary project by buying coffee, chocolate and soup mix, supporting our Lenten donation, coming to our hotdog lunch and our shopping nights. As a result, we have raised over \$8500! This includes over \$500 from the wonderful breakfast hosted by the Sunday School. We have already purchased 48 library books in Spanish. Well done FSA.

Last summer Don Parsons, a former minister at FSA, and his wife Marg took members of their congregation to Nicaragua to do a building project and visited Los Quinchos School where they met the assistant director. Here are her thoughts after their meeting and some quotes from her.

"The Los Quinchos school started with 80 children 25 years ago. Its enrollment is now 1000. Many classes hold 50 students; some are as high as 72, yet many students have gone on to become teachers, engineers, lawyers and doctors.

The school is unable to provide lunch for the secondary students so they often leave at noon in search of food. As well, students at the school make the school uniforms—which cost \$12.00.

Our 10 days in Nicaragua had a profound impact on us. We hope to return to work with these most gracious and generous people. **We are delighted to know that our amazing friends at FSA are working to contribute to the lives of these people.**"

PROFILE

Lynda and Bob Kennedy

by Charlotte Ann Bell



Bob and Lynda Kennedy's musical talents have been appreciated at FSA since they joined the Senior Choir in 2004. Paul Merritt's reputation and "high musical integrity and sensitivity" was respected by both, and a member of the Laudamus Bells who described us as "a large church with a family feel", also influenced their decision to come to FSA.

Bob spent ten years in the music department at Lucas, then twenty years at Montcalm where he initiated programs such as a concert choir, a vocal jazz ensemble, and a madrigal choir complete with medieval costumes. Bob's major instrument is the clarinet, and throughout the year our worship is occasionally enhanced by its mellow tones. Bob is also conductor of The London Concert Band, and plays with Phil Murphy's "Encore" band.

Lynda is a piano accompanist for private students at recitals, examinations and practices. In the past she accompanied London Pro Musica and The Amabile Singers. She is a member of the Royal Canadian College of Organists. Her organ experience is very helpful when Paul Merritt needs another pair of hands.

Nurturing a family of four children, their spouses, and ten grandchildren keeps the Kennedy's busy life even more fulfilling. They are pleased to see three of their granddaughters in the Junior Joyfuls singing enthusiastic praise on the chancel steps.



Bob and Lynda Kennedy

The Kennedys believe in the contribution of music to the spiritual experience of worship. Lynda especially enjoys playing hymns on the piano. Her Baptist background is evident when she plays for the summer services in Proudfoot Hall where she expresses "the fiery spirit" working within her. Bob, on the other hand, feels the sombre tones of his clarinet encourage a more contemplative mood. FSA is blessed to have both Bob and Lynda contributing to our community through worship and their friendship.

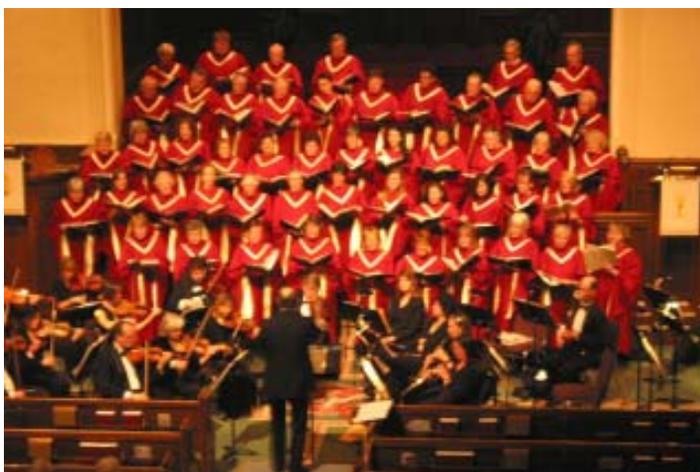
THERE WAS MUSIC IN THE AIR THIS SPRING

The Junior Joyfuls



The Junior Joyfuls led by Terese Sirek Ng sing during a service:
Top: Clare Jones Fright, Bronwyn Tufts, Fraser Feeney, Tori Bouck;
Bottom: Naomi Tufts, Jacob Braver, Anne Ng, Ava Dlugolecki

The Senior Choir



To a large crowd, The Senior Choir with Orchestra, under the direction of Paul Merritt, performed a wonderful concert of Great Choral Masterpieces in April. The concert featured works by Bach, Handel, Mendelssohn, Brahms, and Puccini.

The Laudamus Bells (and Friends)



Organized by Director Barb Plante and the Laudamus Bells, "RINGING WITH HEART", featured a massed choir representing handbell choirs from London and area. The Guest Conductor was David Weck of Chicago.

FSA Program Guide

Summer 2007

WORSHIP

JULY 8, 15, 29	10:30 a.m.	Rev. Dr. David McKane
JULY 22	10:30AM	Rev. Dr. Barry Moore
AUGUST 5, 12, 19, 26	10:30 a.m.	Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad
Sept 2	10:30AM	Rev. Dr. David McKane

MUSIC



BECOME A FRIEND OF MUSIC

Support FSA's musical outreach program, FRIENDS OF MUSIC, through donations to the Church Office in your name or as a memorial for another.

Your donations to this self-supporting fund, helps to underwrite production costs to allow for affordable ticket prices for international and local artists.:

Make your cheque payable to First-St. Andrew's and note that it is for Friends of Music. You will receive a tax receipt and your name on the Concert Series flyer.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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: Martha Bere (519-641-6947)

NURSERY

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

Coordinator: Joeli Robertson (519-675-1533)

CHURCH SCHOOL

The church school will be providing a Summer Program in which all children will come together and work in one group with the leaders, making crafts, playing games and discussing the lesson for the week..

Teachers and helpers are always needed. If you're interested, please speak to Chris or Monique.

Check out the Children's Library off the Fireside Room.

Church School Coordinators: Chris and Monique Silcox (519-293-3960)

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 upstairs during the regular church school year.

Leader: Nancy Howard (289-0540)

TEEN CONFIRMATION CLASS

A new class of teens will begin in the fall. Look in the announcements for dates.

IMPACT

Activities will resume in the fall for high school age young people.

Sunday mornings during the 10:30 a.m. service, high schoolers will meet in the Upper Room for a learning program.

As well, the Youth Group will meet every two weeks and other times for a variety of activities.

After-school program will meet the second and fourth Thursday of every month in the Upper Room from 2:45 – 5:15 p.m.

Impact Coordinators: Dale Radoja (473-3745) and Rocky Moretti (519-642-4896).



You can't have a Spirit Games water day without filling up balloons with water. Guess what they do with water-filled balloons.

ADULT DEVELOPMENT

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

It's now on summer hiatus, but in the fall meets weekly from 9-10 a.m. in the Music Room (upstairs).

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

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Beginning again in the fall, 10 am in the Parlour.

Facilitator: Susan Shelstad (679-8182)



DREAM GROUP

Discover the amazing world of your dreams. Beginning this fall, 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).

SPIRITUALITY ON TAP

An informal evening of a movie and discussion about it from a spiritual perspective. Watch the announcements for dates, movies and times.

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. Your help is always 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 **Jo Ann Silcox (642-2152)** for further details.

PRAYER CHAIN

Do you need prayers for yourself or others? Call **Maureen 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.

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)**.

COUNSELLING TEAM

There is a counselling service available to FSA members, staffed voluntarily by 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 at 642-2152**.

RIDES FOR SENIORS

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

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

A Baptismal preparation session is held prior to every Baptism (usually the Thursday evening before) to prepare the parents who are bringing their children for Baptism. We explore the meaning of Baptism, and prepare for the Sunday service. Our next baptism Sunday is September 23.

Call the office if interested (519-679-8182).

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

This Committee 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 much more.

HOSPITALITY MEALS

This program runs year round on Mondays, 5:30pm, providing hospitality meals for more than 100 persons. One hundred or more volunteers have been involved, many of them from other churches. For information, contact **Tom and Shirley Wynne at 474-4768**, or the **Church Office, 679-8182**.

ST. PAUL'S DAILY BREAD

Please keep in mind this 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: Canadian Food Grains Bank

We kicked off our 2007 *Grow a Row* Campaign this spring. Again we are partnering with St Marys United Church.. FSA's Tom McLarty will be the "host" again for the 2007 crop. Thank you, Tom.

Since our first crop near St. Marys in 1995, our joint fundraising has generated an amazing \$115,805. With the assistance of CIDA and its 4-1 matching ratio, this equates to \$579,025—a very impressive total upon which we plan to build in 2007—and onward.

This is a wonderful venture to assist our neighbours in The Third World, and the SMO Committee will continue to work with our most generous FSA Congregation.

The 2007 Campaign commenced in April, and will end with our fun "Corn Roast" in September. LET'S MAKE 2007 ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR!!!



In May, Bill and Jean Knowles helped kick off the Grow-A-Row campaign. They're holding the bags that will eventually be filled with 50 Kg. of wheat or beans for distribution overseas.

FRIENDSHIP & LEARNING GROUPS

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 1:30 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

The UCW welcomes and encourages all women at FSA to become a member of the U.C.W. and to help keep up the good work in the years ahead.

FSA SUPPER CLUB

Call June McKay 519-471-5668 or Shirley Wynne 519-474-4768 for more information. All are welcome.



Please feel free to come along and join this congenial group for any of the events.

In April, our guest was **EDUARD KLASSEN** (left) who presented a concert with his PARAGUAN HARP. Eduard was born in Paraguay, South America, and now resides in the Stratford area. He has performed concerts in over 20 countries, over 3,000 concerts in all.

BRIDGE GROUP

The Marathon Bridge Group has ended its season under the coordination of Jim and Jean Young. For information about next season, contact the Youngs at 681-8119.

THE MEN'S BROWN BAG LUNCH

Every Wednesday at noon, from September to April, a group of men meet in the Parlour over brown bag lunches, washed down with coffee and tea. David McKane is our facilitator.

What do we talk about? Well, it's a guy thing, so we talk about sports, politics (carefully, since we represent a wide range of views), our work (and play)—and religion. Religious topics range from FSA itself—for example its music—to questions of a deeper spirituality. Often our discussion grows out of recent sermons. How do we personally experience the Incarnation and Resurrection? What about our personal peak experiences?

We always stop promptly at 1 but conversations may continue in the hall for a long time after. For some of us, this is our only opportunity to speak more deeply with other men.

Please join us Wednesdays at noon beginning again in the fall..

ISABEL GETLIFFE SEWING GROUP

Meets Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. from after Easter to November. Everyone interested in hand and machine sewing, cutting and stuffing is welcome. Coffee is provided. Bring a lunch. The group prepares items for sale at the annual Bazaar in the fall.

THE KNIT WITS

A group of experienced and beginner knitters get together on the first Tuesday of each month from 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. They produce items for children and adults who are cold and in need in our community. For information, call Marion Wilson, 519-434-0530.



A FINAL WORD

Summer 2007

THE SPRING SURVEY



This spring the CD Committee asked the congregation to fill out a brief survey to help us in our planning. We received 70 responses, representing singles, couples, and families. The information received was shared with other committees so that they could benefit from the survey as well. The majority of those responding were couples, church members for more than 5 years, who attend church and church activities regularly. Although there were many individual, specific comments, some common themes were found in almost all of the responses:

- people come to this church because of its friendliness, liberal theology, preaching, and music
- what people like most: the community, the worship services, the music, the opportunities for spiritual growth
- things people would like to see: there were a number of things listed, many of which we already offer such as Bible Study before church, spirituality emphasis for women and men, the Impact youth group participating in readings, Communion, etc. All suggestions will be considered by the appropriate committees.

If the survey is a pulse of the congregation, we are in excellent health. People are generally very happy with what we are doing and the way things are right now. The congregation has strongly identified with the slogan, "First-St. Andrew's: *Where liberal theology meets the best of tradition.*"



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 Kostecki: Community Development Coordinator

Susan Scorgie: Church Administrator

Maureen Scarborough: Secretary/Receptionist

Rusty Robertson: Custodian

Rev. Dr. Frank Meadows, Minister Emeritus