

Tidings



FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

Where liberal theology meets the best of tradition

VOLUME 17 ● NUMBER 3

FALL 2007

175 YEARS OF SPIRIT AND SERVICE

By David McKane



Welcome back! September is always a busy month, with schools, Colleges and Universities and all the other fall activities starting up again. The same is true of FSA as we swing into our full

range of activities. Our very active 175th Committee has a number of wonderful events in the planning. **Rivkah Unland**, from the United Church's *Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations* Unit will be our guest on September 16. Within a couple of weeks our Annual Stewardship Campaign begins. We will end the Campaign and the 175th year with a Celebration Luncheon in Proudfoot Hall

on October 21. Internationally renowned theologian and author **Marcus Borg** will be our Proudfoot Lecturer on November 5th and the United Church's own equally renowned **Dr. Douglas Hall** will be our Anniversary guest preacher on November 18th—and those are just some of the events this fall.

On September 30th we will dedicate **Jackie Lautens'** wonderful interpretive weaving on God's covenant with Noah from Genesis chapter 9 (see picture to upper right).. It is an imaginative piece of fabric art and a beautiful addition to our chapel. As the Worship Committee continues to refurbish the chapel, we hope to place greater emphasis on wellness. Several books and tapes will be available to loan to members to assist them in their own education and spiritual development. Wellness has become a growth industry in our society and it is a field of interest in which the Christian church possesses a great deal of knowledge. It is our hope to provide opportunities for meditation and the development of our spiritual, mental and physical well-being.

A small ad hoc committee of Council under the able leadership of Russ Monteith is looking at the big picture of FSA's physical plant to assist both Property and Finance in their long range planning. You will be hearing more about this in the future.



"God's covenant with Noah"
by Jackie Lautens

FSA is a vibrant, engaged and engaging congregation. It provides a wealth of opportunities for us to become involved in study groups or outreach programs that help us grow in our faith and stretch ourselves theologically, as well as inspire our Christian service. FSA also continues to provide us with a rich weekly meal of music and worship that keeps our faith green and growing.

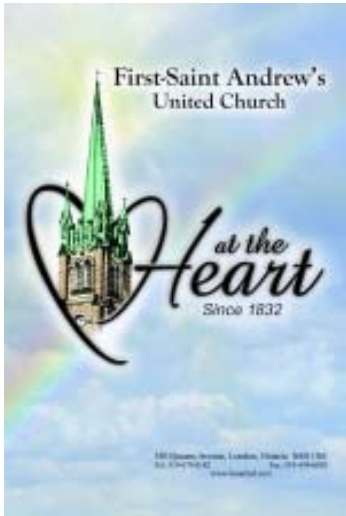
Grace and peace,

David.

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NEW DIRECTORY ON THE WAY



This is the year for a new telephone Directory. Take a look at the draft of the cover on the left. It was designed by Bob Schram and his team at Sterling Marking Products.

Your current Directory sitting beside or under the phone, or in a drawer, is probably getting a bit worn. And our membership has changed quite a bit in nearly five years.

Ron Logan chaired the Directory committee, with Annabelle and her team looking after the roster of names. Ed and Donna Ellis looked through

hundreds of pictures, chose the ones that represented FSA at its best, and wrote the captions. All that information is in the hands of the Company which is printing together the Directory, IPC.

We're assured most of the ordered pictures have been sent out. And we hope the Directory can be handed out around our anniversary in November.

CURRENT ISSUE

In this Fall issue, we highlight the programs and events of the past three months and preview some of the programs for the rest of the fall. For an even more vivid view of Tidings, go to our Website and click on the Tidings icon to see this issue in stunning full colour. Our Webmaster, Jim Silcox, expects to have this current issue on the website within the week. Here is the address for the FSA Website:

www.fsaunited.com

Tidings

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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

"I Don't Think We've Met Yet"

by David Flynn



It's such a simple phrase when meeting someone new at Coffee and Conversation—"I don't think we've met yet." I learned this phrase from someone who tries to meet at least one new person each Sunday.

Another phrase I learned was, "I'd like to introduce you to _____ who is also..." Such a simple introduction but it means the new person now has a connection to the congregation. It kept my wife and I coming back.

I say all this as one who finds it difficult to meet new people. Perhaps I'm not the only one—I was told recently about someone who has been going to Coffee and Conversation for more than a year—and no one has spoken to that person yet.

Well, what better time to start meeting and welcoming new people than on the first Fall Sunday?

In this issue you will meet several people at FSA—new people such as the Doug and Judy Walker, long time members such as Bev and Bob Lindsay, and, through reports and pictures, several other active and friendly people.

Note especially Webmaster Jim Silcox's item on the FSA website www.fsaunited.com. Jim tries to get the current issue of Tidings posted the same day it comes out.

I'd like to make one more suggestion for greeting new people—and promoting Tidings. If the people who greet and usher Sunday mornings were to hand out the most recent issue of Tidings (to everyone), new people would find out what a vibrant church we are—and they would want to meet us.

Info-Line

GALA LUNCHEON

On Sunday Nov 25th, we will celebrate the end of our 175th anniversary with a Gala Luncheon at the Best

COUNCIL REPORT

by Stan Hill, Chair of Council



As I start to put pen to paper—or in today's world, fingers to keyboard—we are back in London for a few days having just spent three delightful days with Jan and Jim Hendry at their beautiful cottage in the Lakefield area. It is the middle of August and the days are shortening—summer is almost over!

After a short break during July and August, your Council will be back in action in September and looking forward to an exciting few months as our 175th Year Celebration draws to a close, culminating in the Gala Wrap-up Luncheon organized by our own Ron Logan—please stay tuned to this channel for details!

The Council and the congregation as a whole owe a huge debt of gratitude to Donna Ellis and the members of the 175th Anniversary Committee. Donna has been the driving force behind this endeavour, and her efforts have paid off in spades. This historic anniversary has been celebrated in many, many different and varied events over the last nine months (with more to come) and the planning of events by Council Committees and other groups has been appreciated, as has the support of the congregation as a whole.

On another note, Russ Monteith has been heading up a small sub-committee over the last several months which is attempting to assess the physical plant and structural needs of our superb but aging building, with the goal of having a report ready for the congregation by early 2008.

It is my fervent hope that you have enjoyed a relaxing and restful summer and are ready to enjoy yet another year of worship and fellowship at First-St. Andrew's United Church.

175TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE UPDATE

by Donna Ellis



How quickly the heat and humidity of summer evaporate and we find ourselves returning to the increased pace of fall activities. We don't have to look at the "back to school flyers"—just our calendar of meetings and events to realize that September has returned.

It is true of the 175th Anniversary Committee. The Committee returns to its regular schedule of meetings on September 20th. November will be a very busy month. We all look forward to the visit of Marcus Borg early in November. Planning has continued over the summer for the wonderful Choir Reunion that also will take place in November. Then there is the Holly Bazaar. And then... our very special Anniversary Sunday will be celebrated November 18th. Planning is underway to conclude our entire year with another gala meal when we will again eat together and give thanks for our legacy of 175 years. Even if you missed the kick-off luncheon last year, make sure you plan to attend the wrap-up gala. It promises to be very special indeed!

WEB SITE

By Jim Silcox, FSA Webmaster



It's been a year since the birthday of WWW.fsaunited.com and, like all new arrivals, it is growing and changing constantly and generating lots of interest in the process. We are averaging about 35 visitors to our site each day or roughly 1000 per month, which is very gratifying. Surprisingly, we have had hits from as far away as the UK, India, Australia, Brazil, Germany, Poland and even the Seychelles. FSA is now truly global in its reach!

The changes to the site over the last year have been subtle. We have added a button to the top navigation bar that allows young people interested in the **IMPACT** youth group to access its schedules and get pictures of past events.

We have also developed a much more dynamic "**This Month**" presentation that should keep everyone up-to-date on coming events and meetings at the church.

Perhaps the most popular change has been the incorporation of the sound recordings of each Sunday service onto the "**Service Archive**" page. This is usually posted the same day as the service and visitors can simply click on the appropriate line and listen into the proceedings. The "kindly old webmaster" still has hopes to make this a podcast so that it can be downloaded to iPods and other similar MP3 players but this is more complex than he had anticipated.

Finally, we have incorporated a link with the United Church's "**Wondercafe**" and if you go to its "Church Search" button you will find that FSA has a page of information there designed to interest people new to London who are looking for a new church home.

As always, suggestions and requests are welcome. Just email Jim Silcox: silcox@sympatico.ca.

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! (PART TWO)

It all started last October when "William Proudfoot" got up on the stage in the ballroom of the Best Western Lamplighter Inn to announce that our 175th anniversary celebrations had begun.

Now, William Proudfoot invites everyone to return for a **GALA DINNER** to mark the end of our 175th anniversary.

It will be held **Sunday, November 25th** in the elegant ballroom of the Best Western on Wellington Road South at Commissioners.

Just as the beginning of our celebrations was a wonderful opportunity to renew old friendships and meet new friends, get set for another major and fun surprise while at the same time we sit together for a gourmet meal.

Tickets are limited to 400 guests and will be available at the Office and during Coffee and Conversation beginning September 16.th

OUR 175 ANNIVERSARY HAS BEEN QUITE AN AFFAIR.
HELP US BEGIN CELEBRATING THE END ON NOVEMBER 25TH

SPOTTED AROUND FSA THIS SUMMER



One of the highlight events of the 175th anniversary was a drop-in luncheon organized by Donna Ellis, the Chair of the Anniversary Committee, at the end of June. Employees of local businesses in the area were invited to see FSA and Proudfoot Hall and have a hot lunch. Council Chair Stan Hill welcomed the guests.



(Above) Several repair and maintenance jobs were done while the sanctuary was empty for the summer. Hugh Godau of Paramount Painters was able to scrape and paint the frames on the stained glass windows facing the atrium without disturbing anyone.



(Above) Ross Doddington tucked into the tiny space behind the Organ Pipes to maintain the instrument and replace some capacitors that had lost their capacity for being capacitors.



(Left) Bob and Lynda Kennedy were among a number of FSA musicians who performed during the summer services in Proudfoot Hall.



(Right) Fred and Louise McLarty celebrated their 60th anniversary in June with a renewal of their vows and a reception for friends and family in Proudfoot Hall at FSA..

GOD'S STEWARD

Fryke Oostenbrug

by Mary McKim



In a 2003 Tidings article Fryke Oostenbrug described emigrating from Holland with her husband soon after their wedding in 1948. They never regretted emigrating but Fryke pointed to a bottle of sand from a Dutch beach saved for her burial!

Fryke is a survivor—beginning with the German occupation. She delivered messages for the Underground, narrowly escaping arrest by the Gestapo. She also helped conceal her twin brother to avoid his deportation to a labour camp, and the family assisted Jews and packed food for concentration camps.

Arriving in Canada, Fryke's husband was chosen to work on the farm of the Nova Scotia Minister of Agriculture. They remained three years, becoming close friends of their employer's family.

Worship has always been central for Fryke and her family. She taught Sunday School in Friesland, and was part of a youth group—officially banned by the authorities. Prior to leaving home the Oostenbrugs were informed that the United Church would be an appropriate place for them to worship, and so it proved.

In 1951, after moving to Woodstock, they joined Chalmers United Church and, with their three children, became involved in church activities. Her husband served as elder and was in the choir.

Fryke survived the death of her husband in 1986 after their move to London, and later a serious car accident which resulted in fractured cervical vertebrae. She has twice undergone cardiac bypass surgery.

An artist from childhood, she works in several media, and samples are scattered about her apartment. A poet, she showed me a binder full of poems. She loves flowers and animals. Her cabinets are filled with blue china.

For twenty years she has worshiped at FSA—she remembers being warmly welcomed on her first Sunday by Ina Cavers. She pays tribute to all the ministers, the “vibrant” activities, the music and the choir, and thanks her church family for all their support.



Fryke Oostenbrug

From the Archives

Stories like this make our history interesting and our archives a treasure house of memories. Do you have a story for the Archives? We welcome your input.

THE SESSION BRIDGE CLUB*

By David Flynn

We have Mennonite friends who joke that the favorite gathering place for the UCC is the bridge table. True or not, many FSA members do socialize through either the Mixed or UCW marathon bridge groups. The origin of FSA Bridge may go back at least to the merger of First and St. Andrew's churches in 1938.

As Jean Young mentioned in her article in the last issue, her parents, Florence and Murray Fysh, were one of the six founding couples of the “Session Bridge Club” at the start of WWII. Violet George suggested the Club as a way to “...change the strain” of anxieties during the early war period. The other couples were Ruth and Liv Brow, Helen and Gordon Silverwood, and Helen and Rudy Eberhard.

It was called the “Session Bridge Club” because the six men were on Session. The six women were in Delta Rho and the best bridge desserts went into the Delta Rho cookbook, “Our Best.” Later in the evening soft drinks were served—never spiked—but Gordon Silverwood drank his own product, milk.

There was already a “Senior Bridge Club” and the two clubs met together on New Year's Eve (See photo below).

The couples supported each other through trauma, and shared the happiness of their children's marriages. As people moved away or died, other “stand-ins” replaced them. We're not sure when the two original groups ended, and how the current Marathonbridge clubs started—write us if you know.

Murray Fysh's hand painted score cards are now collector's items. Although the original twelve are gone, several of their children and grandchildren are still associated with FSA. And, of course, we still play bridge.

**Based on materials from Jean (Fysh) Young, including a history of the Club written by Kay MacDonald in 1979*



The “Senior Bridge Club” and the “Session Bridge Club” meet together on New Year's Eve, 1958

LOS QUINCHOS SCHOOL—WOW!!!

by Barb Dalrymple



We have pushed our SMO 175th Anniversary Project to over \$12,000, thanks to the enjoyable and successful White Squirrel Golf Tournament. Well done, David Knoppert, Paul Mansell and FSA members. The staff and children of Los Quinchos will appreciate this more than words can say. The SMO committee also appreciates Sue Scorgie's diligence in keeping track of our many fund-raising efforts.

GOLF TOURNAMENT SUPPORTS LOS QUINCHOS

by David Knoppert



Forty golfers hit the fairways of Exeter Golf Club on Saturday, July 28th to support Los Quinchos School for Street Children. We were blessed with a partially overcast day and very favourable playing conditions. Fortunately, the Exeter White Squirrel was present to greet the 40 players who crowded the Registration Table just before 2pm.

The start was staggered so the last group was off and running shortly after 3pm. Eventually everyone made their way around the player friendly course. Despite differences in golfing ability all participants enjoyed their time in the countryside fresh air. We were ready to sit down with an additional 25 FSA people to a delicious barbecued steak dinner with healthy salads and a yummy dessert, tea/coffee.

The Silent Auction continued during and after dinner. There were many interesting items including a 26 ounce bottle of Scotland's finest, donated by David McKane, obtained courtesy of Doug Jones. After the bills were paid we were delighted to find we had raised just over \$2,900. A few weeks later, Bill Knowles donated the difference so that the final amount donated to the children of Los Quinchos was \$3,000!

Plans are underway for the 2nd Annual Tournament next June 21st, once again at the Exeter Golf Club. If you were not able to play/attend this year, you will want to mark next summer's date in your calendar now.



The White Squirrel appears in person. With some help from Jean Knowles.

SOD TURNING FOR LIFT HOUSING

by Bill Knowles



August 9 was the official sod turning for the new 30 Unit LIFT Housing project. In attendance were representatives from all levels of Government along with LIFT Members and folks from the numerous downtown churches who are part of LIFT, including FSA, whose members have made such a generous contribution.

It seemed to take a long time to get this far but soon we should see this great 30-unit building rising. As we know, affordable housing has been lacking for those less-fortunate and challenged people in our community. We should be proud that our wonderful FSA congregation has become a part of improving life for the people who will take possession upon completion.



There was a good turnout of FSA members at the sod-turning for the new LIFT Housing complex at King and Burwell. They joined Federal Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Monte Solberg (5th from right) and London Councillor Susan Eagle (1st on right). The FSA members included (from the left) Jane Westmorland, Bill Knowles, Jean Knowles, Linda Badke, Donna Travis, Jen McGibbon, Mr. Solberg, Winnie Wake, Janice Elliott, Paul Mansell, Susan Eagle..

M&S AND CORN ROAST SUNDAY SEPT. 16

By Barb Dalrymple

On September 16, M&S Sunday, we are privileged to have as our guest speaker Rivkah Unland, the United Church's *People in Missions* co-coordinator. Rivkah has been our liaison with Los Quinchos and was interviewed in the July/August issue of the Observer. After the service, please join us for corn, beans and ham as we wind up our Grow-A-Row project for 2007. The Spanish library books which were purchased on your behalf for Los Quinchos will be on display. Bring your appetite and join in the fun and fellowship!

Bev and Bob Lindsay

By Charlotte Ann Bell



The Lindsays have a long association with FSA. Bev's parents, the late Cliff and Christina Woolley, joined the church in the '40s when Dr. John McKinnon was minister. Bob's involvement began in the early '60s when he joined Ron Johnston in leading a

successful boys' club. In 1966 the Lindsays were one of the last couples married at FSA with the organ in the chancel. Barrie Cabena was organist and Dr. Angus McQueen minister. Bob and Bev raised Rob, Heather and Christina at FSA and now have one grandchild.

At its peak, ninety boys were involved in the Club. Bob remembers them as well-behaved but with an 'edge' where basketball and floor hockey competition was concerned. When the new organ was installed, the constant slapping of the basketball against the back

wall caused the organ to go out of tune! Bob assisted with security for the night shift when *Out of the Cold* began as an overnight program. He was an Elder for many years and still serves communion.

Bev has sung in the soprano section of the Senior Choir since 1962. She remembers the first intergenerational musical staged at FSA: "Noye's Fludde." It was directed by Barrie Cabena and the proceeds went to the first set of Handbells—which Bev has played with ever since. She is also past chair of the Christian Development committee and faithfully attends Thursday morning Bible Study. Currently, she is on at least six other committees or groups!

What does FSA mean to the Lindsays? To Bev it's about giving and receiving, and being in an open-minded community where members can challenge beliefs without being judged. For Bob it's about outreach and going beyond our borders. How fortunate we are to have the past and continued presence of the Lindsays at FSA.



Bev and Bob Lindsay

GETTING TO KNOW DOUG AND JUDI WALKER

By Charlotte Ann Bell

This is the first of a series introducing recent new members.

1. *When did you join FSA?*

We started attending in Nov./05 and joined in May/06

2. *What criteria helped you decide?*

D: Liberal approach to theology; tradition; music; recommendation from Fran Eberhard

J: Ministerial team; music; outreach

3. *Where did you live before London?*

Hensall, Unionville, Markham, Toronto. Judi is originally from Saskatoon and Doug is a native Torontonian

4. *Who are in your family?*

Laura is a marketing executive in Toronto, and Cameron is a music student and trumpet major at Wilfrid Laurier University

5. *What do you do for work?*

D: Education and Community Outreach for Orchestra London

J: Retired secondary school Visual Arts teacher; part time retail associate; gardening for seniors

6. *What do you do for fun?*

D: golf, play trombone in the Prime Time Big Band; Stratford Civic Orchestra; movies; travel when possible

J: golf; scrapbooking; painting; reading; walking Molly, our two year old SpringBord; lunching with friends

7. *What book(s) have you read recently that you enjoyed?*

D: *Saturday* by Ian McEwan, *The Falls* by Ian Rankin

J: *Deafening* by Francis Itani

8. *Which three people from throughout history do you most admire?*

D: Pierre Elliot Trudeau; Duke Ellington; Stephen Spielberg

J: Pierre Elliot Trudeau; Eleanor Roosevelt; George Clooney

9. *What do you like to eat?*

D: If we go out it is usually for Thai or Asian food.

J: Anything sweet—"Life's short! Eat dessert first!"

10. *What feeds you spiritually?*

D: Music; challenging sermons and thoughts; philosophical discussions; literature and readings

J: Nature; music; a good sermon; thoughtful writings

Here is their picture—please welcome **DOUG AND JUDI WALKER!**



THE WATERS OF FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S

Test results on the tap water at FSA show we're in really fine shape as far as lead content. The content was .27 with 10 or lower being the acceptable level.

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!"*

July 7, 2007	Jennifer Wood and Logan Jones
July 14, 2007	Maya Popovic Leonardo Millon
July 21, 2007	Shannon Robinson Michael Robb
August 4, 2007	Lee Chandra Veeraraghavan and Ian Warner Klaas Koiter
August 11, 2007	Stephanie Gurbin and Shawn Lacourse
August 25, 2007	Liisa Nielsen & John McInnis
August 25, 2007	Tara Miller and Corey Dewhirst
August 25, 2007	Lisa-Ann McKeough and Alex Fraser

DEATHS

"Well done good and faithful servant."

July 22, 2007	Jock Shields
July 27, 2007	Helen Swift

A TIME TO CELEBRATE... with just one step

Where are you standing on this staircase? Can you move up one step in YOUR givings in the year 2008? Have you considered PAR?

These steps provide a picture of our givings at First-St. Andrew's United Church.. Each step indicates a range of dollars given **per week** by our members.. The numbers on top indicate how many families are included.

									12
								6	Over \$100
							14		\$85-\$100
						18			\$70-\$84
					17				\$55-\$69
			30						\$45-\$54
		46							\$35-\$44
	81								\$25-\$34
	59								\$15-\$24
44									\$10-\$14
									TOTAL = 452
125									\$6-\$9
									\$0-\$5

PAR is a pre-authorized remittance program. A pre-determined amount is taken from your bank account every month on a specified date. It helps you make and keep the kind of financial commitment that we want for our church. It helps you budget for this important part of your life and enable our church to have a regular cash-flow throughout the entire year.

"Planning for our ministry is easier because my offering can be counted on."

For 2008, we offer the use of VISA or Mastercard on a minimum of \$100 monthly givings.

MARCUS BORG IS HERE IN NOVEMBER

Author and theologian Marcus Borg will spend an evening at First-St. Andrew's Monday November 5th at 7:30.

Tickets are \$25 and are on sale in the office, 519-679-8182.



Borg is a liberal religious author who has written numerous books and is among the mostly widely known and informed voices in progressive Christianity.

Borg is part of our Proudfoot Lecture Series which has featured speakers such as John Spong and Tom Harpur.

Borg's premise is to advocate entering into relationship *with* God as more important than belief *about* God.

FINANCE

At the Heart*

by Harold Jackson, FSA Finance Committee

Like a great tree, FSA has stood at the heart of this great city for 175 years, weathering socio-economic changes and theological shifts. Through it all we have offered a ministry which provides pastoral care, which reaches out, which prays and sings God's message.

Great congregations have strong roots, a proud legacy of promises kept. In this year marking a heritage of 175 years, there is much from the past to be thankful for and to celebrate. One tangible sign of how past members help us today is the \$80,000 interest from our legacies which contributes to the budget. The *Legacy Tree* on the wall of the Atrium, dedicated earlier this year, will grow new leaves made from old copper removed from the spire, as we send our own legacies into the future.

Great congregations stay green and keep growing, stimulated by theological challenges and by a wide array of outreach programmes. Although it is not feasible nor logical to expect everyone to support everything we do, the many opportunities for ministry and outreach both encourage and inspire us.

We are the inheritors of a wonderful old historic building but those who work in it and serve on the Finance and Property Committees are reminded often of its demands and needs—ventilation, heating, electrical, communication, insulation and lighting, completing the upgrading of the sound system, to name but a few.

To keep us healthy in the future, we need comprehensive 5- and 10-year plans for facility upgrading and for meeting community service opportunities, done in a way that recognizes both our goals and our capabilities. With legacy gifts, with annual pledges and givings, and with a capital campaign, we can continue to flourish on the roots of the past as we fulfill the visions and promises of the future, a great congregation, healthy at the heart.

*(Inspired in part by Dr. David McKane's sermon of February 11, 2007)

THE PROUDFOOT LEGACY

by Ted Kostecki



The response to the "Proudfoot Legacy" campaign has been extremely encouraging. FSA members have been writing us into their wills and we are approaching the \$1,000,000 target we set for ourselves.

You might remember that last year, David McKane and I were given Council's blessing to begin a long-term giving campaign that would ensure the future strength of FSA. The campaign is called "*The Proudfoot Legacy*" and it seeks to build on our past and continue our unique ministry for future generations. Surveys of church members elsewhere report that 1 of every 3 people in a congregation "would consider the possibility" of including the Church in their will, but most said they weren't asked. They also indicated they would not mind being asked as long as they felt free to say "yes" or "no" without guilt or pressure.

When William Proudfoot set foot in London in 1832 and founded the first Presbyterian Church, he certainly couldn't have foreseen the legacy which his ministry would bring. First-St. Andrew's is the proud inheritor of this legacy, and 175 years later, we celebrate a strong church that is built on the faith and generosity of former generations.

The Proudfoot Legacy program began with a letter inviting members to remember the Church in their will. The letter noted that funds, wisely invested by our Board of Trustees, would provide a source of income for the Church, and insure the ministry of FSA is available for others long after those who have made generous donations have died. Although the letter pointed out that it is wise to consult a lawyer or financial planner, we will also invited anyone with questions to talk confidentially to David or Ted for more information. In the mailing, we also asked people who had made a commitment in their will to FSA already, to let us know.

We are offering two incentives: first, donors will be letting future generations know they have a certain measure of security about the Church and its ministry. Secondly, we are planning a special Proudfoot Legacy Ministry Circle on which we will display "leaves" marked with the names of people—unless they prefer anonymity—who have indicated they included FSA in their will. These "leaves" themselves are a piece of history—made from copper pieces salvaged from the steeple when it was re-clad several years ago.

Later, upon the receipt of the bequest, these "leaves" will be transferred to a "Memorial Tree" which has been constructed on the north wall of the atrium by London artist Mike Caldwell.

There are a number of ways to leave a legacy: bequests, gift annuities, gifts of life insurance, gifts of securities, charitable remainder trusts and major cash gifts and interest-free loans. With each prayerful gift, a member gives thanks for the past and offers hope for the future.

If you require more information, please talk to Ted or David. And, of course, consult your financial advisor or lawyer.

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 519-679-8182 for more information.

UCW REPORT

by Mary McKim

September has always seemed a more appropriate start for the new year than January, particularly for organizations which suspend activities during the summer.

Our three UCW units will reconvene in September: the **Thursday** unit members gather for the annual potluck supper at Annabel Logan's at 6pm on Sept. 6th; the **Wednesday Morning** unit meets at 9:30am on Sept. 12th at One Grosvenor, and the **Tuesday Evening** unit is in the Church Parlour at 7:30pm on Sept. 18th. A reminder that **all** women of the congregation are automatically part of the UCW and you would be most welcome to attend any of the three units.

The **Knit Wits**, the **Isabel Getliffe Sewing** group, and the **UCW Marathon Bridge** group are also gearing up for the fall, and newcomers would be warmly welcomed there as well.

One of our Fall projects is the refurbishing of the Parlour through cleaning of the carpet and furniture.

Dates to remember: **Fall Bazaar**, Saturday, Oct. 20th and the **Christmas Bazaar**, Saturday, November 10th. Those who preserve jams, jellies or pickles—please keep these dates in mind. As well, anyone who enjoys baking might start filling the freezer with pies, loaves and squares since home baking is a big draw at any bazaar.

Also note that the **Christmas Social** is Wednesday, Nov. 28th at 6pm.

For more details and contacts for the groups, see the Program Guide under **Friendship and Learning Groups**.

Happy New Year!!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY 2007

A WOMEN BUILD PROJECT

By Jean Knowles

Habitat for Humanity's 2007 project, part of the *Women Build* program, at 1152 Kipps Lane, has received a great deal of attention in the media. Construction started on two homes with the "prebuild." in mid-June. As of August 15, each home has completed walls, a shingled roof, windows and doors, with the interior drywalling, plumbing, electricity, etc. progressing well.

FSA's SMO Committee is one of the many faith communities in our City which have provided food and drinks for the volunteers—two of the 50 Build Day for us.

The two families, who are currently doing their 500 hours of "sweat equity", are eagerly awaiting "Move-In Day" which will be later in the Fall. However, the official Dedication Day is Sunday, September 23, at 1. Everyone is welcome to come and see the completed homes. Directions: Huron Street to Briar Hill, left and down the hill to Kipps Lane and left.

The same location will be the site for two more homes in 2008 for two qualified families.



Jean Knowles at the Women Build site on Kipps Lane..

OUR SCOTTISH ROOTS

The Enlightenment

by Gavin McGregor



"The Bible is not the literal Word of God." "God, nature and the world are one and have existed since eternity." These are not the words of Bishop Spong nor of Tom Harpur, but are attributed to an 18-year-old theological student named Thomas Aikenhead who was hanged on January 8th, 1697 in Edinburgh on the charge of blasphemy. What started him on the road to the gallows was a casual remark he made one cold night to fellow students: "I wish I were in the place Ezra called hell, to warm myself there." One of the students reported him to the Kirk authorities.

Modern writers such as Arthur Herman, *How the Scots Invented the Modern World*, and James Buchan, *Crowded with Genius*, state that the uproar surrounding the trial and hanging of Thomas Aikenhead so preyed on the minds of Scottish intellectuals that it eventually led to the Enlightenment Movement and the increased tolerance shown later in the 18th century. Such changes allowed thinkers like David Hume, James Boswell, Francis Hutcheson and Adam Smith to express their ideas and theories without reprisal, laying the foundations for liberal education and a society that encouraged philosophy, science and engineering.

It seems that the progressive spirit built up by the Enlightenment Movement dissipated somewhat in the 19th century, allowing dogma and fear once more to become the tools of power within the Kirk. Fortunately, enough light and compassion remained to offset somewhat the effects of those oppressive powers.

The desire for enlightenment is at work today in reasoning people such as Bishop Spong, Marcus Borg and others, who are able to express their beliefs without the dangerous consequences which befell poor Thomas Aikenhead.

We can all seek enlightenment...or not! We are privileged to have the choice, thanks in part to the reaction to some of our less enlightened Presbyterian forefathers.

SPEAKING OF THE SCOTS...

DIDN'T THEY INVENT GOLF?



The top golfers at the White Squirrel Golf Tournament at Ironwood in Exeter July 23rd: David Maness, Ivana Klouda, John Witkamp and Bruce McLennan (lowest score of 65). See story on page 6.

FSA Program Guide

Fall 2007

WORSHIP

September 2	10:30 a. m. Labour Day Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad	November 4	9 a.m and 10:30 a.m. Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad
September 9	9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Move back to Sanctuary Rev. Dr. David McKane	November 5	7:30pm Marcus Borg lecture in Sanctuary
September 16	9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Rivkah Unland, Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations, United Church Grow-A-Row Corn Roast follows the 10:30 service	November 11	9 a.m and 10:30 a.m. Remembrance Sunday Rev. Dr. David McKane
September 23	9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Beginning of Stewardship Campaign Property Committee Sunday Baptism Sunday Rev. Dr. David McKane	November 18	10:30 a.m. 175 th Anniversary service Rev. Dr. Doug Hall, Professor Emeritus of Christian Theology at McGill Univ.
September 30	9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. CD Committee Sunday Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad	November 25	9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. New Members Rev. Dr. David McKane
October 7	9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Thanksgiving / World Wide Communion Sunday Rev. Dr. David McKane	December 2	9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. First of Advent Lessons and Carols
October 14	9 a.m. and 10:30 a. m. Outreach Sunday Meals on Wheels Recognition Rev. Dr. David McKane	December 9	9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Second of Advent Communion Rev. Dr. David McKane
October 21	10:30 a.m. Celebration Sunday Dr. David McKane, Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad	December 16	10:30 a.m. Church School Pageant
October 28	9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Music Awareness Sunday Rev. Dr. David McKane	December 23	9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Fourth of Advent Rev. Dr. David McKane
		December 24	CHRISTMASEVE SERVICES 7 p.m. Family Service Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad 10 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service Rev. Dr. David McKane
		December 30	10:30 a.m.

MUSIC

MUSIC: CHORAL AND INSTRUMENTAL OPPORTUNITIES

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 to rejoice with us in 2007-2008.

THE CHOIRS - TO SING IS THE THING!

THE SENIOR CHOIR

Our Senior Choir sings weekly at the 10:30 am Sunday service and in outreach concerts of the *Music at First-St. Andrew's Series*. Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Some music reading ability and prior choral experience are helpful, and regular commitment is essential. Please contact Paul Merritt at 519-679-8182 or 519-679-9173.



Paul Merritt, Music Director, at the Organ.

THE CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

The Junior Joyfuls (ages 3-8) led by Terese Sirek Ng and the Joyful Singers (ages 8 and up) led by Paul and Enid Merritt always welcome members. The **Joyful Singers** begin activities on **WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 19** at 6:30 pm The **Junior Joyfuls** begin their sessions on **WEDNESDAY SEPT 26**. If your child/children would like to join in the excitement, please call Terese Sirek Ng at 519-432-2894 or the Merritts at 519-679-9173.

THE LAUDAMUS BELLS

Our Laudamus Bell Choir is a friendly group of musicians who rehearse on Monday evenings and play in service 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 will be provided. Rehearsals are on Monday evenings and will commence on September 10. Please call Barbara Plante, Director, at 519-472-4586 or 519-461-1202 for further information.

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, please leave both your phone number and e-mail address for Bruce Richardson, Leader, at



THE CONCERT SERIES

First-St. Andrew's also 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 forthcoming 2007-2008 brochure as well as the following information on some of this Fall's events.

A CHOIR REUNION

As part of our 175th celebrations, the choir is organizing a reunion of current and former members for Saturday, November 17. An exciting day filled with friends, fun, food and, of course, singing has been planned! The group (over 80 registered at this time) will present a public concert in our Sanctuary at 3 p.m., accompanied by our own First-St. Andrew's Strings. Entitled "OUR FAVOURITE THINGS" the program will feature some of the choristers' most-loved music over the years. The day will conclude with a dinner for all the participants in Proudfoot Hall.

The excitement will continue the next morning as those able to stay will form a massed choir to lead the singing at our 175th Anniversary service.

ANTHEM COMMISSIONS

In keeping with our 175th Anniversary and the strong musical heritage of FSA, the Music Committee has undertaken the commissioning of a number of choral anthems which will be sung in services this fall. Anthems have already been written by choir members Jean Wuensch and Stephen Adams, and former Music Director, Barrie Cabena. As well, we look forward to receiving pieces from Ruth Watson Henderson and Eleanor Daley, internationally known composers from Toronto. We know these pieces will enhance our worship during this special time and for years to come.

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

Regular church school classes begin again on Sunday September 9th.

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 in the Upper Room *during the regular church school year.*

Leader: Nancy Howard (519-289-0540)

TEEN CONFIRMATION CLASS

A new class will begin again in the fall looking forward to confirmation in the spring..

IMPACT

By Rocky Moretti



IMPACT, our youth program, kicks off its 2007/2008 program with a weekend retreat at Camp Kee Mo Kee September 14th-16th. In recent months, the IMPACT group has been busy with numerous activities including hiking, biking, movie nights, picnics and beach outings.

This year IMPACT will include a junior group for grades 6-8 and a senior group for high school

students. The groups will conduct some activities together and others separately. The IMPACT program will include a learning time during church service after the children's story time, an after-high school program, and a variety of activities, including retreats, service projects, curling, cross country skiing and sleepovers. If you are interested in the group, please visit the IMPACT site at the top of the FSA homepage for more information or contact **Rocky Moretti 519-642-4896.**

ADULT DEVELOPMENT

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY STARTS SEPT 16TH

This group meets weekly from 9-10 am in the Sun Room (across from the nursery).

Facilitator: Dr. Jo Ann Silcox (519-642-2152)

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY STARTS SEPT 6TH

10 am in the Parlour. Why not join us?

We begin again on Thursday September 6th.

Facilitator: Susan Shelstad (519-679-8182)

DREAM GROUP

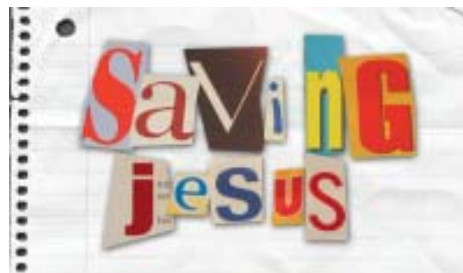
Come and discover the amazing world of your dreams. We meet usually on the last Friday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Parlour. Our next meeting will be on Fri. September 29th. Please join us.

For more information, contact Anne Cunningham (519-433-9663) or Susan Shelstad (519-679-8182).

SPIRITUALITY ON TAP

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

COMING THIS FALL...



Part 1 of "Saving Jesus" – Ever feel Jesus has been kidnapped by the Christian Right?

4 weeks of the DVD-based study exploring the relevance of Jesus Christ for the third millennium. We begin this 4-part series on **Wed. Oct. 3rd** at 7 p.m. in the Chapel.

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.

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.

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.

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)

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Every Sunday, following our 10:30 a.m. worship services, the congregation is invited to remain for refreshment and the deepening of friendship. During the summer months, this takes the form of lemonade on the lawn and in the fall we move inside to Proudfoot Hall. 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.

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 519-642-2152.

CARING CALLERS

“Caring Callers” or “Telephone Ministry” was initiated about four years ago. Thirty dedicated callers make an average of six calls, four times a year: the end of August, Advent, January, and Lent (Easter). Some people are called more often, if necessary, and not all members are called. Shut-ins, young families, pre-operative, post-operative, those in need of support, 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 problems.

More “callers” are always needed and if you would like to share in this very special program, please call Annabelle Logan (519-471-2518).

RIDES FOR SENIORS

If you need a ride to and from church and/or church events, please call Helen and Bill Cockshutt (519-858-9454).

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. Our next baptism is on September 10, 2006. Call the church office if interested (519-679-8182).

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

STEWARDSHIP MISSION 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, 5:30 p.m. providing hospitality meals for more than 100 persons. One hundred or more volunteers have been involved, many of them from other churches. For information, contact Tom and Shirley Wynne at 519-474-4768, or the church office, 519-679-8182.

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 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. Donations are matched 4:1 by CIDA. This summer, the project uses a farm outside London owned by Tom McLarty. The amount raised last year by members of FSA and St. Marys was \$10,000. During the past several years, the money raised locally and matched by the government 4:1 means \$500,000 worth of food was shipped to countries where the need is high.

Once again, this year, we celebrate the effort with a September 16th corn roast at First-St. Andrew's organized by the Stewardship Mission Outreach Committee.

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.

EXCITING FALL SEASON FOR SUPPER CLUB

Plans are in place for this next season's Supper Club meetings, and we have some good news for you!

If you are a member of our group, or are interested in coming along, please feel free to join us.

We gather at 6:15 for a potluck supper, singsong, and then a program.

ALL ARE WELCOME, singles, couples, all ages.

Mark THESE DATES on your calendar now so that you don't miss out!

On **OCTOBER 23. PAUL MERRITT**, our music director, and his wife ENID will share their experiences this past summer, when they joined an HISTORIC VACATION ORGAN TOUR, following in the steps of Bach and Buxtehude, from Germany to Denmark.

They are anxious to share memories and history with us and it should be a memorable evening.

On **NOVEMBER 20**, (Please note date change for this meeting to the 3rd Tuesday) we will experience a **NIGHT IN NICARAGUA**. Our return guests, WILF and LEAURIE NOORDEMEER, photographers and world travelers, will give an exciting presentation of their recent trip to NICARAGUA.

They have been our guests twice before and our group has requested that they come again this year.

A group of women from Nicaragua who are members of the Apostolic church in London will prepare and serve our dinner. The group of well-known and popular cooks serves Nicaraguan food at numerous banquets, festivals, such as "Sunfest" and informal takeout restaurants in the London vicinity. They have future plans to open a Nicaraguan restaurant in London.

We will have more news later about the appetizing meal planned for us and the price per person..

The evening will also feature a group of very colorful and exciting Nicaraguan dancers.

THIS EVENING IS OPEN TO ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO COME !!

Dates for our meetings in 2008 will be January 22, March 25, April 22, and May 19

BRIDGE GROUP

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

UCW MARATHON BRIDGE

The UCW Wednesday Morning Unit invites interested ladies to join the UCW Marathon Bridge group for the 2007-2008 season. Friendly, non-competitive games are played once a month, from October to May, with each partner hosting twice during the season.

WE WELCOME NEW BRIDGE PLAYERS.

To include your name and be a part of fun and fellowship with friends, please contact: **Joni Pypka: 519-681-6900** or email: pagegirl@sympatico.ca

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—although we have been known to meet when he is away.

What do we talk about? Well, 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. Sometimes we even *do* something—last year we sponsored a testing of the sound system which led to improvements.

Sooner or later it all comes down to our personal searches for truth and Truth. How do we incorporate Tom Harper's sceptical views on the historical Jesus? What do we say when faced with illness, dying—and death? Often our discussion grows out of recent sermons. How do we personally experience the Incarnation and Resurrection? What about our personal peak experiences?

Please join us Wednesday, September 19, for our first meeting this fall.

ISABEL GETLIFFE SEWING GROUP

Meets Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. 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

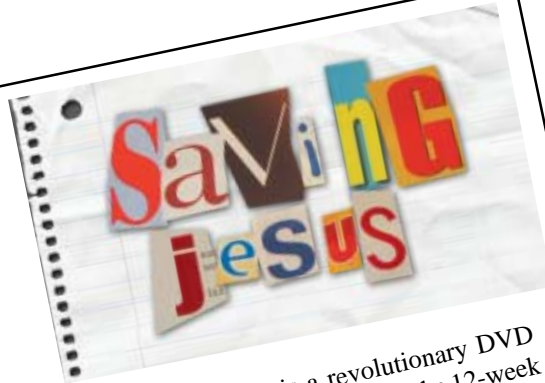
A group of experienced and beginner knitters get together on the second Tuesday of each month from 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. They produce items for children and adults who are cold and in need in our community. For information, call Marion Wilson, 519-434-0530.





A FINAL WORD

FALL 2007



by Susan Shelstad
Saving Jesus

Ever feel like Jesus has been kidnapped by the Christian Right? *Saving Jesus* is a revolutionary DVD exploration of Jesus Christ for the third millennium. Featuring leading religious voices of our day, the 12-week program, which begins at FSA Wed. Oct. 3, includes conversation around each 20-minute video theme, and a guided discussion. Join Marcus Borg, John Dominic Crossan, Matthew Fox, Amy-Jill Levine, James Forbes and a host of others for an exploration of the relevance of Jesus Christ for the third millennium.

Themes of *Saving Jesus*

1. Introduction: Jesus through the Ages
2. Who was Jesus? *Featuring Matthew Fox*
3. What Can We Know About Jesus (and How)?
4. The World into Which Jesus Was Born *Featuring John Dominic Crossan*
- 5) Jesus' Birth: Incarnation
6. Teachings of Jesus: Wisdom Tradition *Featuring Bernard Brandon Scott*
7. Jesus' Program: The Kingdom of God *Featuring John Dominic Crossan*
- 8) Jesus' Ministry of Compassion
9. Killing Jesus, Part 1: Who Killed Jesus? *Featuring Amy-Jill Levine & Helen Prejean*
10. Killing Jesus, Part 2: The Atonement *Featuring Rita Nakashima Brock and Rebecca Ann Parker*
11. The Resurrection of Christ *Featuring James Forbes*
12. Why Jesus Is Worth Saving *Featuring Marcus Borg*

Our first 4 week segment of this series begins Wed. Oct. 3rd at 7 p.m. in the Chapel.

FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S MINISTRY

Rev. Dr. David McKane: Minister of Worship and Administration

Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad: Minister of Christian Development

Frank Meadows: Minister Emeritus

Paul Merritt: Director of Music

Ted Kostecki: Community Development Coordinator

Sue Scorgie: Church Administrator

Maureen Scarborough: Administrative Assistant/Receptionist

Rusty Robertson: Custodian

