

Tidings

FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

Where liberal theology meets the best of tradition



VOLUME 18 ● NUMBER 4

CHRISTMAS 2007

DEEP PEACE

By Rev. Dr. David McKane

Every year the McKane family sends out a Christmas letter to family and friends scattered across the country and around the world. These annual Christmas letters are a way of keeping in touch. Every year, for longer than I can remember, it has been my custom to write a poem or Christmas hymn as part of our Christmas letter.

Where David sat on hillside
and sang his psalms of praise,
the shepherds 'round a fire sat
and talked of olden days
when God was Israel's Shepherd,
and manna Israel's Bread.

Throughout Advent we too, spoke of olden days, of the biblical dream for a Messiah, of the coming of the Christ-child, of light shining in the dark places of our world and of a Prince of Peace who will usher in a new age.

They talked of a Messiah,
while stars shone overhead,
to lead them from captivity
as Moses once had led.
And of another David
from out the House of Bread.

The people of Afghanistan dream of an end to war and conflict as do the people of Iraq. People dream of living a "normal" life; of educating their children; of living in relative peace and prosperity. The people of Darfur dream of an end to the violence that has driven them out of their homes into refugee camps; that has devastated their villages and countryside and that forces them to raise their children in very difficult and dangerous conditions. The Dali Lama in his recent visit to Canada has asked Canada to consider opening our borders and our homes to more Tibetan refugees attempting to escape from China's oppressive occupation and resettlement of Tibet.

All this they dreamed on hillside,
while in the sleeping town
sweet Mary birthed her first born
and gently laid him down
within a straw-filled manger
beneath a star-crossed town.



All of this plays in us too as we walked through Advent and prepared for Christmas. The old, old, old story takes on a very contemporary feel as we think of the plight of the Palestinians and the longing of Israelis for security and peace; as we think of Canadian families with sons and daughters, husbands and wives serving in Afghanistan or those who have lost loved ones in that conflict, aware of an empty space within the family circle and praying for a world free from war. Once again the story of Christmas becomes the world's story as we struggle to find better ways of solving

human conflict and sharing this world with one another, as we struggle for justice and righteousness in our own communities as well as within our global community.

So down the generations
this shepherd tale is told.
A child born in a manger,
the Shepherd of God's fold.
The One who frees the captive
and feeds each hungry soul.

We pray for all the blessings of God upon you and those you love.

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you, deep peace of the shining stars to you....deep peace of Christ to you,

David

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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

by David Flynn

Perhaps Advent, the beginning of the Church year is a good time to look at what Tidings is. Not a newspaper: "a daily or weekly publication"—too infrequent to announce coming events. More than a newsletter: "A brief publication containing news and current events"—more than a description of what has happened.

So, a magazine: "containing pictures and stories and articles of interest"—of interest to people bound together by a Christ-inspired purpose.

In future issues, we hope to have more stories of *God's Stewards* who have served God well. In this issue, a *Profile* of the Morettis and the beginning of a new series on *Newcomers*—Paul Cooper and David Hiebert. We seem to have run out of four-generation families for our series on *Multigenerational Families*.

Also in this issue, Robin Procnier lets us see the Board of Trustees from his perspective, part of our *You are There* series.



Other stories: Gavin McGregor continues with our *Scottish Roots*. Lorraine Jardine tells us of her recent visit to Hekima Place, a home for AIDS orphans in Kenya. We have an item on the 10th anniversary of Meals on Wheels in Proudfoot House written by Laurel Hevenor-Vallance, its Executive Director.

Of course, we continue our Program Guide, as well as describing in words and photographs recent events.

Most of the people involved with Tidings are listed in the Masthead below—but not the people who fold and stuff envelopes for the Fall Mailing. We are pleased that FSA uses the Fall Tidings to launch the new year of activities. Thanks to Muriel Parsons, ushers/greeters will offer current issues of Tidings at Sunday services, again part of FSA's welcoming outreach.

Another new item—a Letters to the Editor column. Space is limited (as our writers know!) so we may only publish excerpts. But please write or email me at pdflynn@rogers.com with comments and suggestions.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks to you and the Tidings Team for the very fine Fall 2007 issue of Tidings. It is a good source of information about what has happened and is about to take place at FSA. We particularly enjoyed the people articles which acquaint us with members both old and new and the wonderful gifts their area of expertise and knowledge bring to the congregation.

However, we were troubled by the cost of \$1.10 per issue spent on mailing...

Margaret Wonfor

I would like to congratulate the *Tidings* team for a wonderful Fall issue. It's informative as well as entertaining—everything a newsletter should be. Well done.

Pat McGregor.

Just finished reading Tidings and it is full of interesting opportunities for the fall.

You were wondering how the current bridge groups were started at FSA. Well, it was 25 or 30 years ago, a lady called Bianca Stoynavich and myself decided it would be a good way to meet people and enjoy a game of bridge with others at our church. At the time, we were both playing in the afternoon women's bridge marathon at The Church of the Transfiguration in Orchard Park. We used their format to get started and published our plans in the weekly bulletin, and the Couples bridge was "re-born" at FSA.

This continues to this day, as you know, and perhaps the UCW bridge was an offshoot of our endeavour. That part, I really don't know.

My late husband Glen and I played in the Couples Bridge at FSA for many years and now Joni Pypka and I are partners in the UCW bridge marathon. Thought these few details might shed some light on how we got started again in the "Bridge Game" at FSA.

Barbara Bain

CURRENT ISSUE

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

www.fsaunited.com

Tidings

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WILLIAM PROUDFOOT RETURNS FOR 175TH

by Barbara Plante



In 1832, the Rev. William Proudfoot arrived in London from Scotland, and founded St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. In 2007, he returned to see what the congregation—now First St. Andrew's United Church—was up to. And he it celebrating 175 years of ministry the church had provided since he established it.

From time to time, throughout the year, he dropped by—seen and unseen—to watch and participate in the festivities. He toasted the

congregation in sparkling juice, saw teddy bears, seals, coffee, chocolate, hasty notes, bookmarks, and banners—all proclaiming the church's 175 years of ministry "at the heart" of the community. He wandered among geraniums on the lawn, sat in on informative evenings provided by the Christian Development Committee. He enjoyed magnificent musical events—even allowed that the installation of the organ was a wondrous thing—unheard of in his day! He marvelled at the ability of the ministers to deliver thought-provoking and inspiring sermons—in 20 minutes—wondered what one has to do to become a Minister Emeritus, and pondered deeply as ministers and various guest speakers urged the congregation toward a more liberal and inclusive Christianity.

He smiled in contentment that the congregation's ministry extends far beyond the walls of the church, to local outreach initiatives, including a housing project for people with disabilities, as well as to mission projects in other parts of the world—even a place he had never heard of called Nicaragua. He had to admit that the building in which the congregation now worships is beautiful beyond belief, and allowed himself a moment of pride when he discovered that their newly renovated hall bears his name. He marvelled at the stained glass windows, and even bought a DVD so he could learn more about their history and content. When all these celebrations exhausted him, he found spiritual refreshment as he walked a labyrinth walk.

At one point he was overheard asking "What, in Heaven's name, is a website?"

There were so many activities and events, that by the time November, 2007 rolled around, his head was spinning. And, on the night of the Gala Wrap-Up Dinner, as he began to wax eloquent in praise of the congregation, its history, and ongoing ministry, his lovely and long-suffering wife, Isabelle, gently but firmly led him away, reminding him that he had provided the impetus for a great congregation, had done his best to oversee the anniversary year—then advised him that he should now let the congregation get on with their work—and their meal! Off they went together but not before they had investigated that delectable concoction called "Cherries Jubilee".

We said goodbye to William Proudfoot that evening. But he'll be back, from time to time, just to see that we are carrying on the way we should. His spirit will continue to hover over us, and provide inspiration and fun as we begin our next 175 years.



"William Proudfoot" (George Jolink) tries to explain to his wife "Isabelle" (Glenda Pennjngton) why he is spending his time in the future with the members of First-St. Andrew's.



The Prime Organizers of the 175th anniversary Gala relax at the end of the evening:
(above) Ron and Annabelle Logan, (right) Donna Ellis and Bob Schram.



A perfect end to a perfect evening: "Cherries Jubilee" with the logo for the 175 anniversary engraved on the cookie

PROFILE

The Moretti Family.

by Mary McKim



We were fortunate when Rocky, Valerie and their four children, Myrna, Stella, Talia and Taddeo joined FSA, the result of an issue in their former congregation. Rocky has successfully reorganized the youth group, now known as **Impact**. The enthusiastic young people's response is dramatic.

Rocky was born in London, a nephew of Vito owner of Pizza Cave, attended Catholic schools and St. Mary's RC church. When he was thirteen his father moved the family to Florida to escape our winters. Rocky studied Journalism at the University of Florida and worked for the Ft. Lauderdale News before moving to Washington to work for the US Transportation Lobby, requiring a great deal of travel. Recently, he completed a project on Public Education in Massachusetts. He has also coached a lot of sports.

Valerie's parents were married in FSA, as were she and Rocky, but she lived first in Burlington, moving to Windsor when she was ten. All her family were active in the United Church where the father of our Moderator, David Giuliano, was Minister. With the family on Sabbatical Valerie attended Art School in Cambridge, England, then went to UWO, majoring in English. The wife of Rocky's cousin Michael was a friend, and she and Rocky met at the wedding of Michael's younger brother. Long distance courtship ran up huge phone bills until they married in 1991. They purchased a house in Washington and attended an active Methodist congregation where they both taught Sunday school. Valerie also was busy with their growing family.

The children have dual citizenship and the family eventually decided to return to Canada to be closer to relatives. All have adjusted and are active in Sunday School. Valerie helped organize a well-attended pot luck dinner for young families. She feels that FSA is in a growth period. The Morettis are certainly contributing to that growth and we are privileged to have them.



Rocky and Valerie Moretti with their children Myrna, Stella, Talia and Tad

NEWCOMERS

David Hiebert and Paul Cooper

by Ellen McKim



When asked why they chose FSA as their new church home there was no hesitation in their reply. "Because," they said, "the people were friendly and welcoming, the church espoused a social responsibility and theological outlook, as well as being forward thinking, while maintaining traditional values".

As a couple they had been together eleven years, attending another church, but were unable to have their marriage sanctioned. In the fall of 2006 they attended a service at FSA and, after the service, met David McKane. David warmly welcomed them and subsequently they joined the church in November of last year along with Paul's mother and daughter.

Having sung in a church choir for many years, they joined our choir—Paul immediately and David this year. They both agree that singing in the choir is an important part of their lives.

On May 26th of this year, Dr. Paul Cooper and David Hiebert were married, with the Reverend Susan Shelstad officiating, joined by many members of the choir who sang at the ceremony.

Paul is a neurological specialist, and is Senior Medical Director at LHSC and St. Joseph's Hospital, as well as teaching in the Medical School at UWO.

David, until recently, was a pharmaceutical sales representative but always had a keen desire to be a dentist. Consequently, he is applying this fall for the dentistry programme at UWO. In addition, he is an excellent photographer.

We are fortunate to have such talented and caring people in our congregation.

Welcome to FSA!



David Hiebert and Dr. Paul Cooper

COVENANT

by Jackie Lautens McLennan



In the Hebrew Bible there are several covenants between God and the Israelites: with Noah, Abraham, and Hagar—the only woman in the OT with whom God made a covenant—with Lot, Jacob, Moses, Israel, and David. Then there is the New Covenant. According to Paul, Jesus' death marked the beginning of a new covenant that Christians consider the final fulfillment of the covenants in the Hebrew Bible.

What exactly does “covenant” mean? To me it means—a promise. A covenant can be a one-way agreement whereby the person making the covenant is the only one bound by the promise. Or, according to Webster, it is “a binding and solemn agreement made by two or more individuals, parties, etc. to do or keep from doing a specified thing...”. This differs from a contract which is usually written and enforceable by law.

How might we make a covenant? When we pray the Psalms, we are making a covenant with God: Psalm 9, for example, states “*I will give thanks to the Lord....I will tell of thy most wonderful deeds.....*” One might make a covenant to love, nurture and protect one's family. We might make a covenant to try to protect the environment, to fight an injustice, to work for a worthy cause.

The tapestry hanging in the chapel of FSA is entitled “Covenant”. In designing this tapestry I was inspired by Genesis, Chapter 9, the Noah story. I was particularly drawn to verses 8 to 17 where God sets the rainbow in the sky as a sign of the *covenant* between God and the earth and all its inhabitants. This can be interpreted to say that God will love us and be gracious to us, no matter what we do. Unconditional love is the hallmark of that covenant. What a wonderful promise!



*"God's covenant with Noah"
by Jackie Lautens. This work is
hanging in the chapel*

WE WILL REMEMBER

On November 11th, we held a Remembrance Service where we honoured those who fought for our freedoms and make huge sacrifices.



MAKING THE WORLD BETTER— ONE PERSON AT A TIME

by Lorraine Jardine

I was astounded when a visiting minister told us that more people die every day from AIDS in Africa, than died in the 9/11 tragedy. With my approaching retirement, I vowed to help—and that led to my recent month in Kenya.

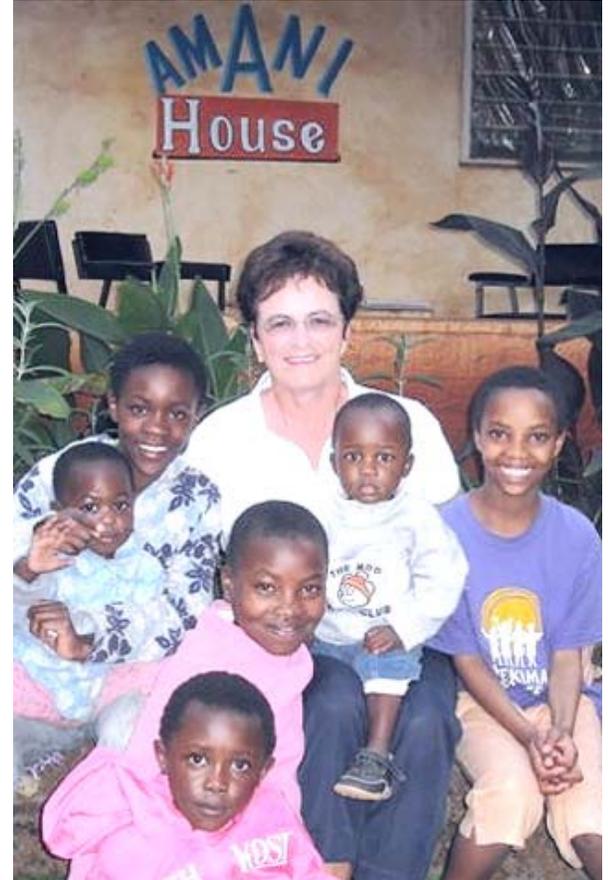
Hekima Place is a private, non-profit home for 46 girls whose parents have died from AIDS. I taught at their school but they offer many other volunteer opportunities, with room and board provided at a nominal cost.

The experience far exceeded my expectations. Kenya is a beautiful, safe country, and the people very welcoming. The

orphanage is located in the Nairobi suburbs, on the former farm of Karen Blixen of “Out of Africa” fame.

Friends were supportive of my mission (including the Clark Fund of FSA), knowing their donations went directly to the orphanage, and are tax deductible. The girls will also put to good use the 240 pounds of clothing plus health and school supplies I took with me.

I plan to do speaking engagements to encourage volunteering in Africa, and to raise funds for this very worthwhile organization. Donations can be a one-time payment, or sponsorship of a specific girl, where the donor provides \$30 a month for room and board, or \$30 more for education. Together we can make a difference—one person at a time—in the fight against AIDS. Donations can be sent to The Edith Benson Chapter of the IODE; c/o Peggy Boyd, Treasurer; Unit 30, 99 Edgevalley Road; London N5Y 5N1. More information is available at www.hekimaplace.org.



Lorraine Jardine in Kenya with some of the children of Hekima Place, a home for orphans of aids-stricken parents. Lorraine will be a speaker at the Supper Club at FSA on January 22.

SMO NEWS

by Barb Dalrymple



We have had a busy fall, beginning with our Mission Sunday on September 16 which included the Corn Roast for Grow-A-Row. Rivah Unland, Program Co-ordinator for People in Mission, brought us an inspiring sermon. We presented her with over 100 library books for Los Quinchos and a cheque for \$11,696. Every book has a picture of our Sunday School children. Thanks to Willis Buckingham and Jane Westmorland for taking the pictures and preparing the books. The Supper Club Nicaraguan dinner took place Nov. 22 (see the report below). We will continue to sell coffee, chocolate and Church calendars for the next few weeks.

Copies of the Christmas Hope Book—the Alternative Gift Catalogue from London Conference—were made available. You may choose gifts for Ethiopia, Jamaica, Japan, Korea and Mozambique.

It has been an exciting year, with our Committee focusing on our two 175th Anniversary Projects—LIFT Housing here in London and the Los Quinchos School in Managua. We will continue to support Los Quinchos with our annual Golf Tournament, the next one taking place on June 14, 2008. Every member of the Committee has worked diligently to make both these projects very successful. Thanks also to FSA members for supporting us 100%.

A NIGHT IN NICARAGUA

A MOST ENJOYABLE EVENING

by Barb Dalrymple

On Tuesday, November 22, 120 people enjoyed a Nicaraguan evening planned by the SMO Committee and the Supper Club. The absolutely delicious Nicaraguan food and drink were prepared by three sisters who recently opened a Latin American restaurant—El Pinolero. Decorations were blue and white—the colours of the Nicaraguan flag. Wilf and Leaurie Nordemeer presented a slide show of a trip they had taken to Nicaragua.

The proceeds from the event will go to Los Quinchos School for street vendors in Managua. It was a wonderful celebration of the SMO committee's 175th Anniversary 'away' project. Fair Trade Nicaraguan coffee from Las Chicas Del Cafe will continue to be sold at Coffee & Conversation.

AN ORGAN RECITAL

For those who couldn't be there, this is what an organ recital audience looks like from the back—or is it the front? And it's the best way to watch Paul Merritt put on a dexterous display of hand and foot work on the organ at the back—or is it the front?...



OUTREACH

Meals on Wheels

by Laurel Hevenor-Vallance, Executive Director

Since 1997 Meals on Wheels London has been located in the former First St. Andrew's manse, and we are proud to be associated with your community outreach program.

After 38 years of home support for seniors and adults with disabilities, we have refined the process and now supply hot, chilled or frozen meals to accommodate a wide variety of diet types. This year, volunteers will deliver 100,000 meals to meet the individual goals of our clients. Services are available for short term needs—for example, two weeks following hospital discharge—or long term for clients requiring ongoing support. A meal subsidy program is available to clients with financial restraints. We strive to ensure clients are able to remain as independent as possible in their own homes.

Meals on Wheels' volunteers also provide transportation for medical appointments within London. The need for affordable, dependable transportation is growing rapidly. In 2005, volunteers completed 4,700 rides; in 2006 over 8,700 rides—a remarkable 85% increase. Volunteers are critical to meet the rapid growth of this program.

"Lunch Bunch" has become an important arm of our service. Three times per month volunteers pick up clients and meet with others at a local restaurant. Together they share a meal, laughs and conversation. Keeping people connected to their community helps reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness.

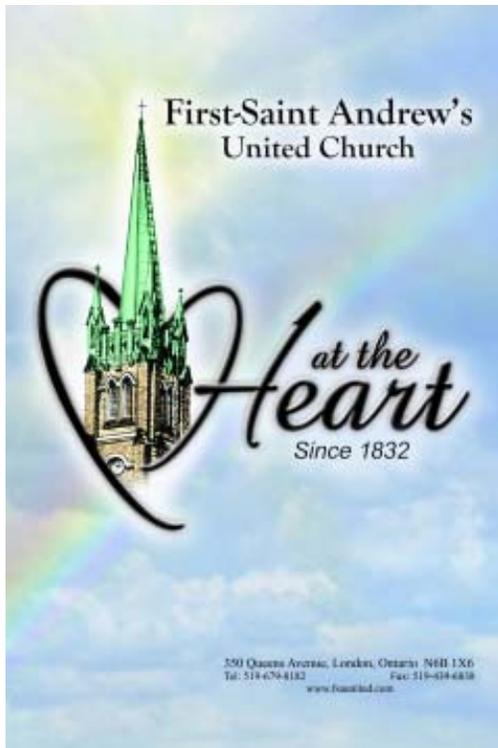
Meals and transportation are two basic needs that most people take for granted. For a senior trying to remain in their home, these needs may be critical. Meals on Wheels London can help with high quality, nutritious meals and friendly door to door transportation. If you or someone you know could benefit from our services or you are interested in volunteering please call our office at **519 660-1430**.

Congratulations, FSA, on your 175th Anniversary—and thank you for ten years of sharing your space and your community outreach.



Volunteer driver Mike Ryan loads up his car for another delivery.

THE NEW DIRECTORY



Our new telephone directories have been distributed.

Our thanks to Ron and Annabelle Logan and their team, which included Ed and Donna Ellis, who went through hundreds of pictures to pick those that best represented First-St. Andrew's.

The cover was designed by Bob Schram and his team at Sterling Marking Products.

We've had inquiries from people whose picture was not included and, therefore, didn't receive a free directory. We are ordering several dozen to have on hand for new members over the next few years. But if you'd like to purchase one, the office would be happy to sell you one at our cost, \$12.50.

You'll find them extremely handy sitting next to the phone when you want to call someone at First-St. Andrew's.

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

This year's pageant, "Santa's Favourite Story" was produced by Martha Bere and featured the children of the congregation.



YOU ARE THERE

The Board of Trustees

by Robin Procnier

On a vacation to Montreal this summer, Katie and I travelled by train. Shortly after we left the London station, the VIA Rail conductor appeared at the head of our rail car to express his sincere thanks to us for having chosen VIA Rail, despite the many other transportation options available for travel today.

It was a message that was well deliveredand well received.

It struck me then, as it does now, that we as Trustees also need to thank you sincerely, our wonderful congregation at FSA, for having chosen our church as your church, and for having generously included the church in your financial commitments both now and in the future. It is because of you and your predecessors that you and your family have celebrated 175 years of spiritual worship and growth in London.

And what have Trustees been doing in 2007? We are committed to ensuring that your financial support is well protected and well invested on your behalf. Our activities have been largely focused around two active sub-committees. One sub-committee is making sure that our insurance is adequate to protect our valuable physical assets. The other sub-committee is establishing an investment policy to ensure an adequate return and protection of the church's financial investments for our needs now, and for the future.

As we approached Montreal, at every stop along the way, the message of thanks was delivered again and again. It was appreciated because it was delivered in an honest and sincere way. I can only hope that you hear and accept our thanks in this same spirit. Together, we can look forward to a safe and pleasant journey over the next 175 years!

DAVID MCCLAUS?

Prior to the Children's Pageant, Our own David McKane stands in for Santa for a sing-song of Christmas carols and songs.



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!"*

Sept. 15, 2007 Anne Buragina and Nathan Radley
Sept. 22, 2007 Lisa Marie Longo and Grzegorz Slaski
Sept. 29, 2007 Claire Button and Geoffrey Matthews
Oct. 13, 2007 Barbara Dodington and Brian Huis
Nov. 26, 2007 Olga Pashley and John Wilkinson
Dec. 1, 2007 Carmi Sgambelluri and Michael Mooser
Dec. 1, 2007 Halona Gardner and Justin Scott

DEATHS

"Well done good and faithful servant."

Sept. 14, 2007 Alton Ross
Sept. 25, 2007 Allan Allbutt
Sept 30, 2007 Mona Kathleen Cramer
Nov. 13, 2007 Carol Marie Eyre
Dec. 10, 2007 Helen Billings
Dec. 11, 2007 Mary Ellen Fletcher
Dec. 19, 2007 Arnold Stapleton
Dec. 27, 2007 Ruth Thompson

and More Changes...



(Above) Another group of new members to First-St. Andrew's officially joined us in November. They include Catherine Charlton, Barbara Fehler, Mary-Ellen Gustafsen and Tracy Mark and Tracy Hodson. Tracy was unable to be at the service. Standing behind the new members are their sponsors.



(Above) Our new custodian Geoff Bottomley joined us in November after moving from Barrie. His wife Pat works at Sears.



(Left) Ina Cavers has celebrated her 100th birthday. The occasion was marked by the Thursday morning Bible Study Group which took a moment to share some cake and beverages.

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.

OUR SCOTTISH ROOTS

Saint Andrew

By Gavin McGregor



St. Andrew: his Feast day is November 30 He is part of our Church name—yet what do we really know about St. Andrew?

The Declaration of Arbroath (1320) described him as “... the most gentle Saint Andrew, the Blessed Peter’s brother, and [we] desire him to keep them [Scots] under his protection as their patron forever.” Incidentally, the

Declaration was about freedom from oppression.

The choice of St. Andrew as the patron saint of Scotland grew up around skeletal remains, supposedly St. Andrew’s, in a monastery near the fishing village of Kilrymont ...now St Andrew’s. *Why were his bones there?*

George Alexandrou, writing about St Andrew’s epic journeys, says: “From Valaam [*Russia*] it appears that he went to the Baltic Sea. Then possibly to Scotland and back to the Baltic, although...this is not certain”... *Was he planning to convert the Picts?*

Greek tradition claims St. Andrew was crucified in Patras. The elderly Andrew, then about 90, could have avoided death by saying that Maximillia, wife of Aegeates the Roman proconsul, had returned to her husband, a lie he couldn’t tell, so Aegeates had him crucified. Andrew requested a cross different from those of Jesus and of Peter for he felt unworthy to share their place. Much later St. Regulus (?) took some of his relics from Patras to Scotland ...*but why?*

Alexandrou’s gives us a lovely image of Andrew. “Because he was humble, he could speak to all people. He was not an invader, he was not an explorer, and he lived as one of them. He fished with them, ate with them, farmed with them, traveled with them—by any means they had.”

Many questions but no doubts that we at First St. Andrew’s would want to exemplify the spirit of this humble, hard working Saint—and not forget that he is also the patron saint of singers!



ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY

The 175th anniversary was marked with a guest speaker, Dr. Douglas Hall, Emeritus Professor at McGill University (above). Another highlight of the Service was the Salvation Army Band (below), a regular feature of our Anniversary Service.



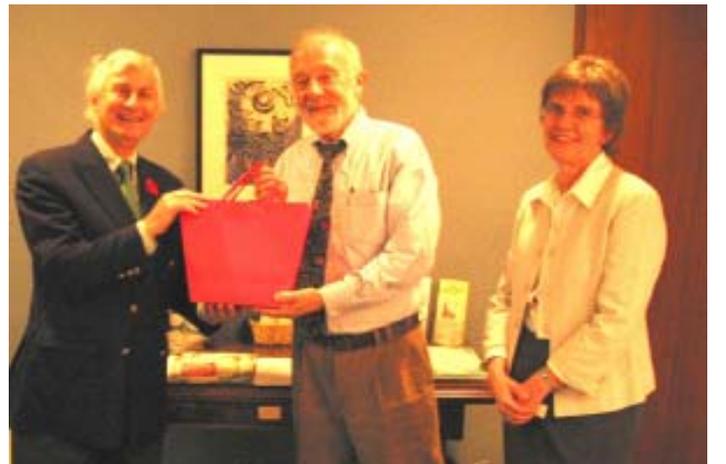
PROUDFOOT LECTURE SERIES



The past November, we featured author and religion scholar Marcus Borg.

Borg spoke to an attentive crowd in the full sanctuary, then took questions before signing books in the Atrium.

David McKane and Susan Shelstad presented Borg with a gift of appreciation.



CHOIR REUNION FOR 175TH ANNIVERSARY

By Anne Cummings

The highlight of the 175th Anniversary year for the Senior Choir was hosting a choir reunion on Anniversary Weekend, November 17-18, with 47 former choir members attending. 34 of these returning members sang in a choir of 80 singers, accompanied by a 15-piece orchestra composed of FSA Strings and woodwinds.

This enjoyable event included rehearsals Saturday morning and afternoon to prepare for a concert of favourite anthems and choruses. After the concert, singers and spouses had dinner in Proudfoot Hall and then joined in much laughter at music and skits provided by current and past choir members.

Returning singers came from as far as New Brunswick, Montreal, Ottawa, and Sudbury. It was wonderful to renew old friendships and be part of the glorious sound of this massed choir and orchestra.



(above) A practice for the 80 current and former members of the Senior Choir



(above) former members of the choir joined current members for dinner in Proudfoot Hall.



(right) And through the whole day, there was time to trade stories of the old and not-so-old days.

UCW

by Mary McKim

Congratulations and a heartfelt thanks to all who contributed and worked so hard to make the Rummage sale and the Holly Bazaar both such successes. "Ne plus ultra". The Rummage sale netted us \$1946 and the bazaar, an incredible \$9000. Well done!

It was necessary to purchase a new freezer for the big kitchen and it is magnificent. It was reported that the comprehensive building assessment for the church was approved at Council. It will cost \$35,000!

The annual UCW pot-luck Christmas Social took place in Proudfoot Hall on Nov. 28th, and colourful boxes were filled with Christmas cookies for our shut-ins. We were delightfully entertained by the Joyful Singers and the Junior Joyfuls, each of whom sang three songs. Our Thank Offering was for Beth Emmanuel Church.

The Annual meeting will be held in the chapel on January 13th following the service. The slate of officers will be presented and the election of officers will take place. (The officers will be presented at a service at a later date). The budget will be presented for acceptance.

The Annual meeting of Presbyterial UCW is on Feb. 14th, 2008.

The Wednesday morning group is bringing to a close, regretfully, the monthly musical entertainment at Extencicare which has been offered for many years.



(above) David McKane officially opens the Bazaar in his traditional bazaar kilt.



(right) the Christmas elves take a break at the Treasures table.



(right) Bazaar helpers Ron Logan and Jack Hillier wish each other a Merry Christmas.

FSA Program Guide

Christmas 2007

WORSHIP

January 6	9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Epiphany Communion Rev. Dr. David McKane	March 9	9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. 5th in Lent Rev. Dr. David McKane
January 13	9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Baptism Sunday Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad	March 16	9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Palm Passion Sunday Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad
January 20	9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. 2nd after Epiphany Week of prayer for Christian Unity	Thurs. March 20	7 p.m. Maundy Thursday FSA Rev. Dr. David McKane
January 27	9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. 3rd after Epiphany Rev. Dr. David McKane	Fri. March 21	11 a.m. at Metropolitan United Rev. Dr. David McKane
February 3	9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Transfiguration Rev. Dr. David McKane	March 23	Easter Sunday 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Rev. Dr. David McKane
Tuesday Feb 5	Shrove (Pancake) Tuesday		
Wed. Feb 6	Ash Wednesday Rev. Dr. David McKane Rev. Dr. Susay Shelstad		
February 10	9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Lent Communion Dr. David McKane		
February 17	9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. 2nd in Lent Rev.. Dr. Susan Shelstad		
February 24	9am and 10:30 a.m. 3rd in Lent Dr. David McKane,		
March 2	9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. 4th in Lent Rev. Dr. David McKane		



(above) At Christmas, the chancel of the sanctuary was decorated with cut-flowers and poinsettias. And thanks again to our Christmas Tree crew (below) for putting up the tall tree in the sanctuary.



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.

THE CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

FSA is proud to have 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.

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. The group is directed by Barbara Plante.

THE FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S STRINGS

The FSA Strings is an accomplished performing group that has enjoyed increased exposure over the past years. The Strings are led by Bruce Richardson.



Bruce Richardson, at the cello, and Music Director Paul Merritt, at the piano, provided the beautiful music on the last Sunday of the year.

THE CHOIR RECORDINGS

Once again we are selling the choir's two CD's, *Favourite Hymns* and *Christmas is Love*, with all revenues going to the church.

Self-serve displays are in several locations in the church and the CD's will be available at the office.

We are pleased to offer something new this year in the form of Christmas cards which include disc one from the "Christmas is Love" double CD. Think ahead for next year: For \$10.00 you will receive a packet of 3 cards that are sure to bring Christmas cheer to anyone receiving them.



Brian Joyce and Friends

Saturday, January 19, 2008 at 7:30 pm

A program of Opera, Classical, Jazz and Rock
"In Appreciation of Chiropractic Medicine"

Our Sixth Annual Taste of Burns

Saturday, January 26, 2008

with David McKane as Robbie Burns

Dinner catered by The Grosvenor Club

Pipes, Songs, Dancing and Entertainment by "Haggis Stew"

Hommage à Messiaen

Friday, February 1, 2008 at 7:30 pm

Celebrating the Centenary of Olivier Messiaen,

one of the 20th Century's Seminal Musicians with
works for Organ, Voice, Flute and Piano

COMMISSIONED ANTHEMS ON OUR 175TH

by Anne Cummings

One of the initiatives of the Music Committee for First-St. Andrew's 175th Anniversary this year was to commission two of Canada's leading composers of church music to write anthems for the choir to sing. A massed choir of 80 current and former choir members was very privileged to premiere their anthems at the Choir Reunion Concert and at the Anniversary Sunday service, November 17-18.

One anthem was by Ruth Watson Henderson, a prolific Canadian composer who lives in Toronto. She has a connection with FSA through being organist at Eglinton United Church while David McKane was their minister and is now organist at Kingsway Lambton United Church. Her anthem, *All Are Welcome*, is a very lively, spirited piece that includes a refrain sung by the congregation. When queried about this composition, Ruth replied,

"When looking for a text for this piece, I found the words, 'All are welcome' in a hymn by Marty Haugen. Although set in the present tense, they seemed to express the welcoming joy that must have been found over the years in a church that has a 175 year history of showing love, healing, faith and forgiveness through its songs and visions. When looking for new music to express these thoughts, I turned to lilting rhythms that use some measures with a 7/8 metre to give a lift to the words."

Another gifted Toronto composer, Eleanor Daley, also contributed a beautiful anthem for us. She, too, has an FSA connection as organist and choir director at Fairlawn United Church when Frank Meadows was minister there and continues to be in that post. Her anthem, *Behold the Tabernacle of God*, has rich, sonorous harmonies and a lovely melody to express the reverence that we feel for *our* tabernacle of First-St. Andrew's United Church.

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.

CHURCH SCHOOL

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 class of four young people is underway looking forward to confirmation in the spring.

IMPACT

By Rocky Moretti

1. Sunday mornings during the 10:30 a.m. service, high school age young people meet in the Upper Room for a learning program.
2. Youth Groups—grades 6-8 and grades 9-12— meet regularly for a variety of activities.
3. An after-school program for high school students meets the second and fourth Thursday of every month in the Upper Room from 2:45 – 5:15 p.m.



Impact
Coordinator:
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

10 am in the Parlour. Why not join us?

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.

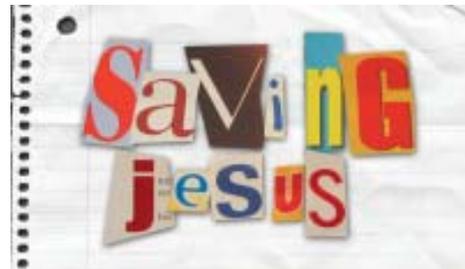
For more information, contact Anne Cunningham (519-433-9663) or Susan Shelstad (519-679-8182).

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 WINTER....

“Accessing the Mystic”



*Part 2 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. January 23** at 7 p.m. in the Chapel. Continues on **Wed. Jan 30, Wed. Feb 20, Wed. Feb 27***

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 January 13, 2008. 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 celebrated the effort with a September 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.

THE SUPPER CLUB

Happenings

by Jean McKay

This has been a great fall season for our club. In October, **Paul Merritt**, our Music director, and his wife Enid, shared their experiences in Germany and Europe. Paul was on an Historic Organ tour sponsored by the University of Michigan. They saw many historic places and instruments, following in the steps of Bach and Buxtehude.

In November, we had a record 122 people who attended "A Night in Nicaragua," a joint effort of the Supper Club and the SMO committee. (See the SMO report on this night.)

Return guests **Wilf and Leaurie Noordemeer** shared a presentation of a recent trip Wilf and his brother took to Nicaragua where they assisted physically and mentally challenged people.

In 2008 we have more excitement planned for you:

January 22: Lorraine Jardine will talk about her experiences in Nairobi, Kenya. (Also see her report elsewhere in this issue.)

March 25th: Peter Clements, one of London's outstanding jazz pianists, again will delight us with some wonderful music. He may bring along a surprise guest or two!

April 22nd: We are hopeful that Mayor **Anne Marie DeCicco-Best** will be our guest.

May 27th: We will have a visit from the **Teen Challenge Choir**. About 16 young men will sing for us and tell how their lives were changed through their association with Teen Challenge, and the power of Christ.

We extend a warm invitation to EVERYONE, all ages, to be with us for a marvelous potluck supper, a sing-song led by Paul Merritt, and the presentation by our guests.

For more information contact **June McKay 519-471-5668** or **Shirley Wynne 519-474-4768**

BRIDGE GROUP

The Marathon Bridge Group is into a new 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 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 LOOK AT THE GALA



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

Geoff Bottomley: Custodian