

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

Where liberal theology meets the best of tradition



# Tidings

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**PENTECOST/SUMMER**

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# Tidings

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David Wardlaw

This is the fifth issue of *Tidings* to be published during the COVID-19 pandemic. Fittingly, the "Feature" article is the third in a series of essays by FSA's Barrie Evans on God in the Time of COVID. Barrie continues to provide thoughtful reflections and thought-provoking perspectives on the nature of God and on our relationship with God in the context of the turmoil and disruption of a pandemic. I was inspired, stimulated, and challenged by reading this piece and I think you will be too.

In the Mission and Service article, FSA's Ken Wright provides his perspective on the development of dental outreach in London and the culminating outcome of establishment of the Wright Clinic, a dental clinic specifically for those who have no dental insurance and cannot afford even routine dental care. Ken was the driving force behind the creation of this clinic, which has been most appropriately named in his honour.

In the Minister's Message, David McKane proffers that it is his last such message as he prepares to retire for a second time at the end of August, this time as our supply minister. David has been and continues to be a minister emeritus at FSA. In Latin, *emeritus* is the contraction of *ex meritis*, meaning coming out of or arising from merit. For the 2020–21 church year, David has been our minister *in meritis*. We have been fortunate that he was available and willing to serve. FSA has been truly blessed by his leadership, spiritual guidance, his insights into Christianity, and his community building in a year of challenges, both for David in terms of his health and for all of us in terms of the pandemic.

Our church administrator, Heather Vouvalidis, is the subject of a "Tribute" article. By the time you read this piece in June, Heather will be in her last month with us as an employee. She is retiring after four years in the administrator role. On behalf of FSA, I am taking the opportunity provided by this column to thank Heather most sincerely for her good work on our behalf and to acknowledge her true dedication and tireless service to FSA. We wish you all the best in the retirement phase of life. Congratulations Heather!

Whatever your summer activities, projects, and travel may be, the *Tidings* team wishes everyone a relaxing, restorative, rewarding, and safe summer. †

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Rev. Dr. David McKane

With this my last *Tidings* message as supply minister, let me wish you all a wonderful summer of rest and relaxation. I am writing this while we are still under lockdown, which is likely to be extended. Nonetheless I hope we are able to enjoy a major part of the summer. There is a long list of thanks that needs to be expressed. First, I need to congratulate Kerry Hill and the Search Committee on their selection of Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence as our new minister at FSA. Let me also thank Joshua and his family for choosing FSA. Immigration is a big adventure for a young family, and FSA, I know, will welcome them with open arms. I wish them every success in their new home in Canada.

I also need to thank Steve Elson, chair of Council, and the Council and the committees for keeping us together during COVID; Heather Vouvalidis for her years of service on our behalf; our director of music Erich Knapp and the members of the chamber choir who have kept worship going for the past year; the video team, Jim Silcox, Merran Neville, and Kathryn Skelly; Kathryn Skelly for keeping me on the straight and narrow, especially during my recovery from my stroke; Tom Hiscock and Ann Corbet for their filling in during my stroke recovery and to Ann for her continued Sunday support; Elizabeth Stewart, Allyson Watson, and Chris Lindsay for keeping the Church and youth connected; Heather Locking-Cusolito and Jo Ann Silcox for their assistance with pastoral care of the whole congregation. Thanks beyond words.

Worship will move to Proudfoot Hall on June 27 and return to the sanctuary on September 12 when we will welcome Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence and his family to FSA. We will welcome a number of guest preachers over the summer, among them David Knoppert who will share with us his virtual bicycle ride across Canada in support of Rotary International and its raising of funds for cook stoves. We will also welcome Karen Low, retired UCC chaplain at Western.

My contract with Antler River Watershed Region as supply minister ends on August 31. Then I plan to absent myself from FSA for a while to allow Joshua time to get settled in. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve you in this interim time despite all the challenges that COVID and my stroke threw at us. Have a great summer! †







Ken Wright

## First-St. Andrew's and Dental Outreach



It was during Coffee and Conversation after church that a member of our congregation planted the seed that led to the creation of dental outreach in the London community. Until that time there were no organized dental services in the London area for those individuals and families who could not afford dental care.

It was in the spring of 2008 on Sunday morning that Ardath Finnogason-Hill related this story to me. She was on the Board of the Limberlost Chaplaincy, located in the northwest section of our city. This area has a high population of refugees and immigrants. Many of these residents were among London's marginalized society whose level of income was below the poverty line. They were trying to merge into our society and what better way than to get work. However, their oral health had been neglected for years, and many had several missing teeth to the point that it was embarrassing to be interviewed, which made it difficult to find work. One woman recounted that she always put her hand in front of her mouth when she talked to hide the fact of her missing front teeth.

At that time, I was an adjunct clinical professor at the Schulich School of Dentistry, and Ardath asked if there was any way the dental school could help this group. When I related this story to the dean of dentistry he indicated that it was time the dental school became more involved with the community and said the school would co-operate in such a venture.

Thus, Dental Outreach Community Service, DOCS, was established. The project involved going into communities

from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm with portable dental equipment and setting up a dental clinic in a gym, church or social agency that could accommodate eight dental chairs. The set up could be done in less than an hour, and dental students under the supervision of dentists would examine and treat patients.

The unique part of this program was that we were able to see patients in their own environment. This helped patients overcome their fear of being in a strange place and developed a sense of trust in our service. Over the years the demand was overwhelming. It became obvious that we were treating only a fraction of those in need and that a permanent outreach clinic, operating five days a week, was needed.

In 2018, we were able to put together a group of stakeholders to form the London Community Dental Alliance whose mission was to establish and manage such a clinic. There were representatives from Western, Fanshawe, the London-Middlesex Health Unit, the London Dental Society, and the London InterCommunity Health Centre. In the past two years we found a location on the second floor of the Glen Cairn Community Resource Centre, carried out fundraising, made renovations, and purchased dental chairs and equipment.

We have had many challenges along the way. There were rezoning and renovation costs that were double our original estimate, and then COVID-19 struck, and we were faced with more delays, revisions, and additional costs. After some alterations to reduce costs, and additional fundraising, we were able to continue with our plans and finally open our doors in March of this year.

**("Clinic" continued on page 20)**



*The staff team at the Wright Clinic. From left to right: Kim Jovichevich, Dr. Usha Sedhain, Dr. Ken Wright, Sonja Radoja, Ursula Gonclaves, Vicki Abray*



Doug Jones

## William (Bill) Peel



Some of you may be thinking “I haven’t seen Bill Peel or Chris Cheski recently ushering or at Coffee and Conversation. Are they staying away for safety during this COVID-19 pandemic?”

No, unfortunately for their First-St. Andrew’s family, they moved in April of 2020 to Bill’s home turf, Bobcaygeon. Yes, you remember correctly! That was the time of the long-term care outbreak in Bobcaygeon – BRAVE Souls you say! However, in response to my query, Bill tells me that their life in Bobcaygeon is great, in spite of the pandemic closures. Their community of Port 32 is on an island surrounded by two rivers and

Pigeon Lake, so they are always close to water. Plus, their cottage is only 25 minutes away.

Asked about his background, Bill said: “I was raised in Lindsay, 30 minutes west of here and our closest town for shopping and medical care. I went through elementary and secondary school there, so it seems like my hometown. I graduated in mechanical engineering from the University of Toronto in 1961 and worked for General Motors in Canada and the US for 36 years.”

Bill came to London from Oshawa to run GM Diesel. Bob Vosper introduced Bill to FSA. Bill served on Western’s Board of Governors and was its chair for three years. Russ Gonder met Bill at FSA. They discovered that they shared childhood years in Lindsay. Bill’s family was in the lumber business while Russ’ father was a locomotive fireman with the railroad (CNR). Russ felt that the strength of Bill’s attachment to FSA was laid by the compassionate support he received from FSA at the time of the death of his first wife, Shirley.

Bill mentioned that he knew Chris, as they were neighbors and friends in Oshawa for many years “... and in 2006, I asked Chris to return from Denmark to join me. We lived in RiverBend (in London) until our move to Bobcaygeon a year ago. FSA became our church home and church family, and we miss those connections.”

I think the Research Retirement Association health-promoting walking group is missing Bill the most. I often saw Bill walking around Western in the early morning, most often with regulars Bob Swartman and Russ Gonder. I’m told their walks ended with breakfast at Farm Boy. When the RRA program ended, the walkers decided to continue and had done so for many years.

All at FSA certainly miss both Bill and Chris and are grateful for their dedication and service. Bill served on the Property Committee and was a Trustee for 17 years, first elected in 2003. I have known Bill since he first came to FSA. I particularly miss meetings with my former Trustee co-chair, the position he held at the time of their moving. Our monthly early breakfast sessions, which cycled among Richies, Western’s Grad Club, or Lord Gainsborough, and sometimes over lunch, were great opportunities to share a little strategic planning.

†

# DECISION MAKING IN THE CHURCH



Kerry Hill

*“Let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.” (Galatians 6:10)*

At its November 2020 meeting, Finance Committee members raised the issue of decision making at First-St. Andrew’s and instructed the chair to take their concerns to Council. This was done. A subsequent meeting between lay members of Council Executive and three members of the Finance Committee was held to discuss the topic more fully. What follows is my personal reflection.

One is tempted to say that decision making in a United Church congregation is well defined by its own policies and procedures and those spelled out by the national body, which congregations are expected to follow. Of course, what is supposed to happen and what actually occurs may be two different things.

It is interesting to compare a church to a business organization. The latter usually has a well-defined organizational structure with recognized, often top-down, lines of authority. Everyone in the organization knows to whom s/he reports; everyone has a “boss,” who is empowered to make the final decisions on any matters of significance within the limits of their authority. So, the production manager makes manufacturing decisions; the marketing manager makes marketing decisions. But, if the manufacturing facilities can’t meet the sales projections, a conflict occurs, and the CEO may need to adjudicate. (The conflict may not be unfriendly; it simply has to be resolved to everyone’s satisfaction.)

What happens in a church, particu-

larly the United Church? The decision-making hierarchy of the United Church of Canada is not vested in individuals who have defined authority by virtue of their position. Unlike, say, the Catholic Church, there is no hierarchical system of bishops and cardinals. A bishop has the authority over the priests in a group of parishes. The Bishop can resolve any local dispute and even replace a priest.

In the United Church we have three levels of governance: national, regional, and congregational. Policies and procedures are put in place at each level as determined, collectively, by church members, not individuals in positions of authority. In the United Church, we have lay and ordained leaders at all three levels who implement the decisions determined by its members. So, who is the “boss” in the United Church? There really isn’t any, in the same sense as in a business organization. The Moderator is an esteemed leader (lay or ordained) who is the primary spokesperson on national issues. The Moderator offers opinions on internal or external issues but does not function as a CEO.

At the congregational level, there are two bodies that the United Church mandates: Council (or Board) and Trustees; each has a chair (or co-chairs, in the case of FSA Trustees). Neither group, nor its chair, has the authority to take broad action without the approval of the congregation. For example, the congregation approves the operating budget. All financial units in the congregation must adhere to the budget or come back to the congregation for a change. Now, certainly, committees and staff have the authority to make decisions within the budget and the scope of their operations. It would be unwieldy to have to ask the congregation about what kind of sta-

tionery to buy, or who to hire to plow the parking lot. The authority to decide the details is permitted by the congregation. However, no single individual – minister, staff, or committee chair – can decide, for example, to make significant alterations to the church building or change the time of worship services.

The lack of a boss creates problems when there are conflicts between staff, between members, or between staff and members. Who steps in to resolve differences of opinion? If the chair of Council is not the “boss,” who is? Who directs the activities of the staff? Some would say that the lead minister is the CEO of the congregation. I believe that, while the minister is the spiritual leader, s/he is not responsible for making temporal decisions on behalf of the congregation.

What happens if there is a conflict (even a friendly one) between two members or committees? Or between a member and a minister? Without a “boss,” who resolves a persistent conflict or difference of opinion?

The United Church is a democracy; and the success of a democracy, or a democratic organization, depends entirely on the willingness of its members to play by rules. This is analogous to the premise and functionality of the United Nations organization. We trust that members act for the greater good – as determined by the congregation – instead of personal gain. Conflict must be resolved openly and without rancour. A congregation with persistent conflict will not grow or achieve its full potential.

Examples of this are close at hand. In Washington, D.C., we saw in January how a small group of people was willing to break the rules (the law) to achieve a result they felt justified their actions. A single influential person encouraged



their actions. The norms of society and the democratic choice of the people were ignored. In this case, the rule of law and democracy prevailed, but the effects – individual and societal – will be felt over a long period of time.

Can the same thing happen in a church? Individuals do, sometimes, put their own interests ahead of the

good of the church. Have you ever heard someone say: “You’d think a church would be free of politics”? Unfortunately, power and politics exist in any organization and churches are no exception. I recently heard a friend say of FSA: “You’re always going to see this happening.” That’s probably true – but is it right?

In the church, we expect a higher standard of behaviour of our members and especially our leaders. God’s Great Commandment should be our guiding principle: love your God and love your neighbour. Pretty straight forward, really. †

## TRIBUTE



Barbara Dalrymple

**O**n the first day of school in 1978 I walked into a class that I was teaching at Central Secondary School, and there was a bright smiling face I recognized – Heather Corbet. I recognized her from FSA. I knew a lot more about Heather than she knew about me then. Along with sister Ann and her brother Geoffrey, she had grown up in the church as had her mother, Barbara, and her two aunts, Kathryn and Ruth, who had been friends of mine through CGIT connections and UWO. Her maternal grandmother, Donalda Smith, knew my mother. Her maternal great-grandfather, Rev. John Smith, had been the minister at Hamilton Road Presbyterian Church. Her grandmother’s family joined First Presbyterian Church in 1922, before union and the formation of FSA. This was a girl steeped in the history of FSA.

I recalled that her grandfather, Dr. Ivan Smith, with his partner developed the “Cobalt bomb,” a breakthrough in cancer radiation treatment first used at Victoria Hospital in 1951. Her father Gene and I taught together for a couple of years at G. A. Wheable Secondary School. I doubt that Heather as a teenager appreciated these connections.

As I write this, I remember supervising a Friday night dance at Central and observing Heather entwined with her boyfriend – John Vouvalidis. The quarterback of the football team and an enthusiastic cheerleader dancing in the semi-darkness of the gym.

Heather studied Geography at UWO while John

## Heather Vouvalidis

studied Physical Education. In 1988 they married. Heather was employed in Urban Planning and John started his teaching and coaching career at Central. Their children, Erik and Jennifer, were born in the '90s and grew up at FSA. Heather changed careers, working in non-profit social housing management for 23 years. There she developed a strong backbone, which has stood her in good stead.

In January 2017 she joined the staff at FSA as church administrator. We warmed to her sunny disposition, patience, and accommodating personality. Heather has progressed from a delightful student to a very competent woman and friend, keeping FSA on track.

Heather has enjoyed her time at FSA, especially getting to know the congregational family better. She has especially enjoyed the excellent camaraderie, capability, and dedication of our wonderful staff.

It’s time for her to give up dealing with numbers every day and join John in retirement. She plans to do her share in caring for her mother and John’s parents, visiting their children in Ottawa, spending time at the family cottage in Port Stanley, and pursuing different interests.

FSA is grateful for Heather’s sojourn with us and her dedication and service as our church administrator.

We wish her Godspeed and God’s blessing as she embarks on this new rewarding part of life. †





David Wake

# A GARDEN FOR NATURE

In recent years, there has been much publicity about planting to support pollinators. But there is a much larger story to explore. Let's take a look at how our gardens intersect with nature.

When the word pollination is mentioned, many people immediately think of honeybees. European settlers imported honeybees to North America to pollinate food crops and to produce honey. They did not realize that North America already had a large and thriving population of native bees. While honeybees still play an important role in agriculture, scientists have found that honeybees also have negative effects on native bee populations. Competition and introduced diseases are among those adverse impacts.

Native bees may not produce honey, but they are essential pollinators for a wide range of plants. Other groups of insects, including native wasps, beetles, flies, and some butterflies and moths, may also be active in pollination, but bees are by far the most important. Insects pollinate 90% of flowering plants. Habitat loss, disease, parasites, and pesticides have all contributed to the decline of pollinators.

How, you might ask, can I help pollinators in my own garden? Since pollination is just one of many ecosystem services provided by native insects, perhaps a better question would be how can my garden help sustain nature? To provide maximum benefit, consider how our gardens can contribute to the overall health and biodiversity of local ecosystems. Planting species that occur naturally in southwestern Ontario provides benefits that go far beyond support for pollinating insects.

Plants convert the sun's energy into food for insects. Insects, especially caterpillars, convert plant material into food for birds and many other animals. E.O. Wilson, the famous Harvard professor, describes insects as "the little things that run the world."

Native flowers, shrubs and trees support a far wider range of insects than non-natives do. A native White Oak, for example, may support more than 500 species of caterpillars. On the other hand, the Norway Maple (introduced from Europe) is not attractive to most native insects.

An example of how birds benefit from the presence of native plants appears in Douglas W. Tallamy's 2019 book, *Nature's Best Hope* – one of the highlights of my pandemic reading list. Tallamy, a professor at University of Delaware, describes work by one of his students, who studied Carolina

Chickadees in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. The study found that nesting chickadees searched for food on native plants 86% of the time. Suburban yards dominated by introduced plants were 60% less likely to have any breeding chickadees. If chickadees happened to nest in a yard with mostly non-native plants, they produced fewer eggs, and hatchlings were less likely to survive. Those hatchlings took



*New England Aster flowers in August and September and may attract many species of butterflies, such as this Painted Lady. (Photo by D. Wake)*

longer to mature when compared to those from nests in yards with native plants.

Tallamy refers to other studies that underscore the importance of caterpillars as food for nestlings. Adult chickadees were observed bringing to their nests 350 to 570 caterpillars per day, the actual count depending on the number of young birds in the nest. Most songbirds need to forage close to their nests, to reduce travel time. All these factors support the importance of planting native species in our landscaping.

In choosing native plants for your garden, try for a selection of things that will bloom at different seasons. Be sure the plants you choose are actual native species, not cultivars, and not introduced species with similar names.

Some helpful references are available from the Canadian  
**("Garden" continued on page 20)**





# Lorraine MacDonald

1934-2021

Nancy Quinn

Lorraine's cheerful presence will be missed by her friends at FSA. She had a joyous, infectious laugh and, when that was silenced by her ongoing breathing issues, she still quietly exuded the joy of Christ. From her south pew at FSA, where she sat with her husband, Bev – and with her breathing support in later years – she inspired her church family with the joy in her eyes, her smile, and her keen interest in everything going on about her. On February 5th, 2021, after a final stoic stand-off at the hospital, Lorraine succumbed to her respiratory illness and went home to her Creator.

Lorraine was a strong contributor to her family and to her FSA church clan. She and Bev married 64 years ago, in their home town of Owen Sound. After moving first to Thunder Bay and then, in 1971, to London, they settled into FSA as their church home. They had two lovely daughters, Judy and Pam, who grew up at FSA. Pam's cherished children are Whitney and Taylor. Lorraine and Bev also kept strong

relations with the families of her two brothers (pre-deceased), and with her three nieces and a nephew: Carolyn, Fred, Elaine, and Lois.

Lorraine loved to sew and found kindred spirits in FSA's sewing group, in which Isabel Getliffe was then a guiding force. The now Isabel Getliffe Sewing Group has met for many decades at FSA, every Wednesday from 9:30 am to 2 pm, from April until the bazaar in November. Lorraine's beautiful felt storybooks for children were always a sought-after item at the November Boutique Bazaar. Lorraine also was known for her beautiful hand-sewn bridge table covers. Donna Fraleigh remembers that in later years, "she always tried to help people with sewing projects" during the Wednesday get-togethers. Many of our beautiful

church banners were sewn with Lorraine's gentle but strict guidance, using patterns, many of which were original creations of FSAers Mary McLarty and Carol Shaw.

Lorraine was honoured several years ago as both a charter member and a life member of the United Church Women, with over 55 years of dedicated service. Laurel Kenney, our UCW president, remembers Lorraine as "always a great helper at the rummage sale and at the bazaar. She was a great stalwart; you could always depend on her and she was very cheerful." We all remember Bev MacDonald's beautiful stained-glass artisan table at several of the FSA Boutique Bazaars. It was Lorraine, Bev fondly remembers, who decided that he had too much time on his hands and needed a productive hobby. On one special occasion in about 1981, Lorraine presented Bev with an envelope containing the enrolment for a stained glass course. The rest, as they say, is history.

Lorraine is remembered for her gracious hospitality, as for many years she served as one of the hostesses for UCW bridge get-togethers (now ended). Barb Dalrymple, one of her former bridge partners, recalled her passionate support of culture: Grand Theatre plays (often with her FSA friend, Ann Pinchin), always a book on the go, a faithful attender of our FSA music events, and of Metropolitan United Church's Time Out program.

Sue Wark remembers the warm welcome that Lorraine and Bev gave to her family when they came to FSA in 1972. Lorraine made sure that the new young couple got introduced around and they became part of the Kum Join Us (under 40s) couples group. Pat and Dave Flynn (long-time Sunday lunch friends) and Dallas and Russ Knight (who Bev and Lorraine later travelled with) all became fast friends. They did not want to "graduate" to the Bi-focals group (over 40s) but did become staunch supporters of the Supper Club.

Remembering Lorraine is also to remember a time of gracious collegiality, generosity, impeccable ethics, and high ideals for community service and culture. May Lorraine look down upon us from her new home and inspire us with her magnanimous and tenacious spirit "to keep on keeping on" in these challenging times. †





Barrie Evans

# GOD IN THE T A GOD FOR TH

In two previous essays in this magazine on “God in the Time of COVID,” I referred to Karen Armstrong’s book, *A History of God: The 4,000 year quest of Judaism, Christianity and Islam* (New York: Ballantine Books, 1993), which I have been reading during these past few months. She ends her book with a poem by Thomas Hardy, “The Darkling Thrush,” written at the turn of the 20th century in which, to quote, “[Hardy] expressed the death of spirit that was no longer able to create a faith in life’s meaning.” (p.399):

*So little cause for carolings  
Of such ecstatic sound  
Was written on terrestrial things,  
Afar or nigh around  
That I could think there trembled through  
His happy good-night air  
Some blessed Hope, whereof he knew  
And I was unaware.*

Hardy’s expression of despair is felt because the joyous spirit, which is known only to the thrush, is unavailable to him. There are many times in our lives when we feel that we are missing out on something, probably never more often than now. We have even given this feeling a COVID acronym – FOMO: fear of missing out. Karen Armstrong ends her book by saying, “Human beings cannot endure emptiness and desolation; they will fill the vacuum by creating a new focus of meaning.”

In the time of COVID, we may feel despair like Hardy, when there is so little cause for carolings. The last stanza of the poem, however, suggests that Hardy’s thoughts are not nihilistic, implying a death of the spirit. He was not able to discern or recognize the presence of the spirit, “Some blessed Hope, whereof he knew and I was unaware.” An occasion such as this could result in a loss of faith and giving in to atheism or it could spur the search for meaningful spirituality that is different from what was expected or known. Hardy’s poem is about a country and a way of life that was changing as well as old beliefs about God that were dying and for which there was no obvious or sat-

isfying replacement. Karen Armstrong urges us at the end of her book not to turn or return to fundamentalism, but “create a vibrant new faith for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.” (p.399).

What might this new faith look like? One possibility is Creation Spirituality “. . . the idea that divinity permeates all things, and all things have the imprint of divinity, yet the sum of all things does not fully encompass the mystery of the divine. Every one of us carries within us the capacity to be a mystic, to be creative, to be visionary, and to be an agent for positive change. It is our responsibility to cultivate these capacities for the benefit of Earth and all its creatures. Ecological and social justice are our priority as imperatives for the healing, sustainability and harmony among our species and the entire Earth community.” (<http://www.allcreation.org/home/cs-intro>).

There are elements of Creation Spirituality that are similar to Process Theology, which in turn builds on earlier ideas explored by Alfred North Whitehead, the English mathematician and philosopher. Several American theologians in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, including Charles Hartshorne and Daniel Day Williams, developed Whitehead’s ideas. The core idea is that God is not immutable and unchangeable and omnipotent. God is in relation with us and with every living thing. God is not found in substance but in process, changing with us and with the world as it changes. Traditional theologians vehemently criticize this theology citing contradictory Biblical passages such as those that use metaphors such as the rock of ages. However, conceptions of God change throughout the Bible, especially transitioning from the Old to the New Testaments. (<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/process-theism/>).

Modern scientific knowledge requires that we give up fundamentalist beliefs of predestination. We do not have to believe that everything happens according to God’s will. The pandemic and the consequences of climate change are not God’s punishment for our sins. They are the result of human actions that have shown a reckless disregard for the consequences of our actions. With the ethos of man dominating nature, including by deforestation and the exploitation of animals, the conditions for the spread of the COVID

# TIME OF COVID: THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY



virus were created. The pandemic is a consequence of spillover of zoonotic viruses, the encroachment of humans on the natural environment, and the rapid spread of viruses through global population movement.

Our world is an example of a complex adaptive system. Complex systems are self-organizing and dependent on the relationships between their parts. They hover in a fine balance on the edge of chaos, where there is enough structure to hold the parts together but enough variability to support emergence of new ways of adapting. There is no singular controller of the system. Creation Spirituality and Process Theology, in contrast to traditional theism, are more compatible with scientific knowledge and advancements. They assert that God is not over and above and separate from us but is part of us and embedded in the web of life.

There is a growing list of scientists, physicists, chemists, biologists whose science writings are imbued with spirituality. For example, Fritjof Capra, a physicist and mystic, author of *The Web of Life: A New Scientific Understanding of Living Systems* (New York: Anchor Books, 1996) invokes the principles of chaos and complexity to link science and spirituality. We might know chaos theory from the largely misunderstood “butterfly effect.” Edward Lorenz coined the term to illustrate the idea that some complex systems exhibit unpredictable behaviours such that small variances in the initial conditions could have profound and widely divergent effects on the outcomes. Because of the sensitivity of these systems, outcomes are unpredictable. This idea became the basis for a branch of mathematics known as chaos theory, which has been applied in countless scenarios since its introduction ([www.americanscientist.org/article/understanding-the-butterfly-effect](http://www.americanscientist.org/article/understanding-the-butterfly-effect)).

The question remains, however, as to why we need God and why we could not just find meaning in science. Finding meaning is only part of the human condition. We act based on our beliefs, and action requires inspiration. Christians find the inspiration in the doctrine of God the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Jesus the Christ, our redeemer, provides the impulse for us to demonstrate

the best version of ourselves, powered by love. The Gospel of John, 3:16, tells us that God’s love for the world is incarnated in Jesus, and we are impelled to follow his example.

My father grew up in a coal-mining town of South Wales in a strongly Methodist household. As a teenager he spent time underground in the pits. He rejected the straight-jacket of religion, which he conflated with the stifling restrictions of life in a Welsh mining village. He told me the story of a time when in Chapel he was expected to recite a verse of the Bible in Welsh. He chose John 1:4, “Duw yw cariad” [God is Love]. He said, with candor, that he chose this because it was the shortest verse in the Bible. I do believe, however, that this was perhaps one of the only things he believed. Whatever else we discover in our search for God, as St. Paul affirmed, without love, all actions are empty and meaningless.

The author G.K. Chesterton alluded to what Armstrong later described as the vacuum that must be filled: “When men choose not to believe in God, they do not thereafter believe in nothing, they then become capable of believing in anything.” For many in our secular society, a belief in God is supplanted by the worship of worldly things: money, sex, power, status, or self-importance.

So, as we try to find meaning and purpose in our lives through our faith, we continue to discern the nature of God in the time of COVID and in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The final word goes to Bob Dylan:

*But you’re gonna have to serve somebody, Yes, you are.  
You’re gonna have to serve somebody.  
Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord,  
But you’re gonna have to serve somebody.*

†

*The first two essays in this series appear in Vol. 30, No. 2 (Pentecost/Summer 2020) and Vol. 30, No. 4 (Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2020).*





Paul Merritt

# Paul Wenn

1934-2021



The poet Shelley wrote that “Music, when soft voices die, vibrates in the memory.” With Paul Wenn’s passing, First-St. Andrew’s has lost one of its soft voices.

Raised and educated in Norwich, Ontario, Paul went on to receive Bachelors and Masters degrees in Science at Western. After studies at Ontario College of Education in Toronto, he began his teaching career at South Secondary in London, moving to Westminster as head of science, then finishing his career back at South as department head.

Teaching was only part of what

was happening in Paul’s life, however. During Christmas of 1955 Paul met the love of his life, Roberta, on a blind date organized by her sister, Winnagene. Marriage and two children followed as did the usual round of family activities. Later, four grandchildren, whom Paul doted on, arrived and their pursuits were followed with keen interest.

During all this bustle and hustle, Paul found time for his chief hobby, music. He sang in church choirs and the London Fanshawe Symphonic Chorus before his imagination was captured by the sounds of bells. Lessons on the Simcoe carillon led to ringing sessions there, especially

(“Tribute-Wenn” continued on page 20)

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Nancy Quinn

# Aldis Murray:

The Inspiring Story of a Stalwart FSA Member

**A**ldis Murray was born in 1942, in Kirkland Lake, to Magnus and Pauline Johnson, who shared Icelandic roots. Aldis is proud of her Icelandic heritage. Her unique and beautiful given name comes from the Old Norse: *Al*, meaning “elf or supernatural being” and *Dis* signifying “a female of high standing.” The second of five children – her siblings are Bill, Nancy, Marion, and Ed – Aldis was initially raised in the mining town of Larder Lake. Her mother was a teacher and her father a mining engineer. Aldis saw a lot of Ontario, as her father’s expertise was needed on a variety of engineering projects, including the Niagara Falls cofferdam tunnel and the St. Lawrence Seaway project in Cornwall.

When she was a teen, the family moved to London and became members of First-St. Andrew’s United Church (FSA). Aldis attended Brescia College and London Teacher’s College, after which she taught elementary school for four years in London. She met her future husband, Joseph Murray, an enterprising businessman, in Toronto. They moved to Spruce Grove, Alberta, near Edmonton and had two children, Krista (1974) and Joe (1975). Spruce Grove was far enough north for her to experience the wonder of seeing the northern lights. Aldis enjoyed attending Spruce Grove United Church, where she participated in the Moms and Tots group. Once the children were old enough, she began work again as a teacher. Into this productive and happy life came a terrible disrupter.

In 1986 Aldis was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) and in 1987 she went on long-term disability. In March of 1992, she returned to London to stay with her father, who passed away that May. Settling into her father’s condominium in the venerable Queens Court, Aldis found her home for the next 27 years. Resuming her church life at First-St. Andrew’s she became an active member of our UCW. In the 1990s the

atrium addition was built and the elevator provided access, for which she is most appreciative. In 1993 Joe, her son, came to London to finish high school and he attended FSA. Soon after, Aldis’s husband died in Alberta. Daughter Krista remained in Alberta, where she and her family reside today.

Aldis’s family members are the lights of her life. She especially adores her seven grandchildren. Krista and spouse Wes Radstaak’s children are Bridjet (17), Lochlan (14), and Lilja (12). Joe and spouse Mary’s children are Ava (13), Magnus (10), and the twins Abbi (5) and Siggie (5); they live in Fonthill, ON. Krista, and granddaughters, Bridjet and Lilja, were baptized at FSA. Aldis’s sisters, Marion Johnson and Nancy Johnson, have long records of service with FSA.

In reflecting on her long history with FSA, Aldis says that, “they are like my family.” An active UCW member, she regularly attends meetings and supports the fundraising sales. Serving as a dedicated UCW telephone caller, she enjoys giving support. Ongoing assistance from FSA’s visitation outreach is much appreciated. Tuning in online at 10:30 am Sunday mornings, Aldis is very impressed with “the wonderful job” and how everyone “stepped up.” She especially loves the beauty of the music.

She is a founding member of the London Chapter of JAS-NA, the Jane Austen Society of North America, which meets at FSA. Pre-pandemic, she enthusiastically participated in the MS Society’s many activities (now on hold), which included the following: Support Group, Bible Study, Monthly Day Away, and exercise class. From her new home in Chelsey Park’s seniors apartments, she stays busy with her extensive social circle via telephone, mail, and Internet. Post pandemic, she looks forward to re-joining Metropolitan’s Time Out program and FSA’s music and social events. Aldis inspires us with her *joie de vivre* and commitment to give back to her community.



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**COUNCIL REPORT**  
Steve Elson

As I sit down to write this article for *Tidings*, I am reminded of Rev. David McKane's sermon on leaving a legacy (Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup>). Not only was it delivered in David's usual eloquent and insightful manner, but it was also, and typically, thought-provoking. While the occasion was the marking of Proudfoot Month and Legacy Sunday in particular, it gave me cause to think about what kind of a legacy we have the opportunity to leave – not only materially but spiritually.

As the Leadership Council (Council) we have a legacy too – although in the short term it might be seen more as having a “reputation.” I have served as chair of Council for nearly 18 months now – albeit in very unusual circumstances. My own experience of Council is that it is made up of a group of dedicated and hard-working volunteers who give freely of their time and talents for the betterment of FSA. In the majority of cases, Council members not only contribute to the affairs of Council but also chair a committee with a specific and defined mandate. It is Council's role to view FSA in its entirety and consider what is in the best interests of FSA as a whole.

Council benefits greatly from having a variety of voices and views expressed. As chair, it is my responsibility to ensure people feel comfortable speaking up, even if they do not know how their views will be received. In my experience Council members are consistently respectful of one another. In addition, it is important that Council is responsive to expressed needs and suggestions. I am pleased, for example, that on several occasions Council has been quick to support Mary Ann Hodge through her leadership role with Climate Action London.

While we think of legacy as looking to the past and what we leave behind, it is also a way of thinking about the future and what kind of legacy we want to create. It is through our current actions that this happens. In my view, the key word that defines the past, present and future legacy of the FSA Leadership Council is stewardship – ensuring that we prepare and adapt in a way that is respectful of the past yet always looking to the future. Let the legacy of our FSA Council always be sound and thoughtful stewardship. †



**CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT**  
Allyson Watson

For the past month, Christian Development has been providing Zoom church school with a focus on the environment. The children have been creating weekly environmental challenges for themselves and for our community. The youth groups have met a few times online as well and are working on helping with the Deaf Blind Awareness project. We continue to brainstorm about wonderful adult education that we hopefully will be able to provide in person in the fall! If you know of youth who will be in grade nine or ten in the fall who are interested in participating in confirmation, please contact Allyson Watson. We hope to see you all soon! †

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## MUSIC

*Merran Neville*

Worship services at FSA model the integration of word, music, the liturgical season, and other themes, as the minister and director of music plan together week by week. The Church (Liturgical) Seasons for the United Church of Canada are Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time (Time after Epiphany), Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time (Time after Pentecost). There is also special recognition for other times, such as Black History Month in February, World Day of Prayer, Earth Day, Thanksgiving, Remembrance Day, Proudfoot Legacy Month in May, and Anniversary Sunday. Music is chosen to reflect and enhance these occasions. We have been blessed at FSA to enjoy well-planned and integrated worship services and this continues with Erich Knapp, our director of music.

Since September, when Erich became the newest member of the FSA staff, he has worked closely in turn with Rev. Dr. David McKane, Rev. Ann Corbet, and Rev. Tom Hiscock as they have collaborated in service planning. Erich has provided the continuity over the past nine months and for this we owe him a great debt of gratitude. Throughout, the music has been exceptional! Kathryn Skelly has also played an integral part in the planning, the preparation of the order of service, and checking copyright permissions.

Everyone looks forward to the uplifting and beautiful music of Advent and Christmas. During the 40 days of Lent, the

music is more solemn in its reflective and contemplative mood until, on Easter Sunday, it bursts into glorious celebration of the Resurrection. There is usually an example in all services where Erich has chosen an anthem that uses the words of the scripture reading. For example, on May 9<sup>th</sup>, the lovely anthem by Thomas Tallis “If Ye Love Me” closely reflects the scripture from John’s Gospel 14:15–17. And Erich regularly provides comments about the music and what to listen for.

The music has been brought to us weekly by Erich and the chamber choir. Chamber choir members have included staff soloists Sonja Gustafson – soprano, Francesca Ranalli – mezzo-soprano, Chris Wood – tenor, and Alastair Smyth – bass; Eberhard vocal scholars Natalie Nelson – soprano and Camila Montefusco – mezzo-soprano; Hillary Tufford – soprano; Jordan Baldwin – tenor; Owen Spicer – tenor and organ scholar; Mark Pichkur – bass; and Christopher Pitre-McBride – bass. On Easter Sunday, Erich and the chamber choir were joined by a brass quintet (Shawn Spicer and Ken Baldwin – trumpet, Ron George – horn, Peter Hysen – trombone, and John Rowsell – tuba).

We thank the members of FSA for generously supporting the music program and the Eberhard family for their generous gift of the Eberhard Memorial Music Scholarship. We are thankful for the generous legacies held in the Music Trust Fund (Butt Fund, Clark Wilson Fund and Terry Head Memorial Fund) and the McKane Bursary. †



## MEMBERSHIP & NURTURE

*Heather Locking-Cusolito*

The work of the Membership and Nurture Committee continues despite the inability to meet in person due to COVID. The following activities have been undertaken recently:

- The Zoom Coffee and Conversation gathering on Thursday mornings from 10 to 11 am under the leadership of Jan Hendry welcomes between 8 to 14 people each week. Each week we discuss a topic generated by the membership. The response has been enthusiastic.
- Dr. Jo Ann Silcox and Heather Locking-Cusolito meet regularly, and as necessary, to review the pastoral care needs of the congregation and to reach out to those in need. If you or anyone you know is in need of pastoral care, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Jo Ann or Heather.
- Annabelle Logan continues to provide attentive leadership to the Prayer Chain and the Caring Callers.
- As always, we are so very thankful for the skilled pastoral care provided by Dr. David McKane.

- Archives, under the enthusiastic leadership of Don Jones and the committed membership of Pat Carter, David McKane, Regina Moorcroft, Jim Silcox, and Heather Vouvaldis, is continuing to locate, record, preserve, and highlight essential documents for the church.
- Gerry Meacham continues her ministry of letter writing to those in need of support or consolation.
- A small group consisting of Deanne Pederson, Jo Ann Silcox, and Heather Locking-Cusolito offered to assist people in registering for the COVID vaccination appointments.
- In the near future, we will be distributing electronically a brief survey to gather feedback about a proposal from the Trustees regarding developing formal recognition for time and talent contributions. Stay tuned.
- Heather Locking-Cusolito is assisting Erich Knapp to assemble members for a revitalized Affirm Committee.

We wish to extend our gratitude to everyone who contributes ex-officio to the nurture of our membership in countless ways every day. †



## UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Nancy Quinn

We may not be together in body, but we can be in spirit – helping those in need. If you are a canner, we could really use your help in contributing your talents to our upcoming fall UCW Deli Sale. Crafters of other unique and beautiful items, please think of what you might contribute to next fall's UCW fundraiser. Last year's sale was a great success, with over 200 jars of preserves contributed and sold. Many thanks again to the enthusiastic canners and crafters of masks, bookmarks, wooden trays . . . and to our supportive buyers.

Strawberry season is coming on and soon there will be the usual suspects – raspberries, red currants, black currants, gooseberries, cucumbers, tomatoes (yum, chili sauce) . . . We invite you to join in our fundraising fun, thereby delighting your FSA family with your gourmand skills and helping those in dire need. ELUCO, Rotholme Women's and Family Centre, My Sister's Place, L'Arche, St. Paul's Social Services . . . all need

our help in these increasingly challenging pandemic times.

If you need jars for making preserves for FSA, please take a box of 12 (initial limit), or fewer, from the UCW labelled cart in the atrium (by the mailboxes). Also available, as needed, are new sealing lids and rings. Please call or email Kathryn in the office in order to arrange for pick-up on Wednesdays, between 10 am and 3 pm.

Included in this issue of *Tidings* (page 19) is an amazing recipe for the chili sauce that we sold at last fall's UCW Deli Sale. It comes from the cookbook of Laurel Kenney, our UCW president. The recipe is named after Cora Howe, who was Laurel's enterprising, gourmand mother. Enjoy!

UCW members, please help us to keep the home fires burning at our charities. Thank you for the cheques received earlier this year. We would appreciate your mailing your "green envelope" donation cheques, care of FSA, Attention: UCW. We look forward to seeing you again, when it is safe. †



## MISSION & OUTREACH

Barbara Dalrymple

### Indwell Lenten Project

Thank you to all who contributed to our project during Lent. The sum of \$6,310 has been forwarded to Indwell, which is now in the process of building Embassy Commons near the Palace Theatre. They are also converting the former War Memorial Children's Hospital on South Street into low-income apartments. This is exciting news for our city's housing problem. The first completed building, Woodfield Gate, is our neighbour on Dundas Street.

Many thanks for the donation of craft kits, masks, and shopping cards for Nancy to distribute in the community. These have been gratefully received and appreciated.

### Canadian Foodgrains Bank Letter-Writing Campaign

We are asking Canadians to write a letter to let their MPs, and other decision makers, know that Canadians care about reaching the most vulnerable with Canada's development assistance and that we care deeply about ending global hunger. Please take a moment to click on the link to the online letter-building tool and add your voice through a letter today! <https://foodgrainsbank.ca/online-letter/>

### St. Paul's Social Services

Although St. Paul's is not asking for food donations until the church is open, you may donate online to St. Paul's Daily Bread Foodbank at [www.stpaulsocialservices.ca](http://www.stpaulsocialservices.ca).

### Grow-a-Row 2021

We are sure you are all ears for this announcement! First-St. Andrew's United Church has launched its 2021 Grow-a-Row campaign and the crop this year is CORN! Our farmer has determined the value of the crop. A \$35 donation covers 1/20<sup>th</sup> of an acre, with every donation matched 4:1 by the Canadian government. We are happy to be partnering again with St. Marys United Church in this joint campaign and thank them for overseeing the finances of the program. You can fill out the [donation form](#) and mail your cheque, payable to St Marys United Church (not FSA please), to 85 Church St. S., St. Marys, ON N4X 1B3. Your help is needed this year more than ever. Please donate today. †

### East London United Church Outreach (ELUCO)

The Marconi community remains unsettled, with spikes in adverse behaviours of crime, theft, violence, and drug activity. Police presence is highly visible. Anxiety and depression have become more prevalent in both children and adults.

It seems like such a small thing, but being present in the community is making an impact. Families/Individuals have appreciated the connection. Reaching out is less hospitable outside at a distance, but being listened to, validated, and supported lets people know we care, and that matters. It's a string of hope to hold onto.



## 2021 FSA WHITE SQUIRREL GOLF TOURNAMENT & FUNDRAISER

Ann MacPhail

The arrival of daffodils, tulips, forsythia, and lilacs is a certain sign of spring, which has fortunately been unaffected by the present Ontario COVID lockdown. Spring also means that it is time for the annual 2021 FSA White Squirrel Golf Tournament & Fundraiser – being offered VIRTUALLY again this year during the month of June!



Last year, through your very generous online donations, this FSA event raised \$8606. We are hopeful we can match or exceed this amount again this year. Traditionally, this is our most successful annual outreach fundraiser. This year we will be supporting the following three charities: 1. ELUCO, 2. St. Paul's Social Services, 3. Los Quinchos. As COVID stretches on into its second year, these charitable organizations are still desperately in need of your ongoing financial support. Stress and anxiety are on the rise, especially with this second lockdown, resulting in a second wave of school closures and job losses. There continues to be increasing financial need for the essentials of daily life, for young people, adults, and their young families, and, in particular, for those already struggling with poverty and health issues.

As a suggestion, we are encouraging you to donate the funds you may have spent on the dinner, a round of golf, the nature walk, and a silent auction item. You will receive a tax receipt for your donation and 100% of your gift will go directly to the charities.

**Thank you** for your generous, ongoing support to these local and international charities. Donation details are available in the FSA eblast and can be made online through <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/WhiteSquirrel2021> or by mailing a cheque to the FSA church office (please write "Golf Tournament" on the memo line). †



## ARCHIVES

Don Jones

The Archives Committee continues to meet monthly by Zoom and get as much done as possible without working together in the archives room. Individually we can visit the room, but we have not been able to make some of the decisions about location and storing of archival items; these decisions will not be made until we can meet on site.

We have made progress on the location of items and discussed who maintains the archival items. The United Church of Canada expects the maintenance of at least 12 categories of archival material. We have located them for our church and plotted the locations on a spreadsheet. We have begun a written explanatory document about them. When it is complete, we hope to circulate this document to various leaders in the church who need to know whom to contact about each of the archival items and how to find them.

We have spent time locating some of the various musical archival items and found that some are stored in the music office and some in the archives room. Alan Barthel, a former organist and director of music, was contacted. He has sent many digital files of concerts, programs, and items that he kept from his sojourn at FSA. Thanks to Doug Jones, who recorded all the services and concerts at the church for many years, the archives now contains many digital copies of the concerts that our choir has done over the years.

Jim Silcox is a member of our Archives Committee and is also the FSA webmaster. He has placed many remarkably interesting and important items from our archival material on the website ([www.fsaunited.com](http://www.fsaunited.com), click on the archives tab). Additionally, "Archival Nuggets" appears in the weekly eblast sent out on Saturday nights.

Digital archival material is now stored on an external drive and backed up on the cloud. These files will be maintained by the office staff so that future archivists at the church can find and learn about our past and current activities. †

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## WORSHIP

Jo Ann Silcox

A host of volunteers has augmented the work of FSA staff in ensuring that worship continues to be a vital part of the work of the church family, not only through the duration of COVID isolation but into the future in both virtual and online formats.

Erich Knapp, maestro par excellence, weekly, with the help of instrumental and vocal musicians, has steadily provided an ever-richer variety of musical genres at both the individual and group level.

The Ministry of the Word has been offered by Rev. Dr. McKane, Rev. Tom Hiscock, Rev. Ann Corbet – and will through the summer be supplemented by the generous presence of Rev. Karen Low and Rev. Diane MacPherson.

It is clear that the lengthy presence of COVID has stimulated a virtual audience, which may well continue into the

future for those whose circumstances mean physical return to the church building is unlikely. This has spawned the creation of a very active tech team (Kathryn Skelly, Merran Neville, Jim Silcox, and friends), whose enthusiastic and creative filming and editing are allowing a panoramic view of worship not previously obvious from the confines of the pew.

We are also acutely aware of and grateful for the parallel ministries of a number of other United Churches locally and across the country, resulting in virtual attendance at several services in any one week – and in the sharing of ideas for worship not previously accessible by word alone. It is our hope that this may well result in a collective spirit of co-operation and creativity in worship not possible in any one congregation alone. We have truly become the "churches of the dispersion" in the best New Testament sense of that term.

Thanks be to GOD.

†



## CLIMATE ACTION LONDON

Mary Ann Hodge

Climate Action London (CAL) was awarded a grant from the United Church's Emerging Spirit program to both reach out to the local community and promote action to address the climate emergency. The project brought together several community non-profits to host a native plant sale. Native plants help to sustain biodiversity, as they provide food and habitat for birds, bees, butterflies, and other insects. Roughly 2,500 native plants and shrubs were sold; 250 flyers were hand delivered to the Woodfield neighbourhood highlighting the importance of native plants and First-St. Andrew's participation in this project; and a new pollinator garden was sponsored in the SOHO community. This project was a great success!

We were also successful in an application to hire a summer student for eight weeks. The primary focus will be to design a website, help us optimize technology, and assist in outreach efforts.

One of the major focus areas for Climate Action London is to engage communities of faith in climate action. Greening Sacred Spaces (GSS) was established in 2000 with a similar vision. We are now working to establish a GSS chapter in London and are actively seeking people from a diversity of faith communities to form a steering committee. A Greening Sacred Spaces chapter would provide encouragement and support to faith communities in seeking grant opportunities for energy efficiency upgrades, hosting climate conversations, and supplying information for weekly environment messages.

A member at our April CAL members' meeting (via Zoom)

was commenting how lonely it feels to do climate action when home alone. We all agreed that outreach is more fun when done in a group, so we are piloting a monthly Advocacy MeetUp. It is a quick, 30-minute Zoom call where we get together to write letters to politicians, sign petitions or take some other creative action – together.

Our members' call happens on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month and the new Advocacy MeetUp is on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month. You can email us at [climateactionLondon@gmail.com](mailto:climateactionLondon@gmail.com) to receive our weekly "Environment Message," or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

†

*Concerned about climate change? Subscribe to my weekly message of hope: <http://eepurl.com/hhK8Ff>*

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## *Cora Howe's Fruit Chili Sauce*

Makes 8, 250-ml jars



1. A 6-quart basket of ripe tomatoes (or 20 large tomatoes)  
Boil water; put in tomatoes 1 or 2 at a time. When skin splits, peel off skin and core tomato; cut into small 1-inch pieces.
2. Peel, core, and cut following into ½-inch pieces:
  - 3 big peaches (fresh or canned)
  - 3 pears
  - 3 onions
  - 3 apples
 Cut following into fine ¼-inch pieces:
  - 1½ green peppers (green for appearance; take out seeds and core)
  - celery, half bunch chopped fine (¼-inch pieces, including leaves)
3. Mix first seven ingredients (above) in large pot with a thick bottom. Cook, at a steaming heat – not boiling – until reduced and not runny (up to about 4 hours) stirring every 5 minutes.
4. Add remaining ingredients: Combine sugar and spices; add to pot, mixing gently but thoroughly.
  - 3 c white sugar
  - ½ tsp each paprika and salt
  - 1 tsp cinnamon
  - 1/8 tsp cloves
5. Immediately add 1 c white vinegar. Cook at gentle simmer, near minimum heat, until thick. Depending on water content of tomatoes, might be several hours. Do not cover; stir about every 10 minutes. You may wish to test for room temperature consistency by cooling a spoonful periodically.

Recipe provided by Cora Howe's daughter, Laurel Kenney.

Originally from Mrs. John Ball (the Rev. Ball's wife) of Avon United Church.

6. Bottle preparation: Wash bottles. Simmer lids for 20 minutes. Place bottles, half filled with water and sitting in a pan of water, in the oven at 225° F for 20 min. or longer. Remove jars and lids as needed, using tongs and dumping water out.

7. Bottling: Stir in well any liquid that has come to the surface of the pot. Hygienic tasting is allowed (single dipping!). Ladle your chili sauce into the jars, with joy and pride . . . and enjoy nature's bounty all year. †



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## ("Garden" continued from page 8)

Wildlife Federation <https://cwf-fcf.org/en/> and locally from <https://www.pollinatorpathwaysproject.com/>.

In May of this year, London was designated as a bird-friendly city. Adding more native plants to your garden will help make London an even better place for birds! †

## ("Clinic" continued from page 4)

The clinic is unique in that it is a combination of paid staff and volunteers. There are four full-time staff, a hired dentist for three days a week, and currently three part-time volunteer dentists. This number is expected to increase significantly over the next few months.

While we have been operating only four days a week for the past 10 weeks, we have been inundated with calls for appointments. Currently we are booking 35 patients a week, but expect that number to rise to 50 shortly. COVID-19 has certainly increased our costs and reduced the number of patients we can treat in a day. There is a small fee for service, and we expect to run an annual deficit of around \$100,000, which will have to be made up with fundraising.

The clinic provides basic dental care at a very low cost and is equipped to handle the people it is designed to serve. The effect that oral health has on general health has been well researched, and this is an important aspect of the clinic's function.

Finally, one patient explained as she was leaving after being treated, "I'm not in pain anymore and you have given me back my smile." And it all started with a conversation at First-St. Andrew's. †

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*Editor's note: The Wright Clinic is a not-for-profit, community-based dental clinic managed by the London Community Dental Alliance. It is the first of its kind in London. The clinic is named for its principal founder, Dr. Ken Wright, who is a long-time member of FSA. For further information go to [www.wrightclinic.ca](http://www.wrightclinic.ca)*



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## ("Tribute-Wenn" continued from page 12)

at Christmas. After coming to First-St. Andrew's, Paul joined Helen Inch's Mixed Pealers, enjoying the camaraderie and performances in services and festivals.

A stint on the Music Committee followed, leading to both Roberta and Paul helping with the noon recitals and other concerts. They especially delighted in working with Enid each January on the Burns suppers.

The last ten years were difficult for Paul, but he never complained and with Roberta's care (a caring of almost 63 years!) was able to stay in their home.

I will remember Paul as a loyal and enthusiastic supporter of all FSA musical activities. He loved organ music, especially the Widor "Tocatta" or "The Widder" as he jokingly called it.

We give thanks for Paul and know the blessings of his life will vibrate in our memories for years to come. †

## MILESTONES

### Deaths

- Wilma Stanley, Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021
- William Watson, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- Jocie Peel, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### Transfers of Membership

- Bill Peel and Chris Cheski, to Bobcaygeon United Church (Bobcaygeon, ON), March 2021
- Karin Barth, from Metropolitan United Church (London, ON), March 2021

## Church Staff

- **Pastoral Charge Supervisor, Supply Minister, Minister Emeritus & Minister of Visitation:** The Rev. Dr. David McKane (Ext. 1)
- **Director of Music:** Erich Knapp (Ext. 3)
- **Youth & Young Family Coordinator:** Jane Dockrill/ Elizabeth Stewart (Ext. 4)
- **Church Administrator:** Heather Vouvalidis (Ext. 5)
- **Administrative Assistant:** Kathryn Skelly (Ext. 0)
- **Facility & Maintenance Coordinator:** Tim Miedema (Ext. 6)
- **Designated Pastoral Care Volunteer:** Jo Ann Silcox
- **Part-Time Custodian:** George Jolink
- **Organist Emeritus:** Paul Merritt

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