

Tidings

First-St Andrew's
UNITED CHURCH

Where liberal theology meets the best of tradition



Vol. 21 - No. 2
Pentecost/Summer 2011



A Technicolor Promise from the **Joyful Singers**

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TIDINGS STAFF

- Chair & Editor** David Flynn
- Layout** Jim Silcox
- Photographers** Willis Buckingham
..... Dave Wake
- Staff Rep** Paul Merritt
- Team Members** Willis Buckingham
..... Barb Dalrymple
..... David Flynn
..... Nancy Howard
..... Paul Merritt
..... Ellen McKim
..... Pat McGregor
..... Muriel Parsons
..... Jim Silcox
..... Margaret Wonfor
- Proofreader** Pat McGregor
- Typist** Maureen Scarborough

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First-St. Andrew's United Church
 350 Queens Avenue
 London, Ontario N6B 1X6
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The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors, not necessarily those of First-St. Andrew's Church.



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

David Flynn

The season of Pentecost takes us out into the world, to carry the faith from our church into situations which are not always simple. Sometimes we need to speak up "... even if it goes against the grain," as Chantal Laprise, a new member of FSA, puts it in this issue's Getting to Know article. Expressing our beliefs is most complicated during seasons of change. With a new parliament in Canada, we can expect changes. With shifting international power structures, we are seeing even more dramatic changes.

As FSA staff changes, our church also will change, sometimes in unpredictable and surprising ways. What keeps us centred amidst these changes, both local and elsewhere, is the deep truths expressed in our Sunday services, our music, and all the outreach for which we are known.

Although the new Communication and Marketing Committee's main mandate is to attract people to join us—in part by making our information documents enticing and consistent—it is just as important that people see us out in the community. Our new minister, Kate Crawford, is certainly helping that outward presence, from her work with other downtown clergy, to her recent interviews in the *London Free Press* around the conference on God and suffering.

As the long, cold winter and wet windy spring change to the delightful warmth of summer, we wish everyone happy summer activities and travels, along with satisfying personal and electronic links with the rest of the world.

pdflynn@rogers.com

FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S MINISTRY

Minister of Worship and Administration

The Rev. Dr. Kate Crawford

Supply Minister (beginning July 1)

The Rev. Tom Hiscock

Director of Music

Paul Merritt

Church Administrator

Sue Scorgie

Administrative Assistant/Receptionist

Maureen Scarborough

Custodians

Geoff Bottomley

Valerie DeJong Richard

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CORN ROAST

Mark your calendars for the Corn Roast lunch on Sunday, September 11th. The Mayberrys from the Canadian Food Grains Bank will be in attendance.

HOSPITALITY MEALS

For July/August we need volunteers for Monday nights, and someone to pick up bread from the Wellington South Costco and goods from Tim Horton's (9.00-9.30am). Contact Jane/Mike Westmorland (519-473-1273).

THANK YOU FROM MOE

To the God Squad for organizing their Fitness Sunday, donating \$300.00 to Los Quinchos, and to the Big Circle Breakfast for donating \$808.00 to the Japan Earthquake Disaster.

CHANGES

BAPTISMS

April 2, 2011

Alexis Grace Haggitt, daughter of Meghan and David Haggitt

Zachary John Dennis Watson, son of Allyson and Jeffrey Watson

May 8, 2011

Evan Lawrence Conn, son of Dana and Mark Conn

Lily Anna Christine Lemon, daughter of Jessica Cavers and Lyle Lemon

Rachel Elizabeth Weresch, daughter of Kathleen and Joshua Weresch

DEATHS

Frank Meadows, February 20, 2011

Mary Grace Bell, February 25, 2011

Shirley Parsons, April 10, 2011

Elsbeth Watson, April 30, 2011

Janet Caldwell, May 3, 2011

Vivian Bocking, May 10, 2011

Betty Lou Miller, May 21, 2011

COUNCIL REPORT



George Jolink, Chair

Greetings and best wishes on behalf of First-St. Andrew's Church Council. As the spring unfolds we all enjoy a time of renewal and awakening.

As a congregation we too are experiencing the renewal and awakening that often comes with change. I am feeling energized and encouraged about the future. It is my hope that each of you is excited as well about what the future will bring.

Your council is an extremely dedicated group of competent volunteers who undertake to conduct church business so that we all may experience the fullness of our life at First-St. Andrew's. I applaud their efforts and encourage you to show them your appreciation as well. Much work is being done by Property with respect to repairs and improvements to the building, which you will begin to see over the summer. Stewardship is busy planning our fall campaigns and Finance is ever mindful of our budget. MOE continues to plan and deliver meaningful

opportunities for us to give back to our community and environment. These are but a few examples of the vibrant church community to which we all belong.

I am pleased as well to announce that a part-time supply minister, the Reverend Tom Hiscock, will be joining our staff in July. The search process for a full-time replacement for the Reverend Dr. Susan Shelstad will commence after the Joint Needs Committee has determined the duties that will fall to this position. The search for Sue Scorgie's replacement is also beginning. I look forward to the opportunities that will come as

"As you can tell, FSA is bursting with activity and blossoming with change."

our staff team changes. In the meantime I offer my heartfelt appreciation for our current staff as they continue to meet the

needs of our congregation.

As you can tell, FSA is bursting with activity and blossoming with change. Let us rejoice and embrace each other in support as we move forward. In closing let me say how honoured I am to be able to serve as your council Chair. First-St. Andrew's has been such an important part of my life; I am pleased to be able to give something back.

JS

NOTE FROM KATE



Brothers and Sisters: I am writing this message for our summer-time *Tidings* sitting in a public library in Minneapolis, MN! Not quite what you expected is it? The United Church of Canada has always supported an educated clergy, and believes that learning does not stop when you leave theological school. Each full-time minister is expected to take three full weeks of continuing education per year. This year I have chosen three events: the Festival of Homiletics, which I am attending now (about preaching); Berwick United Church Camp in Nova Scotia (with daily Bible study, theological reflection and worship services); and Worship Matters in Toronto, where I am also leading a workshop on preaching.

These are wonderful opportunities for me to 'fill my cup' so that I do not run dry as a leader among you.

When good stuff goes in, good stuff can come back out.

But I know that First-St. Andrew's is also committed to encouraging all lay people to consider strengthening their faith through education. There is a special fund for anyone to access, called the Clarke Fund, which will be publicized more fully later this year by the Ministry and Personnel Committee. Basically, it exists to provide financial support to anyone interested in learning more about ministry—their own ministry, whatever it is, in the world. If there is an event or training programme you are hoping to attend, keep your eyes peeled. And, if you've never given it a thought before—this is the time to start checking out bulletin boards and asking around. There might just be something for you!

As for me—I'm going downtown to throw my hat in the air ... just like Mary Tyler Moore. I'm going to make it after all! js

VIEW FROM THE PEW



GRACE

Steve Elson

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found;

Was blind, but now I see.

Amazing grace—probably we all have a recollection of someone singing this song. The 'grace' being referred to is, of course, the grace of God. The experience of feeling God inside us: having God as part of us and with it enlightenment and understanding that was previously unknown.

But what is grace? Typical for an English word it has several meanings. We say grace at meal times, giving thanks for what we are about to eat. We say 'There but for the grace of God go I,' meaning that we've been lucky to escape a calamity of some kind. And as in the song, grace can be used as a characteristic of God that may come to us.

Grace can also be thought of as something that can grow inside us. It can be a state of being that is characteristic of a person at peace with themselves and the world around them: a state of grace. We might have known people like this in our lives. It might come at the end of life when someone has accepted the death that is to come. It might come through meditation and reflection: someone who has grown spiritually in a significant way.

There may be moments when we get a hint of what a state of grace might be like. Throughout the world there are places that are considered sacred, and I think that part of what comes with these places is that they are settings where it is easy to enter a state of grace, if only for a moment. The Isle of Iona in Scotland is a good example.

But grace is a state of mind, not a physical space and so we all have the opportunity, if we choose to take it, to develop grace in our own lives.

At least that's the way I see it, from the pew. js

steveelson@primus.ca



TRIBUTE TO SUSAN SHELSTAD



Nancy Howard

Answering the call to Minister of Christian Development, Susan Shelstad arrived at FSA excited about the possibilities and ready to embrace the challenge of supporting a large congregation. Not only did she call us by name, she listened to learn what was important to us as individuals and as a community, so she could build upon that and help us to grow.

Understanding that true Christian development ministry is about spiritual guidance, Susan was bursting with creative visions of different opportunities for every level to explore spirituality. Starved for spiritual nourishment, our congregation could not be satiated, as Susan continued to develop programmes, drawing even the most sceptical with her energy. With wisdom, sensitivity and wit, Susan's facilitation style with the children, Bible studies, Spirituality on Tap, dream group, and lecture series created enthusiasm for growing in faith.

At alternative worship services combining body movement, drumming, scripture, silence and prayer, we

discovered intimacy with God. As a Veriditas-certified labyrinth facilitator, Susan introduced us to an ancient practice to discern God's will. Perhaps one of Susan's greatest gifts was to teach us to listen to the silence, to be still and know God. Our increased prayer life provided healing and deep peace that could be extended to the community.



Everyone looked forward to the children's story time in the service, for its delightful unpredictability while still unpacking a message for both children and adults. Robed at the front of the church, the image of Jesus with children gathered around does not escape, so it's not too much of a stretch to see how very young children have mistaken Susan for God. But she never allowed herself to be placed on a pedestal: walking with the congregation (in those elegant shoes!), sitting among the children, sharing pieces of her personal life and just being real.

Connected in communion, and having shared our faith journey for so long, Susan will always be a part of this community. In our hearts we will hold and remember her forever. FSA will have other ministers but there will never be another who can fill her shoes. *JSA*

GETTING TO KNOW



CHANTAL LAPRISE

David Flynn

Chantal, who has been coming to FSA for more than a year, became a member on May Day. Before coming to London she lived in Sudbury and attended St. Peter's United Church there. She checked out several congregations on-line before moving here and liked our concerns for the community and the environment, our accessibility (she sometimes needs a wheelchair) and having a female minister.

A pleasant bonus was the choir and our musical talent. She discovered this before she had actually attended a service when she came to a fundraiser here and was first exposed to our music. She came out of that experience thinking, "I picked the right church!"

Chantal is interested in birding and activities related to nature in general. She also enjoys board games, doing puzzles and the theatre. Her background is



Francophone from Kent County where her family still lives, and at the moment she is reading *Un home comme tant d'autres* by Bernadette Renaud. She likes to eat new food but generally needs to "focus on eating to live, not living to eat."

Spiritually, she values compassion for the individual and social justice for all. She has been inspired by people who have touched her life in a good way, as well as the wisdom of the First Nations people, part of her family roots. "I hold on to what I believe in and what I think is right, even if it goes against the grain."

When it comes to what is meaningful in her life Chantal refers to Viktor Frankl's *Man's Search for Meaning*, which she read a long time ago but which still "makes me think."

A delightful person whose values are so close to those at the heart of FSA, we are, indeed, fortunate that she chose us as her congregation. Please welcome Chantal Laprise next time you see her in church. *JSA*

REMEMBERING



MARY MCLARTY

Helen Guthrie

Mary McLarty was born in 1928 to Rev. Carew and Frances Hallowell. Her father ministered to Anglican parishioners in Southwestern Ontario and Mary and her two siblings spent their early lives in Thorndale.

Due to wounds incurred during service in World War One, Mary's beloved father passed away in 1937, and the family moved to Preston to live with an uncle—also an Anglican minister.

After high school in Guelph, Mary trained as a teacher at Normal School in Toronto. She returned to London and taught at Wortley Road Public School. During this time, a classmate of Tom introduced her to her future husband. In 1948–49, their families saw a lot of each other and, in 1950, they married.

In 1958–59, Tom received a surgical fellowship which took the couple to London, England, and Boston. While her husband honed his surgical skills, Mary went to art school, where she made many friends. They attended concerts at Royal Festival Hall, became involved in All

Souls Church, and spent two months touring Europe.

After returning to Canada, Mary worked as a technician in a bio-chemistry lab. at UWO. In the early 1960s, they purchased a home on Grosvenor Street, and began attending services at FSA. Their first child, Kate, arrived in 1962, followed by John, Jane and Sarah. While Tom worked long hours, Mary excelled as a homemaker and mother to their children.

In 1990, the McLarty family struggled with the illness and death of 26-year-old Jane.

Mary, a strong and faith-oriented Christian, participated in Bible study groups and studied scripture daily. She attended many Christian meetings and wrote and spoke to the Lord during her lifelong practice of journaling.

Her giftedness as an artist found expression through painting, and designing and creating religious banners. She sang in the FSA senior choir for many years, and was a member of the London Opera Guild.

Mary loved and cared for the health and happiness of her husband, children, grandchildren and friends, and lived and died "with great courage, dignity, grace and faith."

✠



PROFILE



WILLIS BUCKINGHAM

Ellen McKim

There is one in every family: the person that takes all the photos, but is never in them. That describes Willis Buckingham, FSA's official photographer for most of the last nine years.

In that time, he has taken over ten thousand photographs, one thousand of which have been displayed in venues throughout the church, including eighty-six for the display boards. As well, he edited the latest history book of the church, an invaluable asset for future generations. He is a familiar figure at FSA, recording special occasions such as christenings, joining of new members, receptions, rummage sales and many more events. This is his way of giving to the church, along with being a member of the *Tidings* team, Archives and Property Committees.

Willis was born and raised on a dairy farm near Ottawa. He found farming not to his liking, especially after his uncle died suddenly, and he handled all the chores and responsibilities. He took a job in gas and

oil delivery, and shortly after married his love Marion in 1954. Their union produced three lovely daughters, two grandchildren, and eventually three great-grandchildren.

His firm was purchased by BP Oil and he became their second terminal employee, working up to assistant plant manager and later transferred via Kingston to London as maintenance supervisor for 74 outlets in Southwestern Ontario. By 1982 he established a

ventilation business for large industrial buildings, eventually working with Firwin out of Toronto. Since retiring, he continues providing quotations for them for high temperature insulation blankets worldwide, including the Philippines, Sri Lanka, France, USA and Canada.

He is a man for all seasons: self-taught in the mechanics of all the projects he was involved in, and he did them successfully.

All one has to do is look at his pictures in *Tidings* and see the dedication and energy he puts into each edition, and always with a big smile and enthusiasm. It is our turn to put Willis in the spotlight and show appreciation for all he does for the church presently and for those to follow.

✠

THE NEXT GENERATION



KENT AND MARGARET HILL

Nancy Howard

Born into the church, Kent and Margaret were raised with generations of family (Getliffe, Yurchuk, Hill) modeling visualization and active participation in building strong community. Taking part in church school, Joyful Singers, pageants, youth and family events, and regularly assisting with ushering, coffee and conversation, yard clean-up and sales, both have emerged as confident teenagers with leadership skills and fun-loving personalities.

One of our recently confirmed members of FSA, Kent's exploration of beliefs gave rise to an excited voice, "Can I have an AMEN!" Perhaps you soared with Margaret during her tumbling routine in joyful celebration of Easter. Their zest for life cannot be contained, as they support one another and their communities.

In grade 9 at Sir Fredrick Banting, Kent's favourite subjects are music and math. It was Margaret who informed, "And, he is an accomplished flute player." Like most of his peers, Kent has no idea what career path to choose, but the possibilities are endless. Margaret

is in grade 7 at Jeanne Sauvé, participating in drama, cheerleading and volleyball. She'd like to teach at a French school. I can still picture her standing on a bench at the Pinery commanding attention from distracted FSA campers as she instructed the Amazing Race she had prepared. Without a doubt, she is a total natural and a magnet for younger children. Anyone need a babysitter?



During summer months, camping has long been a favourite pastime. During winter months you'll find them on the slopes. Margaret skis competitively, while Kent prefers snowboarding for pleasure. March Break at Mont Tremblant was a total hit for the runs, gondolas, French conversation, and of course the food! Both are part of Vipers competitive cheerleading squads, and have won many awards. It's always sad when the season draws to a close, and Kent admits, "I'm gonna miss my ladies." No

wonder he signed up! Admittedly addicted to Facebook, they stay connected to friends and family and learn of upcoming events. You wonder where they find time for everything. What a blessing to have shared in their lives and to know there's so much more. *JSA*

THE BUILDING



ST. ANDREW'S HALL

Jim Hutchinson

The summer of 1905 was spent on the construction of the final independent building on our property. It was to house the Sunday school, as well as a variety of church and community events. That it remained largely intact for almost 50 years is a measure of its success.

School was first conducted in a frame building to the east of the current manse measuring 22ft. wide and over 100ft. long. Often referred to as the 'Gaelic church' because of one of its uses, it was sold after the construction of the 1868 brick church when the Sunday school moved to the basement of the new building.

The Sunday school movement and our involvement in it is an exciting story in itself! *JSA*



NOTEWORTHY

FSA and its members are once again making news:



Marilyn Norman, who is a professor in the writing rhetoric and professional communication program at Western, was recently honoured with the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. The awards ceremony took place on Thursday, March 31 at the 7th Annual Partners in

Higher Education dinner in Toronto.



Terry Peters, who is the lead investigator in a group dedicated to advancing the science of medical imaging at the Robarts Research Centre, was recently awarded a Dean's Award for Research Excellence by the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry. He received his award at the Dean's Awards of Excellence dinner on May

12.

You can learn more about Terry's work by going to <http://www.robarts.ca/terry-peters>

During Holy Week **Kate Crawford** joined with clerics of other faiths, including Father Murray Watson, Mahmoud Haddara, Father Elias Drossos, Dean Kevin Dixon and Rabbi Debra Dressler, at the Thames Valley District School Board's Sir Adam Beck Auditorium to debate the question "How can we believe in a loving God in a world of such suffering?" The discussion was moderated by the London Free Press's James Reaney, who later commented,

"As someone who grew up in London during the 1960s when we may have preached tolerance, understanding and love, but too often practised something else, it was a moving and spiritual occasion. I felt honoured and encouraged to be there."

You can see the transcript and watch a video if you go to: <http://www.lfpress.com/comment/2011/04/21/18051126.html>



JEAN GORWILL'S 105TH

Helen McLeod

We are all aware that May 24th is Queen Victoria's birthday. However, did you know that Jean Gorwill surpassed Queen Victoria when she celebrated her 105th birthday on the 24th of May, 2011?

A teacher by profession, Jean taught English at London South Collegiate and later took on the position of school librarian, where she remained until her retirement.

She is an amazing person, who governed pupils who were much bigger than her with exacting discipline.

During WW2, Jean kept in contact with 'the boys' who were overseas. She remembers and is fondly remembered by many of her former students. She has a wide variety of friends from all walks of life.

Jean lived in her large home on Wellington Street, kept a beautiful garden and drove her car until well into her nineties. She then moved to an apartment at Chelsea Park. At the moment she is temporarily in University Hospital waiting for space in an assisted living home. With the loving care of many friends, Jean still regularly attends our church services.

We sincerely wish Jean all blessings during the coming years.

Dear Jean: Happy Birthday and God bless.

FS



PAST EVENTS



**April 16th and 17th:
Antique and Collectible Sale**



**April 17th:
Big Circle Breakfast**



**May 10th -12th:
Plant Sale**



**April 3rd:
Fitness Challenge**

COMMITTEE REPORTS



WORSHIP

Jo Ann Silcox

As Resurrection joy begins to fill our hearts again, the Worship Committee gives thanks for many blessings over recent months:

- The life and service of our scripture reader coordinator, Elspeth Watson, over two decades. May she now see God face to face as she has helped all of us envisage Him through all these years;
- The brilliant Jesus-in-Your-iPod sermon series conducted by the Rev. Dr. Kate Crawford through Lent, which allowed so many personal stories to be woven into the fabric of gospel and commissioning;
- The liturgical gifts of a growing cadre of lay worship leaders and children's story tellers—all enriching the ministry of the whole people of God;
- The increasing collaboration between Metropolitan, Dundas Street Centre and First-St. Andrew's United Churches;
- The exciting inter-faith dialogue which Dr. Crawford has spawned in person and in the media between faithful United, Roman Catholic, Anglican, Jewish and Moslem leaders—all seeking to move their communities into dialogue and social action one with the other;
- The beauty and power of the children's musical bringing scripture to life in wonderful new ways;
- The marvelous energy of both youth and children in our worship time—reminding us that another generation is being moved by the Spirit in powerful new ways;
- The glorious and multi-faceted contributions of all of our church musicians, vocalists and instrumentalists alike, who move us regularly to sing a new song;
- The generous sharing of preaching and liturgical skills by visiting clergy. PS



New Confirmands and Sponsors

Environment Sunday



The Canadian Premier of "Requiem"

Easter Chancel





PROPERTY

Mary Ann Hodge

The Property Committee is busy researching and pricing various projects as we head into the summer, which is typically the best time to do work on the church. Thanks to Willis Buckingham, we have been posting updates monthly on our website, fsaunited.com, providing you with information on our progress and anticipated work. Our online reports go into more detail than we can here, and we are also posting these reports on the bulletin board outside the nursery for those without internet access.

This spring we took some time looking at a longer term solution to our sanctuary lighting—converting to LED lights. However, it was determined that the technology was not yet developed enough to work with our lighting controls. Instead, we decided to re-lamp

with traditional lights and wait a few more years for the conversion.

We were pleased to be chosen by Scholars Painting as a training centre for their painting crew this season. They painted the exterior trim of Farquhar House and some interior work at FSA at no cost to us. We still have lots of trim at FSA to get done, but this is a great start. The parking lot is set to get a permanent fix to the storm drains this summer, so you might encounter some disruption in the parking lot. We have received pricing to fix the most urgent masonry repairs. These are areas with significant mortar deterioration that will lead to more problems if not corrected now.

We had great weather for our spring clean-up. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped trim and prune so that we project a well-maintained image to all who come to our church. The annual plant sale was a great success—many thanks to Donna Travis for her tireless dedication to this project. *PS*



UCW UPDATE

June McKay

Whenever I sit in on a UCW meeting or function arranged by this group, I am amazed at the wealth of experience, energy, dedication and devotion of these women.

Some of the spring and summer plans included attending the 10th anniversary of Limberlost Chaplaincy, the Antique and Collectible Sale, which added about \$5,200 to our treasury, the gathering of London Conference UCW at Siloam Church, the Phantom Tea, Maytime Communion for those who find it difficult to come regularly to church, and the UCW service on May 29 with guest the Rev. Betty Sangster.

The annual meeting took the form of a 'Picnic' lunch catered by Shirley and Tom Wynne, with the Teen Challenge Ladies from King City as our guests, who brought their lovely hand-made jewellery to sell. A

special service is planned to mark the 50th anniversary of the United Church Women in January 2012, when our exciting guests will be the African women of North Park Church and the Joy in the Harvest drum choir.

There are always special projects and many charities to support: Bethesda House, Rotholme Women's Shelter, My Sisters' Place, Limberlost and Southdale Chaplaincies, ELUCO, Five Oaks, the Prayer Shawl ministry, Camp Kee-Mo-Kee, Daily Bread, a substantial contribution to the Mission and Service Fund, our annual Holly Bazaar and a fall rummage sale. There are flowers to arrange, correspondence to be dealt with, the ongoing needs of the kitchen equipment, as well as regular monthly meetings with the Mary and Martha unit, and the Tuesday evening unit.

Wrap this, and much more, up into our purpose of uniting women of the congregation for the total mission of the church, expressing loyalty to Jesus Christ, service, witness and fellowship, and you have some idea of the scope and importance of this group in FSA. *PS*



MISSION, OUTREACH, ENVIRONMENT

Barb Dalrymple

EAST LONDON UNITED CHURCH OUTREACH (ELUCO)

Heartfelt thanks to all of you who bought cinnamon buns! ELUCO board members baked 398 dozen buns and raised approximately \$2000.00 to assist families with low incomes in East London.

The FSA youth group held a Fitness Challenge fundraiser April 3rd and donated \$200.00 to ELUCO. Awesome job God Squad!

The first Annual General Meeting for ELUCO took place on Wednesday June 1st at 7.00pm at the Marconi Community unit—216 Marconi Blvd. The meeting featured a speaker from London Housing which was interesting and informative to all. We welcomed anyone who could attend. Refreshments and desserts were served.

Nancy Howard, our community support worker, is actively organizing children to attend summer camp programmes and appreciates the sponsorships allowing

children from the Marconi community to attend camp.

GROW-A-ROW—CANADIAN FOOD GRAINS BANK

We had a fun kick-off to the campaign on April 3rd with our MOE folks in their farmer duds. As you know, we are trying to surpass last year's total of approximately \$7000.00 (St. Mary's United also raised that amount). Up to the end of April, the total is \$3315.00—however, there is lots of time to fill out the form in the Grow-A-Row envelopes (located at all entrances).

ST. PAUL'S DAILY BREAD FOOD BANK.

The number of folks coming to the Food Bank and the Fellowship Centre remains constantly high, with many new people needing daily assistance and non-perishable items. The need for money, food and personal items continues, particularly with the summer approaching.

The shopping cart in the atrium and the white baskets throughout FSA await your kind contributions. Also, a cheque made out to First-St. Andrew's—marked for St. Paul's Daily Bread—would be great. There are envelopes available.

ROLL WITH THE DECLARATION: KAIROS CROSS-CANADA ACTION JUNE 2011

Churches from across the country have been preparing banners signaling their support for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In June, KAIROS will travel across the country by train to gather the banners and then use them in public events in Ottawa to demonstrate that Canadians want our government to implement this agreement.

KAIROS is an ecumenical social justice organization of which the United Church of Canada is a member.

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is an international human rights document designed to protect the rights of Indigenous peoples. Like other UN declarations, it contains human rights principles which governments are expected and encouraged to respect. Unlike other declarations, however, the Declaration addresses collective rights to a degree unprecedented in international human rights law. This is crucial as many countries, including Canada, do not accommodate collective rights effectively.

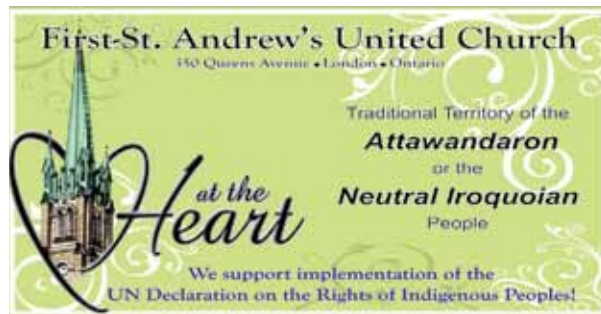
The Mission, Outreach and Environment Committee has arranged for a banner to be made and designed by Bob Schram (Sterling Marking Products Inc.) symbolizing our support for the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We are deeply appreciative of Bob's donation of this beautiful banner! The banner will be presented to

KAIROS staff and members who will be travelling across Canada on the 'Banner Train' at their stop in London on June 18th.

We invite you to sign this banner, which will be on display at Coffee and Conversation, to help show the Government of Canada that there are many

Canadians who care deeply about Indigenous rights and want to see the Declaration implemented as a next step towards right relations.

For additional information on this project go to www.kairoscanada.org/roll



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FINANCE ARE YOU UP TO PAR?

Harold Jackson

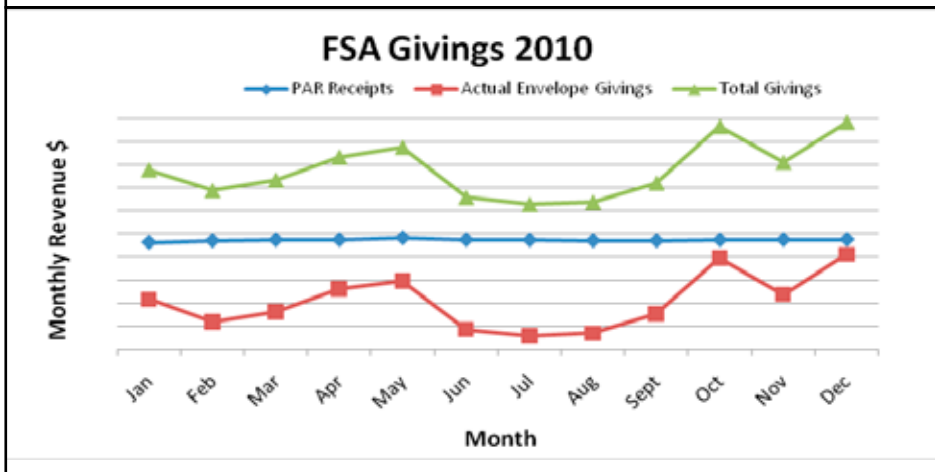
What is PAR?

PAR or Pre-Authorized Remittance is a direct debit programme administered through the national office of the United Church of Canada that allows financial support to First-St. Andrew's United Church (FSA) through an automatic monthly withdrawal from supporters' bank accounts or charge to accepted credit card accounts (Visa and MasterCard only accepted currently). Once a month, all **PAR** givings are debited from/charged to givers' accounts and then the total, less a service fee, is electronically transferred to FSA. **PAR** was introduced in 1976 by the United Church of Canada as a convenient way for givers to provide consistent, year-round financial support of their local church.

What are the benefits of PAR?

The **PAR** system was developed to help congregations regulate their income. Givers who may be away for the summer or winter months find this system helps them to manage their commitment without having to 'catch up'

What was the cash flow impact of givings support to FSA in 2010?



on their givings, especially after a prolonged absence.
How much does PAR cost FSA?

The PAR programme costs the local congregation 50¢ per giver, per month up to a maximum of \$45 (90 or more people), which is deducted at the time of the monthly transfer to FSA. This helps to defray administrative costs incurred by the United Church of Canada. Individuals opting for monthly account withdrawals pay the normal chequing/debit fees to their local bank or credit union, as applicable. Credit card service charges (2.5% for Visa and MasterCard), are currently borne by FSA.

How many participate at FSA?

Weekly / monthly gifts provide for the ever-present operational expenses of the ongoing programmes of FSA (budgeted at \$1,850 per day in

2011). Currently, 170 givers (43% of total givers) use **PAR** as their preferred method of managing support to FSA.

Consider PAR?

It makes regular support convenient and ongoing. Importantly, it helps FSA better manage its cash flow needs all year long. If not already a PAR giver and this is of interest to you, forms are available at the church office.

THE LOST DIAMOND

Mary McKim

In the mid-seventies with boys past infancy, and after teaching Sunday school for several years, I became a nursery volunteer, delighting in rocking babies again, (Eberhard and Pennington infants are recalled). It was a plainer room then, but had cribs and a change table. Following service on a warm Sunday, I was dismayed to see in the centre of my ring a black hole, where the solitaire from my mother's 1916 engagement ring should have been! I conscripted all present to search, but to no avail. Lemonade was being served on the

lawn, and I rushed to approach the parents of an infant I had last changed, carrying him in to check if the stone had fallen into the 'nappy'!

I asked Rev. Farquhar to tell the custodian to sweep, not vacuum, and spent the week picturing a new setting for my ring with only small stones. Early the following Sunday I received a welcome call from 'Alec.' "Glory to God, the lost has been found!" My diamond had been spotted by the nursery volunteer for the first service, upside down on the floor of the toddlers' room! Resetting the ring, I included two emeralds from India.



COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Bob Swartman

The FSAC&M Committee is launching the new logo and icon in the weekly bulletin and providing guidelines for the formatting of our “First-St. Andrew’s” brand; you should be seeing it as this issue of *Tidings* appears. We expect FSA messages to be presented in a format that is coherent, attractive and consistent as the FSA brand for all graphics in internal and external communications. The guidelines will specify colours, typefaces and provide guidelines in selecting fonts, colours, text size and so on.

Various church committees have asked for bulletin boards so we are asking each committee to provide us with a wish list for their bulletin board. We would like to provide a board to satisfy each church committee and

it would assist us if we had some idea of the size and preferred locations for the bulletin boards. At present the board assigned to the UCW some years ago near the chapel is used for a number of notices not related to the UCW. We are not likely to provide complete satisfaction but we hope to organize our boards better than they are now.

The Membership and Nurture Committee has asked us to help them provide a piece of literature that non-members can read to gain an appreciation of First-St. Andrews; something of the history, the building, music, youth programmes, clergy, which can be used in conjunction with the PROGRAMME GUIDE which comes out annually in September. We are working on it.

Another activity is developing a resource book for external media to help our various committees to access publicity.

Our work continues!

✂



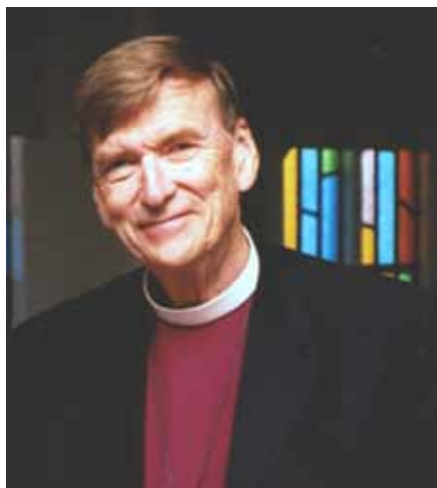
BISHOP SPONG RETURNS TO FSA

David Wake

This fall, First-St. Andrew’s is privileged to welcome once again Bishop John Shelby Spong. Bishop Spong will deliver the Proudfoot Lecture on Sunday, October 23, at 2:00pm. If you heard Bishop Spong speak during his previous visits to FSA in 2004 and 2006, you will not want to miss this year’s event. If you missed out last time around, I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to be challenged and inspired. Bishop Spong’s lecture is entitled *Beyond Heaven and Hell: A New Vision of Eternal Life*.

Prior to his retirement in 2001, John Shelby Spong was for 24 years, bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Newark, New Jersey. Bishop Spong’s books have sold more than one million copies. In his latest book, *Eternal Life: A New Vision*, he tells of his lifelong struggle with the questions of God and death, and reveals how he came to a new conviction about eternal life.

Bishop Spong’s earlier books include *Rescuing the*



Bible from Fundamentalism; A New Christianity for a New World and Why Christianity Must Change or Die.

Bishop Spong is in great demand as a lecturer throughout the world. He is considered the champion of an inclusive faith by many, both inside and outside the Christian church. His admirers acclaim him as a teaching bishop who makes contemporary theology accessible to the ordinary layperson. He is a committed Christian who has spent a lifetime studying the *Bible* and whose life has been deeply shaped by it.

Be sure to mark October 23 on your calendar now. Tickets for the 2.00pm lecture cost \$20.00 and will be available through the church office. Tickets will also be available at Coffee and Conversation, starting in September.

In addition to the afternoon lecture, Bishop Spong will be preaching at the 10:30am service on October 23. His sermon is entitled *From Plagues in Egypt to Love Your Enemies*.

Also of Interest: The Canadian Centre for Progressive Christianity is holding its fourth conference at FSA on October 21–23. For further information about the conference, visit <http://widentheembrace.com>. ✂

Jim Deacon
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