



Tidings

Vol 26, No 4 – Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2016

LOOKING INTO THE CRYSTAL BALL
 (SEE THE COUNCIL REPORT ON PAGE 11)

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Tidings

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EDITORIAL

Pat McGregor

Recently, The Tragically Hip's Gord Downie shone a light on one particular Indigenous boy, Chanie Wenjack who, many years ago, ran away from a residential school in Northern Ontario, and attempted to walk home to his father and his reserve, over 600 km. away.

Gord Downie says he is haunted by this scenario, as am I, as I visualize this young lad, with no food or water, and insufficiently clothed for the brutal winter weather, trudging along that endless ribbon of railroad track in a doomed attempt to reach home.

God has promised that "I will not leave you comfortless," but where was the comfort for Chanie and the many others who were caught up in the residential school debacle, brought about by ignorance and human failure at many levels? I am somewhat comforted in my personal belief that God is not "up there" directing traffic during our time here on earth, but has promised to comfort us in times of need as we each walk our individual path through our lives. We would like to feel assured that Chanie was comforted in his last hours beside that track, but also in knowing that comfort comes in many forms and manifests itself in many ways.

We take comfort knowing that those residential schools are now shuttered, and that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is working hard to right the wrongs inflicted on so many. "I will not leave you comfortless" is a comfort in itself. †





The Rev. Michelle Down

Blessings to you during this Holy Season. December is a month of Holy holidays: Jewish people are celebrating Hanukkah, Muslims are celebrating Milad un Nabi (Prophet Muhammad's birthday), African Americans are honouring Kwanzaa, and non-religious people are living into the secular traditions. As Christians, as we celebrate Christmas, we are called to gather at the manger of new life to find the Christ Child that is wanting to be born anew within us.

At First-St. Andrew's we are seeking that manger of new life within our worship, music programmes, Wednesday's Sing-for-your-Supper, stewardship campaigns, bazaar fun, mission and outreach, God Squad, Sunday School and so much more! Jesus comes to us in relationships both old and new, and we are blessed to be able to share the Good News in many forms.

Christmas is a time of birth, renewal and revitalization. In order to receive it, we must prepare for it, and thus we live into the season of Advent. Its themes are Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, and I want to invite you to discern how are you living those themes as your core values? How do your family, friends and neighbours see you living our Christian story of new life? I pray that this Christmas, you might offer the blessing of fellowship, and the healing of forgiveness. I pray that you might share a meal with Blessing on your lips, and sing a Grace of gratitude. I pray that together we might find Solidarity in our Stockings; Thanksgiving under our trees; and Humility in our hearts.

Worship will happen at First-St. Andrew's on Sunday mornings at 10:30 throughout Advent as always. On Christmas Eve we will have Family Service at 6:30 and Communion

(Cont'd. on page 19)



REMEMBRANCE

Steve Elson

As this article is being written, it is a few days before Remembrance Day—November 11th. It is a time when we remember and honour those who have fought and died in past as well as current wars and conflicts. As Canadians, our focus tends to be on those who have served in the Armed Forces. For those who have experienced the trauma, pain and tragedy of war firsthand, as a soldier or family member, or as a citizen who has lived in a war zone, the experience and memory runs much deeper and is more profound.

Remembrance Day serves as a time to pause and give thanks to those who have served and to reflect on the price of war. It also reminds us that collectively we have failed to live in peace and that as a human race we are flawed, sometimes deeply so. As a Christian community we repeat this opportunity to reflect through our communion

services. Most directly, communion provides us with the time to remember and reflect on the death of Christ and the sacrifice He made.

Both Remembrance Day and communion give us a space to think deeply about the fragility of life, about how precious life is. Both remind us that the impact and consequences of conflict can last long after the events have come to an end and that they are not to be forgotten. Both challenge us to make the most of the opportunities we have and to give thanks on a daily basis.

Remembrance plays a key role in our spiritual development and growth. In this context remembrance involves stopping, pausing and becoming mindful of the nature of sacrifice; how it shapes and influences us—what it says about our values and what is important to us. Remembrance also speaks to using the past to help shape our future. Finally, remembrance asks us to be humble and tells us that we are all part of something much bigger than ourselves and that we are connected in spirit to everyone.

At least that's how I see it, from the pew.✝



LABYRINTH WALKS SUPPORT WELL-BEING

Nancy Quinn

Walking a labyrinth is a gentle, meditative exercise, which helps bring all the dimensions of our being into spiritual balance. At FSA we are blessed to have a large, canvas Chartres labyrinth, which we set up for sessions in Proudfoot Hall. (<http://www.fsaunited.com/ministries-other14.html>).

Labyrinths have existed since the late Neolithic time, nearly five thousand years. Often they had a maze-like quality, replete with dead ends, meant to imprison malevolent forces, such as the mythic Minotaur of Knossos, Crete. In her book, *The Language of the Goddess*, the archeomythologist, Marija Gimbutas, documents a European pre-history phenomenon of labyrinth markings on Goddess artifacts. These markings show the water-related, life giving, womb qualities of the Mother. This life giving dimension has been kept in Christian labyrinth meditation, alongside the symbolic pilgrimage concept.

Today, a labyrinth is not a maze. We experience it as a spiralling pattern, having one way in to the centre, which also is the way out. There are three main patterns for modern labyrinths: the medieval Chartres Cathedral design of eleven circuits (FSA); the Minoan design of seven circuits, and the modern Santa Rosa design (Brescia Hill). London has seven labyrinths: <http://labyrinthlocator.com/locate-a-labyrinth>. I recommend Brescia's beautiful, stone and grass labyrinth: <http://thecircle.ca/labyrinth/>.



Rev. Susan Shelstad, now retired from FSA, studied with Grace Cathedral's labyrinth pioneer, Rev. Dr. Lauren Artress. Susan led us in many beautiful, candle-lit, labyrinth walks—a continuing tradition. Labyrinth walking, sometimes with quiet music, bolsters creativity and insight through relaxation. In the quiet, gifts of balance, insight, growth, creativity and healing emerge.

Grace Cathedral's Three Stages of the Walk:

1. Purgation (Releasing)—a letting go ... a time to open the heart and quiet the mind.
2. Illumination (Receiving)—when you reach the centre ... a place of meditation and prayer.
3. Union (Returning)—joining God ... your Higher Power, or the healing forces.

[From their website: <http://www.gracecathedral.org/our-labyrinths/>]

There are also **finger labyrinths**, made by tracing or enlarging an existing image, which can then be embellished and laminated. The Ninth World Labyrinth Day occurs Saturday, May 6th, 2017. We are invited to "Walk as One at 1," thereby, "joining others around the globe to create a wave of peaceful energy washing across the time zones." Learn more at <https://labyrinthsociety.org/world-labyrinth-day>. †



For Christmas, consider transferring to DVD those old family films and tapes stored away in closets. Give the old family memories new life.

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**GENE CORBET,
1931–2016**
David McKane

In the book *Call Them Canadians*, published for Canada's centennial year, poet Miriam Waddington asks the question, "What is a Canadian?" and then answers in part; "... we look like geography but just scratch us and we bleed like history..." Such a man was Eugene (Gene) Corbet, history teacher, proud of his Empire Loyalist roots and his connections to the historic Hay Bay Church near Napanee, a man of deep faith, deep wisdom and deep questions.

As a member of the Brown Bag Men's group Gene would always keep us grounded in historical context and occasionally hysterical anecdotes. Born and raised in Tweed, Ontario, he attended Western, where he met and fell in love with Barbara. They were married in FSA on August 3rd, 1957 by Rev. Ole Hoissen, Angus MacQueen being on holiday. The proud father of three children, Heather, Ann and Geoffrey, Gene taught history at Wheable, Lucas and Oakridge high schools and touched the lives of numerous students. As one who came to appreciate his teachers after the fact, I can only guess at what an impact Gene had on many of his students. Possessed of a keen mind, Gene was an avid reader. Indeed such was his love of Canada that each year he set himself the task of reading a book written in French, not just to keep his little grey cells active, but to remind himself of the rich French culture that is so much a part of Canadian history. Je me souviens!

At the end of many a church service I was aware of Gene hovering in the Narthex until the line thinned and he could then engage

me in some deep questioning about my sermon. Always affirming and encouraging, he was nonetheless critical and insightful in his comments, eager to expand his own understanding and stretch his considerable intellect.

At the end of *Camelot*, kings Arthur and Pellinore are pondering the meaning of life



and who or what we are. Arthur muses, "... less than a drop in the great blue motion of the sunlit sea. But ... some of them do sparkle, Pelli, some of them do sparkle!" Gene Corbet sparkled! †

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PAT AND DALE PETTIT

Barb Dalrymple



On a hot summer Sunday in 1967 Dale and Pat Pettit first attended FSA. They had been attending Metropolitan, but good friends invited them to come and hear FSA's great organ. They're still here almost 50 years later. Alex Farquhar was the senior minister and, as some remember, Alex zeroed in on newcomers like a bee to nectar. He contacted the Kum-Join-Us coordinators, who followed up with an invitational 'phone call. Everyone in Kum-



Join-Us, a social group, became involved in FSA very quickly. Dale was Chair of Finance from 1970-1975; forty years later he holds that position again.

The music, the architecture, the message, the outreach and the people have kept the Pettits at FSA.

Pat was a Sunday School teacher, CGIT leader and teen group leader. The teen group met Sunday mornings at 8:30 for breakfast. Pat's current focus is outreach as a team leader for Out of the Cold and now for Bridges Out of Poverty, and co-Chair of the Mission, Outreach and Environment Committee.

The Pettits grew up in Brantford. Pat received her BNSc, from Queen's and trained at Toronto Sick Kids' Hospital. Dale graduated from UWO and trained at Clarkson Gordon for his CPA designation.

Pat started her career with the London Board of Education as a public health nurse, then later with the home visiting programme for infants at CPRI, before returning to UWO. After graduating with a M.A. in Psychology, she worked in a private psychology practice, in the Psychology Department at CPRI, at Madame Vanier Children's Services and finally at the Thames Valley District School Board as a psychologist. For many of these years she worked with Dr. Barrie Evans.

Dale worked in public accounting with Clarkson Gordon, followed by accounting/finance with Silverwood Industries Ltd., through four changes of control of the company, ending as vice-president and treasurer of Mac's Convenience Stores Inc., a subsidiary of Alimentation Couche-Tard.

The Pettits have three children, Erin, Andrew and Michael. In retirement they enjoy attending their five grandchildren's many activities. Pat has learned to play the alto saxophone and plays in three New Horizon Bands. She also volunteers at Wellspring and the London Regional Cancer Centre. They travel the world, enjoy concerts, reading, and spending time outdoors.

Pat and Dale are an active, caring couple who donate hours of time to First-St. Andrew's. Aren't we lucky?





MINING THE MYSTERY

David Flynn

We—the Brown Bag Lunch (BBL)—are calling it *Mining the Mystery: Part II*, as a follow-up to our sessions last year. The overall theme remains the same: *Science and Religion*. The idea for the series came a year ago after we discussed a *Christian Century* article about scientists in a U.S. church who felt doubly-damned: their science colleagues wondered how they could believe all that faith stuff; and church members were also puzzled that scientists would attend a church. The congregation decided to ask some of these scientists to speak about the apparent paradox of being both a scientist and a religious believer.

We decided to do a similar series at FSA. About half of the BBL met last fall for several weeks during the hour before our regular Wednesday noon meetings to organize three sessions in January, February and March, 2016. We were joined by two members of the CD Committee—Allyson Watson and David Pederson.

We chose the title, *Mining the Mystery*, because a Canadian physicist, Arthur McDonald, won the 2015 Nobel Prize based on his search at the bottom of a Sudbury mine for the mysterious neutrinos. The subtitle last year was: *Exploring Our Faith through the Lenses of Science, Music and Theology*. The first session (speaker: Mike Bancroft) was titled: *Science and Religion: Are They Compatible?*; the second, *Music and Religion*, featured Bob Kennedy and his daughter Jill, a music therapist; and the third, *Theology and Religion* by David McKane, examined why some scientists had trouble

with organized religious beliefs—but could still have a theological faith. The attendance ranged from about sixty to well over a hundred. Quite a few came from outside FSA.

This year we will have four sessions, from 7:00-8:30 Sunday evenings in January to April:

Responses to Climate Change for Future Generations (Jan. 22nd. Speaker: Dr. Gordon McBean, Nobel Prize-winning expert on climate change).

The Three Abrahamic Faiths and Science (Feb 12th. Speakers TBA)

The Meaning of Life (Mar. 26th. Speaker TBA).

MINING
THE
MYSTERY
PART II



The Last Enemy is ... Death (Apr. 22nd. Speaker: Dr. Jo Ann Silcox).

We expect again this year stimulating presentations and spirited discussions. ☩



ON A MISSION TO NICARAGUA!

Jane Dockrill

Wow, we have come a long way—from London to Waspam and back again (via Toronto, Texas, Managua).

Here is our story, just a little bit if it!

Our group developed a list of goals to work towards as we wrote grants, fundraised and collected items to take with us. Thanks to the support of our church community, family and friends we raised enough money to make the trip (\$19,200) and another



\$3,000.00 to put towards a project upon our arrival. We filled eight suitcases to the brim, each teen packing light in a carry-on bag or backpack, reserving their suitcases for school supplies such as notebooks, pens, pencils,

craft supplies, math sets and reading books for younger children. We also packed medical items such as disinfectants, band aids, gauze packages and stomach aids.

After a day-long journey on Aug. 18th, we landed in Managua. Following a night's rest in the beautiful private home of a Nicaraguan family, we saw some historical sites, visited Los Quinchos School and ate in a Nicaraguan restaurant. We visited a home for boys and girls who had been victims of sexual abuse. Both of these visits on our first day were eye opening. Immediately we could see how the Nicaraguans have many good people fighting for justice on behalf of the poor and marginalized. We spent the bulk of our time in the village of Waspam. We flew in a 12-seater 'plane to the far East Coast of Nicaragua and landed on a dirt runway/path beside the village of Waspam. The high school band, members young and old from the Moravian Church (our hosts) and many townspeople were waiting for us! It was quite overwhelming. We were paraded through town to our hotel with drumming ahead of us—so loud—Canadian flags waving beside us and all the people behind us. It was wild. We made it. Here we were in an Indigenous village where the language, food, and culture in general were very different and very interesting.

We visited all of the local parishes as well as the main Moravian church in town. The church prepared a wide variety of people and places for us to see and meet. Our trip leader, Pat MacDonald from Open Hands United, has made friends and partners of the people in the small community. They looked forward to sharing their village with us and went out of their way to make us feel welcome. Often, they would translate services to English for us. We met only a handful of people in a week who could speak English. This made us very grateful and connected to David. David, a friend and partner of Open Hands United, young and interested in our group and our experience, became a true friend and confidant of the teens. It was in

his truck that we made our daily trips, and his translation in both Nicaraguan and Moskito languages made our trip possible. It did not hurt that he was cute, friendly and had a cool playlist, always pumping out music from his truck. David had family in Waspam. His Aunt Elizabeth was instrumental in organizing an itinerary while we were there. She and her husband are small business owners in town and very active in the church. Elizabeth came with us on most of our adventures which included:

Two hours up-river in a dug-out log with a motor on the back to the village of St. Jeronimo (boat is a main source of delivery of goods and people on the river). We delivered health care/medical aides and did crafting activities and games with the children;

Waspam Hospital tour. Left some medical care supplies;

Prenatal Home/Clinic for those who travel long distances to have their babies (before and after care);

St. Marguerite: a remote village where we played with the children, brought school supplies and sports equipment;

Koom: another remote village where there was a conference we attended to say hello from Canada;

Orphanage site: Orphanage since shut down but still operates day programmes on the weekends for children, offering hot meals and activities. Offered support for hot lunch programme and seed money for a skills programme for teens;

Tour of Moravian elementary and high schools, where we brought school supplies and sports equipment;

Government-run high school where we also brought school supplies, notebooks, math sets, etc., and sports equipment.

Every trip we took, we saw people. No one stays in the house, their lives are lived outside—on the street, in the village, on the porch, or in the fields and forests for those who live beyond the villages. Every river we passed had mothers and grandmothers washing clothes and children splashing or

bathing, staying cool. It was beautiful on many levels, a simple life, amidst, and in spite of, the hardships of poverty, unclean water, limited power and lack of governmental support for what we would deem priorities and necessities; rights of life. The stuff that we think we couldn't live without.

We attended church I think six times in the week. We laughed about it because it was far from our normal routine; however, it was at these services that we were changed.



The people, the children, all so happy and so gracious and genuinely excited for us to be with them. They were so welcoming. It was a gift to us, and I think I am safe in speaking for the group, that this gift is one that we want to return to the rest of the world as we travel through it—the gift of welcoming, acceptance and love—it's really all you need. †



*B*OUTIQUE *B*AZAAR

Nov 12

COMMITTEE REPORTS



COUNCIL

What's up in 2026?

Bob Swartman

A Town Hall meeting was held on October 5th at which the participants brain-stormed six themes that the Planning Committee had come up with.

An Idea Station was set up for each theme, and those contributions provided the basis for a survey that was circulated to the congregation. The returns were incorporated into a report, and posters of the results were displayed on Anniversary Sunday. The responses were fascinating, summarizing what our congregation collectively thinks we should do. Our planning so far has been short-term, but we are now looking ahead for ten years!

One anonymous writer contributed this message: "Create more non-worship related groups that appeal to a younger generation. I enjoy the lessons, learning and reflection, but that is not why I want to be a member of a church. I want to be a part of something bigger than me. I want to have a place where my family can socialize and meet other people with similar interests. I want to have fun at church services. I want to be introduced to more opportunities within my community. I want my children to have close friends and want to come to church. I want to learn more about how to worship in this changing world." The author will probably recognize the words and I thank her/him. I consider it a profound statement of one

person's thoughts that will resonate among many.

We hear people say "there won't be a church in ten years." If that is correct we will have so few left in our congregation our expenses will far exceed our revenues and the Trust funds will be spent. There are several impending events that affect where we will be, including: the election of Donald Trump to be the US president, and the danger of war as Mr. Trump continues to bully people and others respond; the effects of climate change and the remedial measures if any; the changing lifestyles among young people and the lack of jobs, and increasing famine and poverty.

By 2026 the measures to deal with climate change will have an effect on our consciousness. Carbon taxes will be starting to bite. Fewer cars will be sold and those that are will be electric or natural gas produced from biomass. Public transit will be much more important, buses and trains will be providing more than half our transportation needs. People will be moving into the city from the suburbs to reduce their expenses; some will form clusters where they can easily walk to work or to school. Victory Gardens will be filling the vacant lands.

The future means big versus little, rich versus poor, strong versus weak, conservationist versus environmentalist, solar and wind versus conventional fuels, provincial governments versus federal: we could be a global community divided. Surely, people will look to the church as a refuge from the pressures of these other forces. †



MEMBERSHIP AND NURTURE

Audrey Coulthard

- The Lunch Bunch, coordinated by Rev. Tom Hiscock, met monthly during the fall for good food and fellowship on the second Tuesday.
- Planning is underway for the winter with in-house catering. Pre-registration is required for adequate food preparation at a cost of \$15 per person. Please notify in advance if you plan to attend and watch for any special announcements. Everyone is welcome.
- Coffee and Conversation has returned to the system of

monthly convenors. Thanks to Heather Locking-Cusolito and Deanne Pederson for organizing the convenors; thanks to everyone for their support.

- Caring Callers, under the leadership of Annabelle Logan, continue with 'phone visits to connect with those who can no longer participate in church activities.
- The Congregational Visiting Team, with the support of Rev. Tom, Rev. Michelle and Jo Ann Silcox, continue to visit our elderly who are confined in long-term care and at home. Sincere thanks, once again, to the UCW who provide financial resources to remember them at Christmas. †

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CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

Allyson Watson

As always, this is a busy season for us. The children are working on their pageant for December 11th, Michelle is leading an Advent series for four Wednesday evenings, we are hosting the Alternative Gift Market with MOE, and keep your eyes open for a children's outreach project.

This fall we supported our youth from Nicaragua as they provided the worship service for us on November 13th.



Joseph Pin



Riley Turner-Langley

Please continue to chat with the six young people who participated and find out about their experiences. The children have explored the stories of the Four Friends and the Wise Man who built his house on a rock. The youth had a successful fundraiser at the Wortley Village Hallowe'en event. The two Bible studies continue to provide enrichment, learning and fellowship to those who are able to attend.

Some events to look forward to in 2017: Mining the Mystery Part 2; Recomposing a Life series which will begin at the end of April; a spaghetti dinner on January 22nd, the youth going to Worshiplude, and don't forget Camp Kee-Mo-Kee the first weekend in June!

Just Christmas Alternate Gift Market

We're Back! December 4th and 11th, during Coffee and Conversation in Proudfoot Hall.

This is our third year providing the wonderful opportunity of purchasing a non-traditional gift for someone. All gifts will be under \$20.00. You can purchase a donation card as a stocking stuffer, secret Santa gift, hostess gift, or a gift for teachers, colleagues, family and friends. Each card represents a donation that you have made for them to a charitable organization. This year we are mainly focusing on supporting organizations that work to reduce poverty or need in London. Some options are: St. Paul's Daily Bread, ELUCO, Bridges Out of Poverty, Camp Kee-Mo-Kee, Comfort Quilts, or yarn for a prayer shawl to be created for someone in need.

How does it work?

1. Pick up an order form;
2. Wander through the market, visiting the booths promoting each organization;
3. Check off the donation cards you would like to purchase on your order form;
4. Head to the cashier's table to make your payment by cash, cheque, debit or credit;
5. Pick up your donation cards, which describe the organizations and donations you have made;
6. You will be mailed a charitable donation receipt;
7. Our donations will be forwarded to the organizations that you supported.

Questions? Contact Allyson Watson or Janice Elliott. Please purchase a gift that gives twice!! ✝

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MUSIC

Merran Neville

Terry Head hit the ground running when he took up his new position as director of music on September 5th, and he hasn't looked back. With superhuman effort, he has more than met the

Dec. 16th, the Laudamus Bells, directed by Terry. As well, on Dec. 11th, Rashaan Allwood is giving an organ recital titled *A Varied Merry Christmas* with selections based on popular Christmas hymn tunes.

We have exciting concerts coming up in 2017: January 29th, Sonja Gustafson will be joined by Francesca Ranalli, Chad Louwerse and Jordan Baldwin to present *Winter Interlude: An Evening of Art Song*; February 26th, Dr. Darryl Edwards joins us with performers from the COSA Connection, together with FSA soloists, in a concert titled *Shakespeare Sings*; the final concert of



demands of the busy months since then and into the Advent season. The music programmes have been humming along under his leadership. The senior choir has sung at all services and, on Music Sunday, October 30th, all groups performed. This included the Junior Joyfuls, the Joyful Singers, Senior Choir and Laudamus Bells. The Friday Advent Noon Recitals, followed by a light lunch, are: Dec. 2nd, Early Music Studio Singers directed by Dr. Kate Helsen; Dec. 9th, organ recital given by Terry Head, and



the year on April 29th, *From Sea to Sea to Sea*, will be a celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary. Watch for posters and other notices advertising all these events. ✚

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MISSION, OUTREACH AND ENVIRONMENT

Marilyn Beach

Canadian Foodgrains Bank—Grow-a-Row

Thanks to the fine folks at First-St. Andrew's, we have sent our cheque to St. Marys United Church to be combined and



sent to the CFGB. MOE is very pleased with the generosity to help our friends in the Developing World both for Hands Up (a CFGB-assisted programme to enable them to grow their own food) and to help those who have been devastated by weather conditions.

Our total is \$5653.30 which, of course, is matched 4–1 by CIDA. If you have missed your contribution, there is provision made for late cheques.

Thanks on behalf of those who help!

Christmas Share—Little White Christmas Tree—for ELUCO



Ken (behind the tree) & Jean Knowles

As we don't have the total amount before publication of *Tidings*, can only report as of November 13th. As of that date, we have a total of \$1405.00 in shopping cards for the folks at ELUCO.

The total will also help FSA as we get a percentage of the cards sold.

Thanks for thinking of others.



Amnesty International Write for Rights at First-St. Andrew's

Every year Amnesty supporters send letters on behalf of people they've never met. Our messages help convince government officials to release people imprisoned for expressing their opinion, stop the use of torture, and end other human rights abuses. Letter writing has always been at the heart of Amnesty International's work, and 54 years of activism shows us that words have power. Last year we sent over 3.7 million messages from 200 countries—and changed lives! First-St. Andrew's United Church has been a part of this for over 10 years. Join us this year on March 5th, 2017, after church for some delicious homemade soup while you write letters in support of human rights here in Canada and around the world. You can make a difference. ✚



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John Eberhard

David Manness



We have learned at FSA that a legacy programme can be a blessing to our current congregation and to future needs. The Board of

Trustees is embarking upon a Legacy Gifting Programme, under the leadership of Beth Bailey, a member of the Board of Trustees. What better way to demonstrate our generosity at this time of year?

We are fortunate to have the Proudfoot Legacy Fund. Generations to come will be able to take advantage of its generosity. And for that reason, we need to continue to build it.

that continues beyond your lifetime lays the foundation for a stable and exciting future that will continue to bring Christ's vital and vibrant message of community, compassion and hope to others.

Types of Lasting Gifts. There are several types of gifts, and each has different benefits to you and the church as well as different tax and financial implications. We are able to help make the best choice for your current circumstances and needs around choosing how to make your gift. We also encourage you to seek independent financial advice and to discuss this information with the members of your family. You can make a **gift in your will** to any area of the church, or divide your gift among several programmes and ministries. **Gift of Life insurance:** A substantial future gift can be created to support the ministry of music or Mission Services or capital projects. This type of gift can be made for a relatively small outlay of cash and does not reduce the size of your estate.

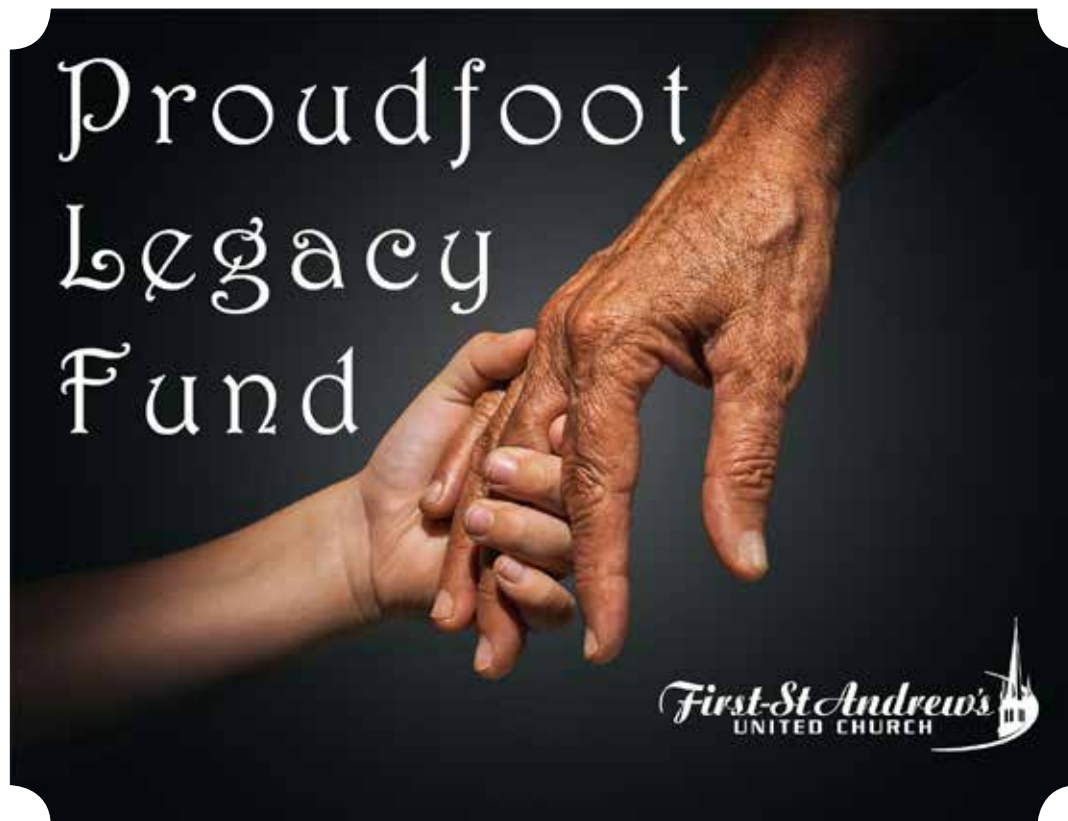
RRSPs, RRIFs, and TFSA:

A substantial future gift is created to support your choice of programmes or the Proudfoot Unrestricted Trust Fund. Your estate receives a charitable donation receipt that will offset taxes, which will in turn replenish the value of your estate. Designating a ministry as the beneficiary of a policy helps avoid probate fees on these gifts. **Stocks, mutual funds, and bonds:** You can make a gift without depleting your bank account. You receive a charitable donation receipt for the value of the stocks, mutual funds, and bonds. You pay no tax on the capital gain of these donations.

Legacy gifts can:

- Fund variations of ongoing ministries;
- build our congregational endowments and reserves;
- facilitate new ministry programmes and opportunities;
- help sustain our congregation through times of transition.

Our Proudfoot legacy fund is a resource about God, about our faith, and about our intrinsic need to give. We will continue to keep you informed about our legacy programme and how we show our support for God's mission through FSA. Talk to a member of the Board of Trustees to discuss the way in which you want to give your gift that will keep on giving for years to come!



With the help and encouragement of the United Church of Canada's Legacy Giving Programme guidance, we will continue to prove that church members are among the most generous of Canadians. One survey indicated that 32% of United Church people consider including the church in their estate plans.

As Christians, what we leave behind is much more than a track record of daily events. A meaningful legacy enables the gospel's message to ring clearly, and ensures those who follow us will discover what it means to be church in the 21st century. A gift in your will or other type of legacy gift can provide the church with the opportunity to explore and develop ways of undertaking ministry differently. Support



UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Nancy Quinn

Retrospective

Our open meeting, on September 21st, was a time of great learning. We viewed and discussed the NFB film about residential schools and healing, *Niigaanibatowaad: FrontRunners*. Extra copies of "Truth and Reconciliation Resources" are on the UCW bulletin board.

Annabelle Logan graciously hosted our annual potluck on October 12th. We enjoyed friendship and delicious food.

Laurel Kenney attended a Truth and Reconciliation workshop, October 29th, at the Oneida United Church.

Kindling the Christmas Spirit, The Boutique Bazaar, on November 12th, was a tremendous visual, culinary, and community success, raising \$15,000.00. Kudos to Glenda Robinson, our 130 volunteers, and 20 conveners!

On November 24th, 106 Bread not Stones dolls were presented, one for each member of the Ontario Legislature, by a joint women's delegation from the United Church of Canada's Mission Project and the UCW. Our president, Laurel Kenney, was part of the UCW delegation. She spoke recently about this project at London churches, the I.O.D.E., and the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority. See <http://www.endchildpoverty.ca/bread-not-stones.html>

Representatives of our UCW enjoyed fellowship over a



Laurel Kenney

lovely dinner, November 28th, held by the Metropolitan UCW.

Upcoming

Wednesday, December 14th, at 12 noon: We invite all women of FSA and the Metropolitan UCW to a potluck lunch in Proudfoot Hall. Please, bring your favourite main course, salad or dessert. The ukulele group SOUP will be performing.

Wednesday, December 7th, 9:30am: Dundas Street Centre's UCW invites the women of FSA to hear Gillian Johnson of "Days for Girls," which helps women in Africa. Donations of 100% flannel, medium to dark, with pattern, would be appreciated for making personal hygiene products.

Sunday, January 22nd, 10:30am: Our service will celebrate the 55th anniversary of the UCW in Canada. Speaker details TBA.

Wednesday, February 15th, 1:30pm in the Parlour: Susan McKane will introduce members of "World Tailors," which helps immigrant women in London become self-sufficient. They sew aprons and shopping bags, along with learning English and business skills.

Wednesday, February 22nd, 9:00am-3:00pm: The UCW Middlesex Presbyterial Annual Meeting will be held at Lambeth United. Sandra Stock, president of the London Conference UCW, will speak.

Wednesday, March 15th, at 1:30pm in the Parlour: Rev. Pam Cullen will speak on her role with the London Community Chaplaincy. †

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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA—MISSION & SERVICE FUND: THEN

Pat McGregor

This is the third in a series where we look back at some of the families who went out from FSA to serve as missionaries overseas. We will be quoting from selected entries from the Rev. Moir A.J. Waters' booklet titled *Did You Know That ...? Being Brief Sketches of the History of First St. Andrew's United Church*. In this issue the Rev. Waters reflects back on his years as our Representative in the Field:

"Our experiences as your 'Representative in the Field' in India for six years were varied. First there was language study. I remember one day reading laboriously from a Hindi Primer at language school the inspiring sentence, 'The cow is eating from a basket on the ground.' At that moment I couldn't have cared less about that cow! ... However, in a year-and-a-half I had completed my two years' language study and was preaching in Hindi. For two years I taught in the Theological College at Indore. All my lecturing was in Hindi.



"During four months of the cold season, we were living in tents and touring in the villages in our district, celebrating Communion, conducting baptisms, holding evening services and Christian hymn sings, teaching the illiterate to read, caring for the sick, and encouraging the small groups of Christians in the isolated centres. During the summer holidays I was preacher at Kellogg Memorial Church in Landour, 7,000 feet above sea level in the Himalaya Mountains. It was a cosmopolitan congregation; many were missionaries who had had to leave their own work in other countries because of the war and were studying Hindi to help in India for the duration. I travelled widely and it was a great privilege to be preaching in English again as well as in Hindi.

"In 1945 we returned to Canada. ... We had found the work in India a satisfying and enriching experience ... and it was a privilege to serve as missionary representatives of First-St. Andrew's." †



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA—MISSION & SERVICE FUND: NOW

Diane Knoppert

We are highlighting the ways in which Mission & Service funds are used today. In 2016, 8.9% (2.4 million) of the funds are budgeted for the area of "Theological Education and Ministry Support."

There are seven theological schools across Canada and, (up until mid- November), two education centres that receive funding from the Mission and Service Fund. They provide training and continuing education for lay leaders and ordained and diaconal clergy. Emmanuel College in Toronto is one of these schools. Another example is the Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre in Beausejour, Manitoba. This centre prepares Aboriginal people for lay and ordered ministry.

The Five Oaks Education and Retreat Centre in Paris has ceased operating as an education centre, although there are still opportunities to rent space. Further decisions about the future of Five Oaks will be made in June 2017. Five Oaks played an important role in the spiritual development of many United Church members. Barbara Cunningham and Kerry Stover both did their Licensed Lay Worship Leaders course work through the Five Oaks Centre.

Through the theological schools, Mission & Service grants are given to students. The grant amount is based on student needs and the number of students at the theological school. In 2015, a Mission & Service grant helped with expenses so that a group of students from Emmanuel College could participate in the General Council meeting in Corner Brook, Newfoundland.

There are also continuing education grants available at the theological schools for ministry personnel taking courses, such as the Ministry Supervision course; David McKane has taught some of these courses, including one on Celtic Spirituality.

The Mission and Service Fund plays an important role in the education and development of our ministers. †

[Thanks to: Ruth Noble, Mission & Service Engagement Coordinator for the United Church of Canada for helping with this article.]



**Helen Keenlside
Corn Roast Speaker**



**Salvation Army Band
October 23rd**



**Michelle welcomes
Terry Head and
Ken Whatman
to FSA**



**Barry Tiffin
Anne Cummings**



**Stewardship Fair
September 25th**

A Moment with Michelle (Cont'd. from page 3)

and Candlelight at 10:00. On Christmas Morning we will have worship at 10:30 followed by a Christmas dinner at noon. Joyce and I are hosting, and we would love to have you come and join us at the table. If you do not have any family to celebrate with on Christmas Day, we would be delighted to be your family that day. Please just sign up on the poster in Proudfoot Hall.

I am blessed beyond measure to work with such an amazing team at FSA, and together we want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and a New Year that is filled with the love of Jesus Christ.

Upcoming Special Dates

First-St. Andrew's is continuing to find ways to build faithful relationships with our neighbouring United churches and community partners. In 2017 we will be blessed to share our worship services with some of our neighbours in a variety of contexts. Mark your calendars for these dates, so that you will be sure to join us:

- On February 12th, 2017, Metropolitan United Church is hosting the renowned theologian Rev. Dr. Ana Carter Florence. She is currently the professor of preaching at Columbia Theological Seminary, after completing her own studies at Yale and Princeton.
- On April 23rd, 2017, Metropolitan United Church is hosting Bill Easum, the founder, president, and senior consultant for The Effective Church Group. Easum brings his vision and expertise about church growth, development, and leadership.
- On June 4th, 2017, FSA will be celebrating Pentecost with Communion at Camp Kee-Mo-Kee! Come and celebrate the blessings of Creation with the whole church family.

First-St. Andrew's will not be having worship or Sunday School on these dates, so please be sure to join us at Met., and at Camp Kee-Mo-Kee on these dates! ☩



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KEEP THE DATE

From Christian Development

Mining the Mystery Season II — Jan. 22nd Feb. 12nd, March 26th, April 23rd
Spaghetti Dinner — Jan. 22nd

from Music

Advent Noon Recitals — Dec. 2nd, Dec. 9th, Dec. 16th
A Varied Merry Christmas — Dec. 11th
Winter Interlude — Jan. 28th
Shakespeare Sings — Feb. 26th

From Worship

Dec. 11th — Children's Christmas Pageant
Dec. 24th — Family Service at 6:30pm
Communion Service at 10pm

MILESTONES

Deaths

Wendell Alton
Nellie Ferne Bason
Lillian Robertson
Jean Comfort
Velma Irene (Williams) Stover (mother of Kerry Stover)

Baptisms

Carter Monk — Oct. 9th
Scarlot Monk — Oct. 9th

Marriages

Bradley Van Massenhoven & Lindsay Hyde — Sept. 10th
Robert Bedard & Nina Filici — Oct. 1st
Michael McDonald & Alexandra Hodgson — Oct. 8th



The Junior Joyfuls on Music Sunday



The Youth Group & World Wide Communion



Bev & Bob Lindsay Celebrate their 50th Anniversary



The Passing Parade



Town Hall Meeting

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Minister, Pastoral Care
The Rev. Tom Hiscock (Ext. 3)

Minister Emeritus
The Rev. Dr. David McKane

Designated Visitor
Jo Ann Silcox

Director of Music
Terry Head (Ext. 5)

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Jane Dockrill (Ext. 4)

Administrative Assistant/Receptionist
Jane Dockrill (Ext. 0)

Facility & Maintenance Coordinator
Tim Miedema (Ext. 7)

Atrium Steward
Barry Tiffin

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

First-St. Andrew's United Church is an inclusive Christian family encouraging spiritual growth through worship, friendship, learning and action.