

First-St Andrew's
UNITED CHURCH
Where liberal theology meets the best of tradition



Tidings

Vol. 32, No. 3, 2022
PENTECOST/FALL

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Tidings

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Printed by: Sterling Marking Products

Four issues are published yearly: the first Sunday in December, March, and June; and the second Sunday in September. Submissions are due three weeks before the publication dates. Unsolicited submissions are accepted only from members, adherents, and staff of First-St. Andrew's (FSA) and from affiliated organizations. The editor reserves the right to edit, limit the length of, or reject submissions. The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors, and are not necessarily those of Council or the staff of First-St. Andrew's United Church. The print version of *Tidings* is made possible by the paid advertisements found in each issue in tandem with an annual allotment from the FSA operating budget.

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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

David Wardlaw



The Archives Committee has been gently teaching us about aspects of the history of FSA through weekly contributions to the eblast and the history quiz recently introduced in *Tidings*. The Committee's efforts have been nicely supplemented by several historical articles authored by members or former members of FSA and published in *Tidings*. Several issues ago (Vol.32, No. 1), there was an article by Heather Waters Bedford on her parents' service as United Church missionaries in India during WWII. In this issue, Pat Carter tells us some of the history of an iconic Canadian national movement, the Canadian Girls in Training (CGIT) program, in which numerous youth and adult volunteers from FSA were involved for a number of decades. The *Tidings* team appreciates all those who so ably contribute to engaging the FSA community in learning about our rich history.

The feature article on pastoral care at FSA by Heather Locking-Cusolito (Chair of Membership & Nurture) provides a definition of pastoral care, and also provides background on, and establishes the current context for, pastoral care at FSA. As FSA is on the verge of receiving a report (from the Pastoral Care Task Group) that will inform a discussion, and ultimately a decision, on future provision of pastoral care at FSA, this is highly recommended reading.

In the most recent issue of *Tidings*, our new shared Minister of Youth and Young Adults, Marilyn Arthur, was profiled. In this issue Marilyn makes her debut as a contributor with a report and an article. Her report on the youth and young adult ministry will be a regular feature. Thanks to Marilyn, the Next Generation column has returned in this issue after a brief hiatus. It is anticipated that Next Generation will appear periodically in future issues with various contributing authors, including Marilyn.

The Trustees report is the second of a two-part tutorial on how FSA's trust funds are organized, managed, and used to support the annual operating budget and the capital costs of maintaining the church building and grounds. The first part appeared in the last issue (Vol.32, No. 2). The description provided is clear and concise. I encourage you to read both reports.

The Travelogue by Nancy Quinn provides a light-hearted assessment of the post-COVID situation at Pearson airport and demonstrates the power of positive thinking in dealing with what is routinely reported as a highly unpleasant experience. Ellita Gagner's Behind the Scene article describes the production of the summer concert series on our new outdoor stage. †



Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

Three simple words. And at least on the face of it, a simple question. But as I now see things, this interrogative phrase is anything but simple. And the potential answers are endless.

Perhaps, one is being asked about physical location. Where are you “on a map”? Maybe someone is curious about your daily life. Where do you work? What occupies your time? Or it could be that someone wants to know where your heart and mind are. What is your mental state, your spiritual disposition?

All these would be valid interpretations of the seemingly simple question. And so, for my reflection at the beginning of my second year in Canada, I will attempt a response to the question, keeping in mind these important nuances.

I am in London, Ontario. A year now. And by grace, for many years to come. Presumably, many that are reading my brief responses are in or around London, Ontario. Perhaps others are elsewhere, too far to gather on Sunday mornings, but thanks to some technological innovation, close enough to stay in touch.

My time is occupied with ministry, not just the type that occurs before a gathering on Sunday morning, but the sort that is expressed in myriad ways throughout the week. From visiting to visioning, meeting to marketing, I am engaged in the many lives of a minister. And for these opportunities, I am ever grateful. As is my family, who supports me in ministry and provides their own pastoral care to me on a daily basis.

Finally, and perhaps for this reflection, the most interesting to our community, I am in a spiritually generative space, replete with frequent brainstorm and experimentation. If anything, my growing edge is how to establish safe boundaries so that all the labour required for new initiatives does not pull me in too many directions. What persons in the non-profit sector would describe as “mission drift” is a constant threat to the vitality of a community. This is not a harsh judgment but a reminder that sensitive persons of faith tend to identify and want to fulfill the needs of our world, and how great those needs are!

It is downright overwhelming to consider the scale and then imagine how we might intervene so as to ameliorate the suffering of others in a meaningful way. Perhaps the question, then, would be two parts in relation to our spiritual “status”: Where are you, and where are you going? Where are you, and where are you listening, feeling, leaning?

I have tried to respond to the not-so-simple question, and I would now invite you, my sister or brother, to do the same. Where are you? Is where you are where you want to be? If not, then where do you hope to be? And moreover, how do you hope to be when you are there? †





Heather Locking-Cusolito

Pastoral Care! What is it? How do we provide it? Recently the Pastoral Care Task Group, appointed by Council, and comprised of Heather Locking-Cusolito (Chair), Barbara Ridgewell (Finance), Jo Ann Silcox (Membership & Nurture), Kerry Hill (Ministry & Personnel), and Jackie Williams (Trustees), has been wrestling with the answers to these questions. Coming up with a definition or description of pastoral care was relatively easy. Adapted from a statement by the Association of Christian Counsellors (2021), we arrived at the following description of pastoral care:

“Christian pastoral care aims to provide emotional, social, and spiritual support by a team of clergy and lay members of a congregation, which is tailored to the needs of individuals who desire support. Pastoral care may take the form of listening, visiting, befriending, sustaining, and offering to pray with or read scripture together, through prolonged difficulty and may include the provision of practical help in cases of immediate need.”

Clarifying how we have been, or how we should be, providing pastoral care was more challenging. We began by interviewing the people and teams who currently or recently provide pastoral care and a picture began to emerge.

A number of volunteer teams offer pastoral care to the congregation. These teams include the following:

- The Lay Visitation Team whose

members visit home bound individuals roughly four times a year to drop off copies of Tidings, ask them if they need anything from FSA, take a small gift at Christmas and, in the event of a crisis, ask permission to share their concerns with the minister. These visits are purely social in nature. Spiritual guidance or support is not part of its mandate. Recruiting to this team has been challenging as our volunteer group “ages out.”

- The Caring Callers Team consists of willing volunteers who telephone people experiencing isolation or loneliness roughly four times a year. There is some overlap between the people being contacted by the Caring Callers and the Lay Visitation Team.
- Further pastoral care and support is offered by the Prayer Chain a cascade of eight volunteers who pray confidentially for people referred to them and by a ministry of letter writing to offer support and consolation.
- The Designated Lay Visitor, Jo Ann Silcox, provides a ministry of pastoral care through her daily email letter, regular phone calls or emails to homebound people and her monthly Care for the Caregiver group.

Our ministers past and present, however, play a pivotal role in the provision of pastoral care especially to those experiencing illness, loss of loved ones, end of life planning, and planning to maintain as much independence as possible. These spiritual and existential challenges are beyond the scope of what volunteers can reasonably be expected to provide. The Task Group estimates that over 140 members of

our congregation are over the age of 70 when these sorts of life challenges become more common. They are not, by any means though, the only people in our midst requiring pastoral care. From January 2018 to July 2021 the Rev. Dr. David McKane served as part-time Minister of Visitation providing a minimum of 12 hours/week to this ministry. Since David ‘retired’ from this role in the summer of 2021, FSA has not had a Minister dedicated to the role of visitation or pastoral care. The Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence took up the position of full-time Minister of Worship and Congregational Life in September 2021. Since then Joshua has been expected to provide all the ministerial pastoral care along with his many other responsibilities, a situation which imposes constraints on the amount of time available for ministerial pastoral care. Based on the demographics of our aging population, feedback from members of the volunteer teams, written comments from the recent congregational survey, and the competing demands on the time available to our Minister of Worship and Congregational Life, the current model for providing ministerial pastoral care appears likely to become increasingly inadequate to meet the emerging and future needs of the FSA community of faith.

We now need to consider carefully the differing ways we can sustainably provide excellent pastoral care to the members of our congregation. These are people in need, people who have themselves given tirelessly to the life and work and witness of this faithful community. These will be challenging decisions to make but will have an important impact on who we are as a congregation going forward. †



Ellita Gagner*

IN DIVERSITY THERE IS HARMONY A SUMMER TO REMEMBER

Earlier this year, Merran Neville connected me with Barrie Evans to talk about an exciting new project: a concert series on the stage that was built thanks to grants and fundraising initiated by Barrie. Through the winter, we collaborated to write the *My Mainstreet Community Activator Program* grant and in March, we received the news that the In "Diversity There is Harmony" (named after the sculpture near the entrance of the church) concert series would be funded. This ambitious project was to provide free entertainment to the local community every Saturday through the summer while showcasing the diverse people, artists, and cultures that we are lucky to have here in London. Now, as we reach the end of August, I'd like to reflect on the fantastic engagement this series brought to the community.

June 11 was our first concert and happened to also be the first day that the entire team was together. Paul Baek (head of sound and lead stagehand), Emma Battel (social media manager), Amy Zhang (videographer) and I, with gracious help from Barrie, had our first full set up. As with all things one does for the first time, it took at least twice the time and effort I expected. Despite getting used to the equipment, the whole team thrived, and we set off with the inaugural performance featuring Tragedy Ann, an alternative folk duo.

Throughout the summer, the series showcased eleven established groups and individuals, and six young artists from a wide range of cultures, genres, ethnicities, and those from the LGBTQIA+ community in professionally paid performance opportunities. As the weeks went on, the audience grew, attracting people from the nearby neighbourhood as well as many congregation members. Through our events, I believe that FSA greatly contributed to placemaking and the vibrancy of the community. Not only this, but with the

help of the My Mainstreet Grant, we were able to support many musicians who were only recently regaining their ability to perform live following COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions.

Some of the highlights of the series included performances from Naahii Singers, Eleanor Gebrou, Katerina Juraskova and Lynda Kennedy, Camila Montefusco and Yolanda Tapia, Brian Cho and Isaac Lee, Trumpet Extravaganza, Zahra Habib, Zina Ayoub, and Simona Genga. Our final concert was August 20 and featured Lebanese folk music from Christina Nasr and jazz-pop from Justin Maki. We were also able to commission a mural from local emerging visual artist, Isabella Springett, which was positioned behind the performers along with two panels depicting the Ukrainian flag.

I leave the series with a great deal of pride for what the team, FSA, Barrie and I have accomplished as well as a deep gratitude for the best summer job I could have imagined. Of course, I couldn't write this without acknowledging the help of Kathryn Skelly, who provided administrative support to us by processing invoices and setting up room bookings. As I close the summer as project manager and move to Toronto to start my graduate studies, I can only hope that I find a congregation as vibrant, welcoming, and engaged as the family at FSA. †

**Ellita Gagner was an Eberhard Vocal Scholar at FSA from September 2021 to May 2022. She graduated with a B.Mus. from Western's Faculty of Music in June 2021. Ellita will be continuing her studies in a Master of Music, Performance program, at the University of Toronto in September 2022. She is co-founder and administrative coordinator of the opera-focused, not-for-profit, Can of Soup Collective.*





Nancy Quinn

PEARSON AIRPORT POST COVID AN OPTIMIST'S ACCOUNT

Pearson is not “hell on earth” as portrayed in the media. However, it is a challenging place. In early July when I was on my way to the national United Church Women’s (UCW) conference in Nova Scotia accompanied by my husband Jeff, I watched from 4 pm to midnight as the day’s flight schedule unfolded on huge video display screens. By midnight these screens had gone almost entirely to orange (delayed), with the dreaded scabs of red (cancelled) — however, those sacrificial cancelled flights allowed the whole beleaguered system to safely keep going. I was impressed by the overall quality of calm efficiency and acceptance of “it is what it is.”

“And what is IT??” A few (not all) of the current systemic challenges at Pearson include COVID mandates, early COVID layoffs of large numbers of airport and airline staff, ongoing lay-offs of unvaccinated pilots and staff, current COVID cases prompting staff quarantines, new staff hires getting up to speed, and huge, resurgent summer travel demands. It is not a place to go unless one has stores of patience, cushions of time and money, and the desire for deglamorized adventure. For example, the three Air Canada Customer service reps had a line up half a block long as they worked to get people back on course.

Jeff and I got into Sydney, Nova Scotia at 2 am, the next day. We had

arrived at Pearson five hours before our flight the day before. Then there was a two hour delay, since our flight crew had arrived on a delayed flight from Montreal. Throughout, the Air Canada staff were great. At the conclusion of our flight, local UCW members were on hand at the Halifax airport to meet the roughly twenty of us, including two wee, adorable babies. BRAVA and BRAVO!

A few notes on the whole Pearson process. Having not flown in quite a few years, we felt like we were in a futuristic WestWorld episode. The check-in process is all automated now: kiosks; cell phones; and scannable QR codes. Air Canada check-in staff were circulating to assist. Putting our one bag through the automated bag check was going to take five minutes — then became a forty-minute exercise as ALL the baggage conveyor belts, servicing the twenty line ups, broke down. Once up and running again, the process was impressive!! Then the very thorough security staff want you to divest yourself, in separate bins, of electronics, watches, keys and other metals such as belts with metal buckles, purse / man bag, carry-on suitcase . . . Jeff had five or six bins going. And as you divest, other bins from other people get into a combined stream of bins! The body scanner is a Star Trek-like decontamination plastic and metal pod that envelops you. WOW — we’ve made it to the secure departure area.

Now for the fun part – really! We

amble down a level to our departure gate roughly four blocks away. A spacious but spartan, vinyl and chrome equivalent of a 1930s bus terminal waiting room awaits us. Two student teachers, natives of Sydney, give us a conversational guided tour of all things cool and spectacular awaiting us on Cape Breton Island. After our chat, one of us guards the bags as we take turns doing the very long and impressive loop of shopping and food options. This is the time to sniff that coveted Chanel perfume, stare astounded at a four dollar truffle, buy that outrageous Canada Moose luggage tag, browse an impressive selection of literary best sellers, and hunker down with a burger at A&W, washed down by a Tim Horton’s French Vanilla Cappuccino! WOW are we affluent?! And really all we NEED is to get from point A to point B.

If one hundred years ago, a person was told . . . show up and a big metal bird will safely take you high in the sky within at most two days, to wherever you wish to go . . . Would most of us show up, knowing the time schedule was a bit nebulous? I think probably we would, with enthusiasm, seeing it as an exciting opportunity. I’m okay with lowering the scheduling expectations for a while as the world in general, and the world of aviation in particular, gets back to some version of the way things were. †



Pat Carter

A Brief History of Canadian Girls in Training: at FSA and in London



The Rev. Dr. Moir Waters wrote a short piece describing the beginnings of Canadian Girls in Training (CGIT) which was included as a “nugget” from the Archives Committee in the e-blast issued on May 14, 2022. It is my intention that this article will flesh out this information and continue to tell the story of CGIT with some particular references to events and people known to this congregation.

The CGIT movement continued to grow in numbers and activities throughout the decades of the '30s, '40s, '50s and beyond. In 1948 the London CGIT Workboard was formed and eight women represented FSA. In the 1950s the wife of Rev. John Y. McKinnon (FSA) became the president of the London CGIT Workboard.

In 1953 ten girls representing groups from across the country were chosen to attend the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. They travelled by ship to Scotland and overland to London for the ceremony. Their trip lasted almost a month.

Camping was a popular activity and several residential camps were developed. Girls from the London area attended summer camps at Camp Kitchigami (near Goderich) and Camp Cagintra in Port Ryerse (on the Lake Erie shore). The girls and their leaders took part in fund raising activities and work bees to support these camps. Even after these major camps closed, the interest in camp activities and jamborees continued. Girls from FSA attended the 60th anniversary Jamboree

at Wildwood in 1980, and many camping weekends at Pierce Williams Camp and Camp Kee-Mo-Kee.

CGIT groups met weekly and the meetings were structured, opening with the CGIT purpose and hymn, a business meeting, and then continued with some type of study, crafts or games and always lots of singing. There was a rhythm to the CGIT year which included Bible Study, Mission Study,

and conferences.

In 1977 a Reunion Tea was held in London and people were invited to indicate the years they were involved in CGIT. Some familiar names include; Jean Comfort 1953-55, Lesley Pergau 1961-66, and Sharon, Karen & Ellen Lyon 1965-1975. In the years from 1977-97 some of the FSA CGIT leaders were Joan Bancroft, Pat Pettit, Tish Patterson, Linda Smith, Kate McLarty, Judith Walker, Pat Carter, Lillian Reid, Margaret Gazzard, Eleanor Kent, Laura Deyell, Erin Pettit, Heather Vouvalidis, Helen Mahabir and Heather Carter. At one time, FSA CGIT membership exceeded 50 girls!

One special activity that I believe was unique to FSA was that of ‘Prayer Mothers.’ A Prayer Mother was a woman who served as a mentor to one CGIT girl throughout her time of participation in the group. Girls were encouraged to reach out to their prayer mothers sharing joys and

concerns. The Prayer Mother acted ‘in secret’ and left small gifts, letters, etc. in a predetermined place. Her identity was revealed when she was introduced to her ‘daughter’ at graduation.

CGIT concluded at FSA in 1997. A photograph of the last group graduating from CGIT at FSA for that year was taken in the Chapel.

There are three large scrapbooks containing photos, newspaper clippings, and many original documents – brochures, song sheets, orders of service, etc. in the Archives Room for anyone interested in accessing more detailed information. †



Last graduates of CGIT at FSA, 1996-1997

and the World Day of Prayer service, a Mother and Daughter night/banquet and Christmas Vesper Service. The groups had elected officers and recognized milestones of: initiation of new members; installation of officers; becoming a senior; and graduation. All of these activities taught skills and prepared members for “life” and future leadership roles. There were many opportunities for developing skills, and learning to care for the self and for others. Leaders were encouraged to share with other leaders in the community; and girls had the opportunity to meet with their counterparts in groups across the city and the region (or province) at rallies



Paul Merritt

Ross Dodington

MARCH 1942–APRIL 2022



Ross Dodington. Just seeing Ross' name floods my memory with his glorious singing, his warm friendship, his collegial choir leadership, his countless organ tuning and maintenance visits, and his love for First-St. Andrew's.

Ross loomed large from the beginning of my tenure as FSA's Music Director. It was with great trepidation that I undertook my work as the reputation of the music program, and especially the skill of FSA's talented choir, were well-known.

I survived my first rehearsal but wondered how I had been received. A few days later Enid said our bass soloist, Ross Dodington, had called and wanted me to know how glad he was that I had come and looked forward to our future music making together. I can't tell you what that call meant to me. I never forgot Ross's kindness and thought "it's going to be all right after all." In the years to come we became good friends and colleagues.

Ross was the consummate church soloist: great voice; always prepared and reliable; no ego; and loved by all. Ross' singing, which wrapped the bass section round with glorious tone, was remarkable but so were his many other attributes such as his friendliness and humour.

One of his favourite organist jokes was about the recitalist, who, having finished his performance, was approached by an audience member who said "I don't care what the others say, I thought you played really well!"

What incredible commitment Ross and Linda showed by driving in twice a week from Aylmer in all weather year after year. I often thought they might tire of this but hoped they wouldn't and they never did. Every year Ross and Linda went south in January. Oh, how we longed for their return! I well remember hearing Ross's laugh from the atrium in late January and the word would go around the gallery, "The Dodingtons are back; all is well!"

Now Ross has taken a longer journey to join the heavenly chorus. I would love to watch St. Cecilia's face as she leads her first rehearsal with Ross in the bass section. No doubt she will look round with wide eyes as she hears this new arrival for the first time. And she'll wonder how that annoying cipher (a key that is stuck in the 'on' position) on the celestial Casavant got fixed and be amazed at how in tune it suddenly is.

I would tell her "You've got Ross there now, everything will be all right!" †



Katherine Wonfor

Margaret E. Wonfor

OCTOBER 1925–APRIL 2022



Margaret's success in life was the incredible number of people she touched in deep and meaningful and inspiring ways. Her constant purpose was her service to others, including to the church, to her friends, and to her family, and the connections she built and fostered and maintained through that service.

Margaret E. Wonfor (née Brown) was born in 1925 on the family farm in Tiverton, Ontario. Mom often reminded her family that she and the United Church were born in the same year.

Margaret attended Normal School in Stratford and taught in Southampton and Toronto for eight years. She then attended the United Church Training School to follow her calling to ministry. She was designated a deaconess and com-

missioned a missionary in 1954, serving in Lethbridge and Pincher Creek, Alberta. She rode the circuit of small isolated congregations, establishing a new larger parish.

Margaret met the Rev. Herbert W. Wonfor, who was serving a congregation in northern Alberta, at a meeting of Alberta Conference. After a long-distance relationship, they married in 1957. At that time members of the Deaconess Order were disjoined from the Order at marriage and lost their status. This was symbolized by the passing back of the deaconess pin that had been presented at the time of their designation. In an act of protest, Margaret did not return her pin. In 2006 the United Church of Canada officially apologized to the women affected by disjoining.

Margaret was a constant servant and leader to the church,

and not just as the minister's wife, but through her own ministry. She took the effort to remember names, which shows how she cared for people, respected them, was interested in them, and connected with them. Letter writing was a strong thread throughout her life and a way she maintained her connections to people.

After marrying Herb, family became a new focus for Margaret's service. Mom held our family chaos – with five kids in a spread of six years – together. She was always there for whatever her children were involved with. Even when all of us were living independently we could rely on the weekly

letter to keep us connected, typed on a manual typewriter with four carbon copies.

In 1990 Margaret and Herb retired to London and became active members of First-St. Andrew's. Countless hours were spent watching Toronto Blue Jays games while knitting catnip mice for the annual bazaar.

Margaret's constancy of purpose in her life of service, and in connecting and supporting and strengthening other people, was a model we are grateful for. †

TRIBUTE



Donna Fraleigh

Gerry Meacham

Whenever I hang up from a telephone visit with my friend Gerry Meacham, I have a smile on my face and feel so privileged to

have had Gerry as my friend for several years. I am certain many of you reading this article feel the same.

Geraldine was born on August 22, 1926 in Tillsonburg, Ontario. Her father was a dairy farmer and her mother a school teacher. She grew up on the farm in Springford, which is on the 7th Concession, South Norwich Township, amidst cows, pigs, and horses. How lucky is that? Six years later her sister Lucille was born and that was followed by Rosemond five years after that. Since they were not that close in age, Gerry states that they didn't play together a lot but they have been very close and remained very good friends.

Gerry met her husband Augie (August) in 1945. Their meeting has an interesting story. At the end of the war, parties were being held in various places to welcome home the troops. Augie, who was in the Army, attended one of these parties as did Gerry. That was the beginning of a lifelong romance. Following the war Augie attended Victoria College in Toronto. He and Gerry married in 1949 and Gerry taught school with the Toronto Board of Education for four years.

Gerry's next life adventure led her to Wawa as Augie's ministerial work assignment led him to a Mission Field Frontier. Wawa is 160 km north of Sault Ste. Marie in the Algoma district of Ontario. It was there that daughter Mary was born. The three years there would have led to a very different lifestyle.

Following Wawa, the Meachams were off to Thamesford

for six years where son John was born. This was followed by Blenheim for eleven years. While living in Blenheim, Gerry returned to teaching. She taught developmentally challenged students at Cedar Springs Hospital School.

How did this family finally come to London? In 1973 Augie became the Personnel Officer for the United Church of Canada in London Conference. He remained in that role, which involved being a Minister to Ministers, for 15 years.

They bought their first house and Gerry was excited to furnish their own home. They became members of First-St. Andrew's United Church.

Gerry has the wonderful hobby of bird watching. She belonged to the McIlwright Society. In 1991 she joined Helen and Spencer Inch on a bird watching trip to Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands. Sometimes accompanied by Augie, she has seen and documented a total of 682 birds.

Gerry has been an active member within the church community including the United Church Women. She has held executive positions in the past and is a Charter member of the UCW. She has been involved with past rummage sales and bazaars. She has been involved in both the UCW and church bridge groups. At present she is a member of the Membership and Nurture Committee and sends notes to members of the congregation in times when support is needed as a form of pastoral care.

When I think of words to describe Geraldine, as she says her mother would insist she be called, I think of a person with a caring attitude, a winning smile, a pleasant giggle, a reflective listener, a sharp bridge player, and someone who is open to discussing any subject at any time. One only hopes everyone can have a friend like Gerry Meacham. †





Marilyn Arthur



Church-Based Youth Groups: Then and Now

I have vivid memories of wonderful discussions with my grandparents, the older generation of people who were part of my church community growing up, and my parents about the amazing youth group experiences they had when they were teenagers. They explained that “kids and teenagers filled the church buildings” — that this was a highlight of their week as one of the only places outside of the school where they were part of a community. They reminisce about the ‘good old days’ when young people were the lifeblood of the church and people gathered in abundance to share in faith discussions and recreational activities.

I grew up with an incredibly supportive youth group that met every Sunday evening in our small rural church basement where we had a themed program, played games, and ate a lot of chips. These were formative years for me and my peers. We did not want to miss a Sunday night youth group — as this was one of our highlights in our week where we were able to gather with peers who felt different from the peers/

friends that we gathered with at school. My friends, near and far, who were part of a youth group would agree that youth group is where we could be ourselves. High school was often a place of judgment and many of us felt that we had to be a certain way to fit in. However, this was not the case in our youth groups. We also did not have all the opportunities that there are today to gather with a variety of different people in teams/groups.

So where does this leave our model for youth groups now?

The youth group model has changed. We must continue to discern and research what works best as our society changes. With the influx of activities and resources that we have, meeting together every week on the same night is something that many young people cannot do any longer. Where are our young people if not in the church building? Where can we meet them? Where is God meeting them? How can our young people put their faith into action and words in the many activities they embark upon in their lives? How do we encounter and meet our young people in such a busy society? Many of our young people no longer frequent the church buildings on Sunday mornings, as many are occupied with part-time jobs, extracurriculars, or catching up on their sleep. So we go to them—we meet them where they are. We also invite them into the church community (inside and outside our church walls) at different times and days of the week to help them develop their faith with their peers and within the wider faith community, through fun-filled activities, social justice outreach opportunities, and faith-filled discussions.

We foster something inclusive and God-given. A youth model that is a reflection of our spirit, mutual respect, kindness, advocacy, and, of course, our faith.

I look forward to being part of this ever-so-changing, incredible journey with our young people, to learn what opportunities we can offer them, to be part of a faith community of peers, and learn where we can be the best support as they continue to learn more about themselves as God has intended for them to be. †

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Deaths:

Fryke Oostenbrug - June 21, 2022
 Bill Knowles - July 27, 2022
 Mary Lynn Mansell - August 4, 2022
 Jane Dockrill - August 27, 2022

Births:

Manuela Fonseca (daughter of Sarai & Stacey Fonseca) - June 11, 2022

Weddings:

Kathryn Verwaayen & Heidi Carolan-Evans - July 16, 2022

Transfers Out:

Gwen Jones - May 11, 2022, to Port Stanley United Church

Transfers In:

Lynn Robinson - July 12, 2022, from Riverside United Church, London, ON.

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1. ELUCO (East London United Church Outreach) was established in 1993. At that time there were two community workers. Guess who?
 - a) Nancy Howard
 - b) Susan Eagle
 - c) Carol Langford
2. Children's productions have been a large part of FSA's accomplishments. Two of the following productions were written by famed author, Oscar Wilde. Can you name which two?
 - a) Noye's Fludde
 - b) The Happy Prince
 - c) Virgil the Magician
 - d) The Selfish Giant
3. In 1984 the former manse was renamed Farquhar House. Its purpose was changed from housing ministers and their families to housing charities. Which of the following charities has occupied Farquhar House?
 - a) London Folk Arts Council
 - b) United Way
 - c) Oxfam
 - d) Meals on Wheels

See answers on page 15

Letter to the Editor

July 2022

Dear David,

Helping others while indulging yourself in a timeless Ontario summer activity may appear to be a contradiction, but the Galbraith's and Christodoulou's were able to do just that through the live auction at the White Squirrel Golf Tournament (WSGT). Jim and Jan Hendry had generously offered a four-day, three-night summer interlude at their family cottage on Clear Lake in the Kawarthas as an auction item. Our bid was successful and shortly thereafter we were off to cottage country.

A pretty country drive after you leave the frantic Toronto traffic, perfect summer weather, loons with their haunting calls on the lake, kayaks for an energetic afternoon's delight, a chaperoned visit to a local farmers' market, a gorgeous rainbow one evening, appetizers on the deck, time to indulge yourself with a good book and glass of wine – we had it all.

We also had a chance to get to know one another better, to share stories and to give thanks for all that we have in our lives. It was a time to reflect on the important things and how we, as a church, make a difference in the lives of others. The WSGT raised over \$10,000 with this year's event. This could not have been done without the support and generosity of all who contributed through donations of time, effort, money, prayers, live and silent auction items, golfers, walkers and diners, and the coordinating committee's efforts. These

funds will be disbursed as part of our church's Mission and Outreach support to those in our community and beyond, helping provide "A Hand Up!"

Sincerely yours,

Margo Christodoulou, and
Elizabeth Galbraith





COUNCIL
David Wardlaw

The equipment required for livestreaming of our worship services was installed in May and training has been provided to a team that will operate the equipment during each service.

The plan is to continue videorecording the worship services in September and posting them for viewing one week later. *Simultaneously* the production team will undertake a ‘closed circuit’ livestreaming procedure during a trial period in September. The goal is to go ‘live’ with livestreaming in October while discontinuing the delayed release of a videorecording.

Our partnership with Ark Aid has continued to evolve. FSA is now responsible for providing a team of volunteers to assist with dinner service on the last Wednesday of each month at a community dinner program operated by Ark Aid in the downtown core. Contact Allyson Watson to volunteer.

A working group commissioned by Council is leading a review of the FSA Policies and Procedures. Based on feedback from Committee chairs and other interested parties, a revised policies and procedures draft document has been prepared. In the fall a proposed revision of this document will

be presented to Council, and ultimately to the congregation for consideration for approval.

In June a letter was sent to Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) providing input (requested by ECCC) on its proposed recovery strategy for the Chimney Swift in Canada. FSA received an invitation to comment because four of FSA’s chimneys are proposed critical habitat for the Chimney Swift. A detailed list of questions, concerns, and suggestions around the implications of a critical habitat designation as defined in the proposed Recovery Strategy formed the substantive basis of FSA’s response. The letter was sent on behalf of Council by the Chair of Council.

At its June meeting Council empowered the Ministry and Personnel (M&P) Committee, in collaboration with the Minister of Worship & Congregational Life, to set office hours for FSA and manage the staffing thereof. The current office hours were determined by M&P in consultation with church staff. If you have suggestions or comments about FSA’s office hours, contact the Chair of M&P, Kerry Hill. †



PLANNING
Steve Elson

In the last issue of *Tidings*, I reported that the Planning Committee had agreed to work with Allan Avis Architects (AAA) of Goderich to undertake a feasibility study of FSA with a focus on the redevelopment of St. Andrew’s Hall (the area to the east of the Atrium). In the same issue, the Trustees reported how the funds for which they are responsible are held and used. As you are aware, this has not been a good year from an investment perspective, and therefore the Trustees were not able to support the request of the Planning Committee for financial support (\$35-40,000) to complete the Avis study. This has sent us back to the “drawing board” in terms of next steps.

One avenue which was actively investigated was a capital grant opportunity through the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Unfortunately, while some of the available funds could be used to engage architects it would not have been enough to do what we had planned. In addition, the Foundation made it very clear that the funds would need to be used by the organization delivering a direct community service. We have always seen FSA as providing the facility for direct services (as we do for Meals on Wheels London) but do not see ourselves as providing a direct service. We therefore opted not

to compete for these funds.

In addition, earlier this year we looked at the possibility of using FSA as a child care centre. We learned that this is a highly regulated service sector with direct involvement by both the Ontario Ministry of Education and the City of London. We were able to connect with the Southwest Ontario YMCA, a major provider of child care services throughout southwestern Ontario and they were kind enough to make a site visit to FSA to assess the suitability of our space for this service. After doing this it was clear that it would be an expensive and risky undertaking for us to move in this direction – in spite of the fact that we are already zoned to provide this service.

Lastly, during May and June, three Interior Design students from Fanshawe College (Hadeel Sinjab, Stéphanie Martinez and Sierra Joyce) under the supervision of Professor Mariam Wifi, developed interior designs for three areas within FSA – the chapel; Proudfoot Hall and kitchen area; and the third-floor youth room area. Although we cannot make immediate use of their designs, we hope to do so in the future.

In spite of these setbacks, the Planning Committee continues to be strongly committed to exploring additional opportunities to transform our physical space into one that will meet our future needs and that of our community. †



MEMBERSHIP & NURTURE

Heather Locking-Cusolito

Like many FSA committees, Membership and Nurture has taken a well-deserved rest from formal meetings this past summer. We have been thankful, however, to be able to resume serving Lemonade on the Lawn which offers the opportunity for people to mingle and catch up in ways that the pandemic has precluded. It also offers a visible presence of the church community to passersby who occasionally join us for a glass of lemonade.

We are also hopeful that Coffee and Conversation (C&C) can resume in September. Because recruiting for servers at C&C has been increasingly challenging, Glenna Hall, our C&C convenor, has developed some strategies to streamline several steps in the process. First, she has approached Council to ask Committee Chairs to volunteer their committee as servers each for one month for a trial period from September to December. We are grateful to Membership and Nurture, Planning, and Mission and Outreach, who have already

volunteered to serve for the first three months of the fall. We will continue to seek committee assistance, hopefully to take us up to May 2023. Second, because clean up after coffee is served extends the servers' time commitment to almost three hours, we are asking members of the congregation to bring their own mugs each week and to take them home to wash. Recognizing that not everyone will be able to bring their own mug, we will provide disposable, environmentally friendly cups. This approach should shorten the time required of servers and may make it easier to recruit.

The work of our voluntary pastoral care teams has continued unabated over the summer. We are very grateful for the various arms of our outreach: the lay visitation team; the caring callers; the prayer chain; and the notes of support by Gerry Meacham. We are also very thankful for the ongoing pastoral care that Pastor Joshua provides along with his many other responsibilities. †

MISSION & OUTREACH



ELUCO

Janice Elliot

With families sick with COVID in our Marconi community, no ELUCO programs are running inside the unit. Nancy Howard, ELUCO Community Outreach Worker continues to meet with individuals masked and outside.

Nancy picks up leftover lunches and produce from the ELUCO Welcome Wednesday program held at Rowntree United Church to deliver to Marconi families. She delivers Harvest Bucks for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables at the local markets to participants who are excited to shop at the market.

Nancy completed the on-line certificate training in Human Trafficking Levels I and II (Introduction to Human Trafficking and Communication Techniques to Support Victim Survivors with Trauma from Sexual Exploitation) through Courage for Freedom. Especially with social media, human trafficking has become a big issue in our communities. The plan will be to host workshops to raise awareness and educate our families.

Nancy spends time outside talking with individuals to provide a listening ear, counselling and initiating whatever supports are needed. Stress levels are high and much of her time is used in providing support. We've had the SWAT team present at the complex for escalations in criminal behaviours involving altercations, drugs, and guns.

Nancy assists families with Annual Review and Transfer forms for London Middlesex Community Housing and Appli-

cation Forms for Rent-Geared-to-Income Housing through the Housing Access Centre. She has supported families to connect with the Housing Stability Bank for assistance with last month's rent for relocating, rent or hydro arrears, and to apply for the Ontario Energy Support Program as well as reviews with Social Assistance workers.

Camp Kee-Mo-Kee requires double vaccinations which many of our children do not have. We have one counsellor working for the summer and have sponsored one camper. Sam Powless is back at Kee-Mo-Kee as Program Director. Nancy provided a required referral for twelve campers to attend Stevenson Children's Camp.

Nancy completed on-line training through Sick Kids Learning Institute on Concurrent Disorders and Youth Populations: Understanding and Supporting Youth Who Use Substances.

Please go to www.eluco.ca to watch our new video and donate to the ELUCO Walkathon on Sept. 25. We need your help! †





Grow-a-Row
Cynthia Simpson

We will be launching our 2022 Grow-a-Row campaign this fall and are also pleased to announce there will be a corn roast this year, although it may be a simpler affair. Bob Ready from St. Marys United Church has grown our crops for years but has handed over the responsibility to Stefan and Lori Wever and they are growing soybeans for 2022.

Please join us for our Grow-a-Row service on Sunday, September 18. Canadian Foodgrains Bank ambassador, Steve McInnis, will be speaking to us about the national organization's activities and how your support for this worthwhile cause assists those in need around the world. The corn roast will follow this service, so come hungry!

You can donate to this year's campaign by completing the donation form on the FSA website https://www.fsaunited.com/files/ugd/25fec5_426e853fdb1241939ebd87087a06aedc.pdf and sending your cheque, payable to "United Church Foodgrains Project," directly to St. Marys United Church (not to FSA please), 85 Church St. S., St. Marys, ON, N4X 1B3; receipts will be issued. We look forward to seeing all of you on September 18. †

look forward to the 17th White Squirrel Golf Day in June 2023.

A total of \$12,278 was raised! \$10,000 has been distributed to: ELUCO (\$5000); St Paul's Daily Bread (\$1000); Los Quinchos (\$1000); Afghan Refugee Project (\$2000); and Indwell (\$1000). The distribution of the remaining funds will be decided by the MO Committee in September. †



White Squirrel Golf Day
David Knoppert

The 16th Annual White Squirrel Golf Day was a huge success. Because of COVID this event has not been held since 2019.

As usual, the weather was great and the course was in tremendous condition. Twenty-three golfers and an additional 47 dinner guests participated in the first ever Ball Toss, the 50 / 50 draw, the Silent Auction and the Live Auction. We were treated to the usual exceptional carved roast beef dinner for which Ironwood Golf Course is so famous. About a dozen people went on the Nature Walk with Winnie and Dave Wake.

This day would not have been possible without the diligent work by the Golf Committee, in addition to those volunteers who worked hard behind the scenes.

Thank you to everyone who donated auction items and a special thank you to our 28 Hole Sponsors. And of course to the Ironwood Staff, who were short-staffed and put in lots of extra hours.

All in all it was a wonderful day of fun and comradeship. We

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- FSA Quiz Answers (See Quiz on page 12)**
1. Susan Eagle and Carol Langford (Nancy Howard is the current community leader.)
 2. Oscar Wilde was the author of both *The Happy Prince* and *The Selfish Giant*.
 3. London Arts Council, Oxfam and Meals on Wheels have all occupied Farquhar House.



ARCHIVES

Don Jones

The Archives Committee has taken a break over the summer but will meet again in September to assess what has been accomplished in the past year, and plan for the tasks remaining to do for this fall and winter season.

There have been many accomplishments this year. Digital files are now organized using the United Church article titled "What the Archives Wants." Paper copies of the required Archival materials are now stored in boxes and labelled for easy searching.

An Archives Index of documents in the Archives Room has been prepared and kept in the room and on the website. This index will be updated as further organization takes place.

Accomplishments include the Archives Index, an Archives Quiz for *Tidings*, an Archives Policy (*also available on the website*) and the boxing of "miscellaneous" material that has found its way into the Archives Room over the years. There is

much that is interesting to read, and it is felt by the committee that, although not required, these items should be stored.

Looking ahead, the committee is focused on four areas. We are planning a new cabinet for the Historic Roll books. There is a cabinet that is labelled "Ministers," and another one that contains many differently labelled items. There is also a large cabinet of "Photos" that has many pictures from past years. However, many are without names. Long-time members of the church may be interested in volunteering to identify those pictured.

I want to pay tribute to the loyal members of the team who willingly give of their time and have accomplished much. They are Pat Carter, Don Jones, David McKane, Jim Silcox, Heather Vouvalidis, and Judith Walker. Heather Locking-Cusolito chairs the committee (M&N) through which we report to Council. She has also been very supportive of the work of the Archives Committee. †



MUSIC

Merran Neville

It has been a summer of wonderful music at FSA as soloists for every Sunday service have shared their musical talents together with Paul Merritt or Lynda Kennedy at the piano in Proudfoot Hall. As well, the summer program on the outdoor stage, "In Diversity There Is Harmony," each Saturday night from June 11 to August 20, brought a variety of concerts for all, especially our neighbourhood, to enjoy. See the article on page 5 in this *Tidings* for details about this program. Attendees at services in mid-August were delighted to sing all verses of hymns once more as the lifting of the restriction to two verses was recommended by the Reopening Committee and approved by the Executive.

As we return to worship in the sanctuary on September 11, we welcome back Paul Merritt, Organist Emeritus and interim Organist and Dr. Victoria Meredith, interim Choir Director. The Senior Choir began rehearsals on Thursday, September 8. The Laudamus Bells have returned under their Director Richard Frank. We gladly welcome new members to the senior choir. If you are interested in joining the choir, please contact Kathryn Skelly in the main office at music@fsaunited.com.

We also welcome our two new Eberhard vocal scholars who have joined us this September. They are Madeline (Mad-die) Berman, soprano, and Daryn Nowlin, mezzo-soprano. Our four staff soloists are Sonja Gustafson, soprano; Fran-

cesca Rannalli, mezzo-soprano; Chris Wood, tenor; and Alastair Smyth, baritone.

Viki and Paul have planned a full program for us to recognize and celebrate the special Sundays this fall, many of which will feature instrumental participation. These include Worldwide Communion Sunday, Thanksgiving Sunday, UCW 60th Anniversary Sunday, Remembrance Day, Anniversary Sunday and of course, Christmas Services to follow in December.

Music Committee members are: Glenda Baldwin, Paul Cooper, Ardath Finnbogason-Hill, Ann MacPhail, Merran Neville (Chair), Igor Saika-Voivod, Jane Smith, Terry Peters, Janis Wallace and Margaret Wardlaw. †

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Jackie Williams



Paul Cooper

It is important you, as members of our church family, understand how our investments support the work of the church. Income from our investments supports the shortfall between our operational costs and our givings as well as supporting capital costs—e.g., air conditioners, equipment replacement, stained-glass repairs, roof coils, etc. Our investments also act as **enabling** funds. For example, the Trust Funds loan the church \$25,000 annually to support the cost of carrying the inventory of the Shopping Card Program, enabling this programme to repay the loan and generate \$8,000 annually. Likewise, the Eco-Meditation garden and stage were supported at a loan cost of \$40,000 to permit the project to proceed to completion before grant money was available. This avoided what otherwise would have been a burden on the operational cash flow of the church.

In these financially turbulent times, we are experiencing

a reduced long-term return on our investments which means that we have less ability to generate income and, when necessary, to pay for unexpected costs. Based on five- to ten- year performance numbers, we currently use a four percent return as our yardstick when accessing Trust Funds, while ensuring that the principal is not depleted. Just as in your own household, some decisions need to be postponed in order to avoid having to sell investments when they have lost value, we are having to do the same. The trustees understand that it is tough to hear NO to some projects, but the answer is not NO, NEVER but rather NO, NOT AT THIS TIME.

The trustees continue to work to ensure that our investments are used in the most responsible way possible to maximize the benefit and the longevity of the donor's gift to FSA, and to maximize the support available to FSA to carry out its programmes and its mission. †



COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING
Jim Silcox

The Communications & Marketing team remained active over the summer with videoing of the summer service in Proudfoot Hall.

We learned that the logistics that had become routine in the Sanctuary did not always work in the Hall. Overall, it was a learning experience. We continue to prepare for our switchover to live-streaming of the Worship Service. Our target date is now early October. Watch for updates in the email blast as to when we go "live."

The email "blast" as a vehicle for getting news out to the congregation continues to grow. We now produce "Extras" in addition to the weekend regular edition whenever there is time-sensitive information that we feel the FSA family would

want to know. In July we introduced a new section to blast readers entitled, "FSA Photo of the Week." The intent is to encourage the readership to submit a photo that they think would be of interest to the church family, so have your cell phones ready to catch that special shot!

Finally, the website got a little revamp in June to make it more intuitive for those searching for information about FSA. The updated design of the page is also more "friendly" when viewed on a mobile phone. Pastor Joshua created a great welcoming video for the homepage as well. We urge you to check it out. †



WORSHIP
Jo Ann Silcox

The Worship Committee continues to give thanks for the guest preaching of the Rev. Karen Low and the Rev. Paul Ross when Joshua is away. Also, we give thanks for the special emphases of the 60th Anniversary of UCW, the Canadian Food Grains Bank, and inter-faith services as we move into a new shared vision of what it is to worship in 2022. †



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UCW
Nancy Quinn

On Wednesday, August 10, our UCW Executive met at Laurel Kenney's beloved Kenneycott (cottage) on Lake Huron, near Bayfield.

We had a lovely potluck lunch and then discussed plans for the Fall. We are enthusiastically planning the UCW service for October 16 and are excited to announce that Nancy Howard, of ELUCO, will be our guest speaker. Please stay tuned in the FSA email blast for more details.

With Glenda Robinson as our captain, we are delighted to have many hands on deck, making our work lighter and happier, as we plan to resume holding our annual *Boutique Bazaar* on Saturday November 19, 9:30 am to 4 pm. There will be a special Bazaar shopping event on the Friday evening, November 18, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. The profits from bazaar sales support the numerous charities which the UCW helps. Please let Glenda Robinson know what you will be contributing to the Bazaar. We welcome everyone to share. The UCW are carefully observing the evolving pandemic and public health rules. Please stay tuned for more updates from Glenda in our weekly FSA email blast on this important project.

The UCW 60th National Gathering was a wonderful success, July 11-15, in Sydney, Nova Scotia. The theme was "Continuing in Hope." Topics included Sally Armstrong speaking on "Hope and Transformation." In her talk she emphasized the importance of having the strength to talk about community problems in order to bring change. Other speakers discussed how to offer effective comfort for ill and dying friends; the

importance of self-care for caregivers; and liturgical dance. Nancy Quinn represented our First-St. Andrew's UCW and looks forward to sharing an enriching report about the conference with the UCW.

We are in the planning phase about future UCW general meetings in 2022 and will update everyone in due course.

Please mail your Green Envelope cheques, made out to FSA United Church Women, to FSA, Attention: UCW. Your generosity and faithfulness are much appreciated. †



CLIMATE ACTION LONDON
Mary Ann Hodge

With funding from the United Church of Canada's Embracing the Spirit Grant, the London Environmental Network, and a grant for two summer students from Canada Summer Jobs, we have just completed a six-week plant-based cooking course with the residents of Indwell's Woodfield Gate. You can find the recipes and the blog at www.climateactionlondon.ca.

The course was highly successful and attendance levels required the class to run twice a week. Outreach to the greater London community resulted in 267 page views to the blog and recipes. Participants enjoyed the lively atmosphere, the supportive and calm nature, and interacting with Omar and Lucca (summer students). Staff at Indwell were very pleased with the project and would love to continue this program if we can find additional funding.

This Fall our efforts will be focused on the municipal elec-



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tion. Without a City Council that is supportive of the Climate Emergency Action Plan, progress on adapting and mitigating climate change will be slow. Municipal government can influence housing affordability (through zoning practices), transportation (through infrastructure like roads, transit, and bike paths), and energy efficiency of buildings (through local building code regulations). Through our Greening Sacred Spaces London subgroup, we will be encouraging faith communities to “Vote your Values.” Climate Action London will

be sharing information from “Thriving London” as they gather information from each city councillor on their stand on a dozen hot issues. Read their responses and note who declines to respond on www.ThrivingLondon.ca.

Greta Thunberg created a global movement called Fridays for Future which support two annual Global Climate Strikes. The next one is scheduled for Friday, September 23. Plans for London are not yet established. We hope you will take some time that day to support climate action in some way. †



SHARED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Marilyn Arthur

I would like to express my utmost gratitude to the people of First-St. Andrew’s for their warm welcome and encouraging words since beginning my shared youth and young adult ministry with you, Siloam and Metropolitan. I have had the great pleasure of meeting so many of you and I look forward to embarking on this new ministry and faith journey together.

During my first month and a half of this new ministry, I connected with community members to learn some of the visions and hopes that people have for the youth and young adults in our midst. Last winter, Siloam applied for the Canada Summer Jobs Grant to help with the launch of this new ministry. Austin Campbell and Denver Milner began their employment with the three congregations at the end of June. After some training, we gathered our gifts and talents to plan activities and outreach opportunities for people of all ages.

Austin and Denver had the opportunity to learn more about food insecurity as they helped at the ELUCO food cupboard. We also enjoyed walking in the Pride Parade in solidarity with some of our fellow United Church members at the end of July.

Austin and I had two opportunities to gather with young adults during our pub ministry where we shared in a discussion about faith, where we see God moving in our lives, and

how we live out our faith daily. Our young people who were gathered are grateful for the opportunity to gather in a bit of a different atmosphere with their peers for faith discussions and fun.

We enjoyed mini-golfing with some of our high school youth at Tin Cup and hosted a lively and fun-filled “karaoke and board games” night at Metropolitan along with pizza and an exciting display of talent.



(L to R) Marilyn, Denver and Austin

Austin and Denver shared their theatrical skills as they planned and led a “theatre arts camp” at FSA for children from grades two to six. They performed the musical, *The Big Fish: A Whale of a Tale*. We hope that the children at the camp came home embracing their God-given talents/gifts and gained more confidence in themselves!

Laughter and good conversation were in abundance as we gathered around a campfire at Siloam with people of all ages - including friends from Westley-Knox - singing songs, eating s’mores, and laughing at some funny skits.

I am beyond grateful for the opportunity to work with Denver and Austin this summer.

What an incredible chance to employ young people to work actively with our churches, enabling us to share in leadership, learn from one another and about each other and share in the community as we embark on the incredible ministries that God has provided for us. †

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John Sangster

A well known and respected family physician and clinical teacher in London, John Sangster, passed away in March of 2022 as a result of an automobile accident. John was the first husband of the Rev. Betty Sangster, now retired, herself a beloved member of FSA, and the father of Michelle Bouck of this congregation. Those of

us at FSA who knew him personally or remember his support of his children and grandchildren at church events will miss John's ready smile and caring demeanour.



Karin Barth

Karin Barth of this congregation passed away earlier this year. She was well known to many for her willingness to participate in many church activities, including coffee and conversation, and the bazaar. The Book Club and Thursday morning Bible Study were also blessed with her presence. She provided repeated service to us as

a greeter so she will be sorely missed particularly on Sunday mornings.

Bill Humphries

Bill became a regular face at FSA in the last year of his life and quietly entered the Sanctuary and sat near the back on most Sundays. His was a reassuring presence to all who met him. After his passing this spring, his family set up the "Out of the Cold and Beyond" Fund and invited friends and family and all of us to contribute so that the dollars could be used for the church's collaboration with Ark Aid. We thank Bill and the family for this gracious way of perpetuating the memory of this true gentleman. †

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