

First-St Andrew's
UNITED CHURCH



Tidings

VOL. 34, NO. 2, 2024

PENTECOST/SUMMER

INSIDE

EDITOR'S MESSAGE: 2
MINISTER'S MESSAGE: 3
FEATURE ARTICLE: 4
MISSION & SERVICE: 6
OUR NEIGHBOURS: 8
TRIBUTE: 9
GETTING TO KNOW: 10
REMEMBERING: 11
BEHIND THE SCENE: 12, 13
KITCHEN CORNER: 14
MINISTRY REPORTS: 15, 16
GOVERNANCE REPORTS: 17
THIS WAS US: 18, 19
MILESTONES: 20
FSA HISTORY QUIZ: 20





David Wardlaw

Editor David Wardlaw
Graphic Designer..... Jim Silcox
Photographers David Wake, Jim Silcox
Ad Sales TBD
Committee Members...Barb Dalrymple, David McKane, Nancy Quinn, Jim Silcox
Proofreader:.....Anne Cummings

Published by:

The Communications & Marketing Team
 First-St. Andrew's United Church
 350 Queens Avenue
 London, Ontario N6B 1X6
 Tel: 519-679-8182
mail@fsaunited.com
www.fsaunited.com

Printed by: Sterling Marking Products

Four issues are published yearly: the first Sunday in December, March, and June; and the second Sunday in September. 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.

Church Staff

Minister of Worship & Congregational Life: Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence
Minister of Music: Chris Fischer
Minister of Pastoral Care: Rev. Anne Louise Jannaway
Shared Youth & Young Adult Minister: Rev. Marilyn Arthur
Children's Program Coordinator: Christina Lindsay
Chair of Council: David Wardlaw
Minister Emeritus: Rev. Dr. David McKane
Organist Emeritus: Paul Merritt
Office Manager: Kathryn Skelly
Facility & Maintenance Coordinator: TBD
Voluntary Associate Minister: Rev. Karen Low

The feature article is the second in a series entitled "The Future of Church." One or two more articles in the series are planned for subsequent issues in 2024; the first article in the series, by Joshua Lawrence, appeared in the previous issue. The author of the feature in this issue is Rev. Miriam Bowlby, a United Church minister who is currently the Director of Church Engagement at United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC). UPRC is an organization created by the United Church of Canada to partner with churches in re-developing church property to provide an income stream for the church while simultaneously providing a mix of affordable and market-based housing. I think you will find her approach to the future of church refreshing and inspirational.

The Behind the Scenes series on committees, subcommittees, and recognized groups which started in the March 2024 issue continues, with two more committees being featured: Ministry and Personnel; and Membership and Nurture. These articles are not committee reports, but rather a narrative outlining the purpose, role, and functioning of a committee or group. If you ever wondered what a particular committee or group does or why it exists, this is a golden opportunity to learn.

The Getting-to-Know series on members who joined FSA in 2023 continues, this time featuring the Robinson family. It is also beneficial to continue to get to know our local sister churches and organizations with which we are affiliated in London - check out the Our Neighbours article on First Baptist Church and the Mission & Service article on the London Community Chaplaincy.

On behalf of the *Tidings* Team, I wish everyone a relaxing and restorative summer season and safe travels. †





Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

GLOBAL FUTURES, DECOLONIAL OPTIONS

In his ambitious work, *The Darker Side of Western Modernity*, philosopher, Walter D. Mignolo, aspires to think of a world in which other worlds can exist. By this phrase, Mignolo attempts a departure from monolithic visions of life in which one idea or practice becomes dominant. In place of this universal vision, Mignolo suggests we think “pluriversally,” and “pluritopically.” In other words, there is more than one way to live, move, and have our being. In fact, we come close to saying as much in our concept of Trinity: God is a great community of persons, a triune conversation. For the past few years, I have tried to think “decoloniality” in my work as a minister, life-companion, and parent. But it is so easy to slide into modern paradigms of True/False, Right/Wrong. Even when we know our lives are increasingly complex and are always other than the categories to which they are assigned. As a member of the global Body of Christ, I believe First-St. Andrew’s is in a unique position to lean into a decolonial future – even with our colonial baggage.

The life of faith requires that we trust our Creator and willingly enter right relations with all of creation. However, because we have all been wounded—mostly by our own species—it is quite difficult to trust and become vulnerable once more. Exposure is a risk, and no one knew that as well as the one we follow and in whose name we pray. No point in sugar-coating that medicine. It is always hard to drink from that cup, but there is no other way to resurrection, and we are a resurrection people. This does not mean we are the ONLY resurrection people, and that is precisely

First-St. Andrew's is in a unique position to lean into a decolonial future—even with our colonial baggage.

Mignolo's point. Life is both relational and constantly resurrecting. Just when you think possibility has been foreclosed, a way opens (as the Quakers say).

Mignolo and his colleague, Catherine Walsh, often reference several Andean Indigenous authors' use of the term *vincularidad*, which means the awareness of integral relation and interdependence amongst living organisms. Our relations are inescapable. But the kind of relation we practice is dependent on our response to the Call of Life itself, which is always holy and ceaselessly beckons us to compassionate, humble forms of life that acknowledge the divinity in other beings. In the words of our faith, we are people of covenant. There are multiple futures because “we are *where* we think and do.” We may move from a place, but the place of our formation goes with us. Our context shapes us and invites us to humbly accept our interdependent life.

How might we, as members of the Church, as members of the Community of Creation, participate in decolonial practices of nurture (and worship?). How can we invest ourselves in practices that are not constrained by binary thinking and trauma responses? Our answers to these questions have a lot to say about the future we want, not just for those we know, but for so many that we do not. †



Rev. Miriam Bowlby*

FUTURE OF THE CHURCH SERIES:

FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE ABIDE

The question about the future of the church is a challenging one. When it comes to the future, we can only have best guesses. The one thing I know for certain is that there will be church in some form. Will it be the same as it is now? No. What will that future church look like? I'm not sure. The phrase that keeps coming to me as I reflect on the future of church is from Paul's letter to the Corinthians. In many ways we, too, see through a mirror dimly. As he writes to that newly formed and sometimes troubled Christian community, Paul is reminding them of what is most important. It is not prophesy or gifts of the spirit, but love. Not romantic love that we often associated with the passage – but that deep and abiding agape love. "For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love." (New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised, 1989, 1995, 1 Corinthians 13:12 - 13)

The future church will be grounded in faith, hope, and love, seeking the common good for people and the planet. In her book, *Piloting Church* (Chalice Press, 2019), Cameron Trimble writes, "Our communities need your congregations to lead in creating more loving neighbors, more generous civil servants, and more businesses offering meaningful employment. In fact, I can't think of a reason that we need so many churches in this world unless

each of these churches is relentlessly committed to raising the standard of life for people living around them." (Trimble, 2019, p. 9)

Over the years, as resources have become more constrained, many churches have turned inward and focused on how to maintain what they have, instead of looking beyond the doors of the church building. That is not to say that good work is not happening in communities of faith across Canada; it is. Church buildings are being used for support groups, Out of the Cold programs, food banks, meal programs, Guild Guides and Scouts. Communities of faith raise countless dollars to support the United Church of Canada's Mission and Service Fund, local church camps, food banks, outreach ministries, and so much more.

All too often, when it comes to a choice between serving the neighbour and continuing to hang on to the church as it is, we hang on to what we know. It seems to me that some churches – not all, but many – have shifted the focus of their energy towards keeping the doors open. In her book *Portable Faith* (Abingdon Press, 2013), Sarah Cunningham describes an experience that has informed her work in church leadership in which she overheard a conversation at the local (bail) bond office where a woman described the role of churches in her local community. The woman said, "There's at least a dozen churches within a four-block radius of here and that doesn't change anything.... The city is the same as it's always been. Same problems, same hardship, same

cycles. Churches hold weekly services for anyone who wants to come, but I don't think there's a reason to believe they impact people beyond their own buildings." (Cunningham, 2013, p.1).

As we look to the future, we need to also remember our deeper call to serve our communities. When the early church gathered at the table for communion, the meal was not only an act of remembrance, but an act of love for the community. Those who had plenty brought enough food so that those who were hungry had their daily bread. In Acts, the writer describes the early church sharing all things in common. In the not-too-distant past, churches built schools because the children of the community needed a place to learn, and they built hospitals because people needed a place to heal.

Reflecting upon her experience, Cunningham writes, "'Come join us' was a decidedly different invitation than 'go into all the world.' And 'inviting ones' was almost the polar opposite identity as 'sent ones,' the term attached to those first believing 'apostles' who bore the message of Jesus." (Cunningham, 2013 p.3). The future of the church likely resides in being "sent ones" - going out into the community to love our neighbours and seek the common good. To do this requires bold leadership within communities of faith, both lay and ordered.

Molly Phinney Baskette, in her book *Real Good Church* (The Pilgrim Press, 2014), leans on Ron Heifetz's definition of leadership: "Leadership is disappointing people at a rate they can tolerate."



We cannot stay the same. We cannot continue to do things just because we have always done them. Our next best steps as church require the courage to change.

(Baskette, 2014, p. 1). In order for us to imagine how to be God's people now and into the future, evolving leadership skills will be necessary. We cannot stay the same. We cannot continue to do things just because we have always

done them. Our next best steps as church require the courage to change. "Your work, as pastor or lay leader, is to build up your own tolerance for disappointing people. Learn how to evaluate criticism for what it can teach you, don't take it personally, and don't let it slow you down or hijack God's work." (Baskette, 2014, p.2). Together, as we look through that mirror dimly to imagine the future and as we learn the art of "disappointing people at a rate they can tolerate" in order for change to happen, we carry with us the gifts of our past.

The church of the future will be grounded in *faith*. We will continue to tell the stories of Jesus, to listen for God's word for us, and to follow where the Spirit leads. We will gather for worship to sing, to pray, and break bread together. The future church will continue marking milestones as we welcome children into this world and our community, as people declare their love for each other and join their lives together, and as we celebrate the lives of loved ones who now abide with God. Perhaps these rituals will take place in house churches or coffee shops or libraries, along with church buildings.

The church of the future will be grounded in *hope*. We live in a world that faces incredible challenges. There is food insecurity, war, a housing crisis, and environmental crisis. But as a church, we will not be ground to a halt by despair. We will follow in the footsteps of Jesus using the resources available to us to make a difference in our local communities and around the world. Acts of loving kindness change peoples' lives. Together, we will live into the promise of the Kingdom of God where all have

what they need.

And finally, I believe that the church of the future will be grounded in *love* - because, as Paul writes, "the greatest of these is love." Indeed, it is love for friend and stranger that in the end will help our churches flourish and transform our world. †

* byline:

Miriam Bowlby is a United Church minister who currently serves as Director of Church Engagement at United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC), an organization created by the United Church of Canada. UPRC and its development partner, Kindred Works, works closely with communities of faith across Canada to partner with churches in redeveloping church property to provide an income stream for the church while simultaneously providing a mix of affordable and market-based housing. Prior to joining UPRC in 2022, she was the lead minister at Cochrane Street United Church in St. John's, NL and played an integral role in developing and implementing a plan to convert historic church buildings into community space and 15 units of housing.



Pam Cullen*



Building Community, Serving Community
in the Heart of the Community

The London Community Chaplaincy's mission is to see "Positive Futures for Children and Youth." We predominantly serve families living within the City of London's social housing complexes. Currently, our base sites include over 350 families and 800 children and youth. The families we serve face the ongoing challenges of living in poverty daily. Many are single parents; some are working poor. These families are from diverse cultural backgrounds and include many First Nations and refugee families. In the community we serve, struggles with mental health, addiction or abuse are present. Lack of food and financial insecurity are the norm. By being a presence in

this community, we strive to build relationships, and provide encouragement, while offering opportunities to learn and grow in a safe, healthy environment. Our staff are eager to listen, to connect people to resources, assist with advocacy when problems arise, and generally offer a helping hand. Our staff and countless volunteers assist with activities and programs that enrich the lives of the many children and youth who are impacted by a life of living in poverty. Every day in the heart of the community, we are quietly and consistently present. We offer a safe supportive space, meaningful programming, and practical support. We journey for years with families, working to ensure they and their children have a bright future full of hope. We are a constant in a shifting world of uncertainty. We remain an open and accessible door and each month we see over 1000 client encounters! Below are some recent words of thanks from a mom in our community. Her words encourage us to press on in this meaningful work:

"I just want to say thank-you so much for everything you've done for me and my kids. You guys are saving lives whether you realize it or not. You might think that all these little things that the community does is indeed just little things, but it isn't. So many of us struggle so bad with abuse, mental illness, physical disabilities, poverty, etc. I can speak for myself that I have definitely lived a life of torture and struggle a lot. Taking the kids to do things that us parents might not have ever been able to take them to do for numerous reasons is such a blessing. Having help and support on our property where we live is such a blessing. Having things like breakfast and outings for the adults is such a blessing. You don't know who's depressed, suicidal, etc. in their homes and that you just got them out for a day of activities with other adults when they could have easily gone over the bridge that day. Domino effects are huge and every single time you guys do something positive with one of the kids who live here plants a seed in them. I'm very grateful. Thank you so much."



Please drop us an email and “Join the cause!” and consider receiving our updates, volunteering, offering prayers, or sharing practical or financial support. If you have a few hours to spare this summer, we need many volunteer drivers to help the children and youth access a variety of off-site day and overnight camps. As well, we need financial sponsorship to help welcome 100 children a week onsite in a variety of meaningful programs. We are so thankful for the ways FSA has supported the work of the Chaplaincy and similar ministries in the City of London. †

**byline:*

Pam Cullen is a Chaplain with the London Community Chaplaincy and was a guest preacher at FSA on Sunday April 28, 2024. For more information, to volunteer, or to donate visit londoncommunitychaplaincy.com.





Don Jones



First Baptist

First Baptist Church (FBC) is a downtown community of faith much like our own First-St. Andrew's, but with a different history and some different traditions. It was first started in 1845 when a group of eight adults got together, determined to walk together as a church. They met in a schoolroom in the Mechanics Institute on Dundas Street in London, Ontario. However, in 1850 they formed the York Street Baptist Church, named so in 1877 and located at York and Talbot Streets in London.

It was not until 1954, when a parcel of land at the corner of Richmond and Clarence streets became available, that the church became known as First Baptist Church. In the intervening years there were many iterations of the community with different names – York Street Church became the Adelaide Street Church, and many other churches were supported throughout London. Notably, Adelaide Street, Talbot Street, Maitland Street, Egerton and Wortley Street Churches all can trace their ancestry to First Baptist Church.

First Baptist is a member of the CBOQ (Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec) and MLHA (Middlesex Lambton Huron Association). They proudly use a Casavant Frère Pipe Organ, a Yamaha Grand piano, and in recent years, a worship band. The stained-glass windows glorify the Sunday 10:30 worship services that are live-streamed on YouTube. The church is accessible with a handicap entrance and an elevator servicing all four levels of the building.

In our FSA senior choir, we have been fortunate to have singers who have some history with First Baptist Church. They include Alex and Rebecca Neaves as well as Lynda and Bob Kennedy. Although not a recent member of First Baptist, Alex shared that he grew up in that church and was heavily involved with the music as a teen, leading to a life-long enjoyment of singing. He also participated in a teen group that influenced him greatly as he grew up. As a member of our FSA choir, he is continuing the love of music that was first fostered in

the First Baptist Church. Rebecca, a university graduate in Music and also a member of the FSA choir, shares Alex's enjoyment of singing. Both add greatly to our church music program at FSA.

Alex Neaves mentioned that he first met Lynda and Bob Kennedy when they were organist and choir director respectively, at FBC. Lynda and Bob were employed at First Baptist from 1970 – 1999 and Lynda has said it was a wonderful time musically to work with the Bell Choir, the Senior Choir and perform many oratorios such as Mendelssohn's Elijah, parts of Handel's Messiah and John Rutter's Requiem. It is interesting to note that Alex's mother, Bonnie Neaves, took over as Director of Music upon the retirement of Lynda and Bob from First Baptist Church.

First Baptist and First-St. Andrew's have been in collabora-



tion on a very important project for our community at large. The homeless population of London has been growing, increasing the need for overnight shelter and prepared meals. Over the past few years, the two churches collaborated with Ark Aid to provide meals and a place to sleep for many who have

no place to call home. Ark Aid served daily meals out of FBC when Ark Aid's headquarters was unavailable for several years due to a fire and renovations. With the reopening of the Ark Aid facility, meal service has since shifted to that location. During the pandemic, FSA provided spaces for individuals to sleep, a snack to end the day, and a continental breakfast for the period December to March.

Downtown churches have had an important role to play as community partners in providing temporary and longer-term solutions for those who are homeless in our city. Our neighbour, the "Church on the Park" as First Baptist Church is known, has stepped up and been an important part of the assistance needed to alleviate some of the suffering. †



Heather Locking-Cusolito

Gerry Meacham

To begin at the beginning: Gerry grew up, the eldest of three girls, on what she describes as “Old McDonald’s farm” outside of Tillsonburg with cows, pigs, horses, dogs, cats and a creek running through it. It was a wonderful way to learn about life. She attended a one room school before graduating to high school in Tillsonburg en route to Normal School (Teachers’ College) in London.

Her first teaching position, at the end of the Second World War, was in a three-room school in Princeton, Ontario where she taught the middle grades.

With a twinkle in her eye, Gerry described her war effort as welcoming home troops returning from overseas. The troops were feted with lunches, dances and were given a watch. It was at one of these dances that she met August, her husband to be, returning from combat most notably at Monte Cassino in Italy where he was decorated for bravery. One of her fellow teachers who knew Augie and his family described him as “a fine fellow”. Thus, their courtship began.

Gerry describes Augie’s call to ministry as being influenced by a local minister who got him “stirred up for ministry”. Although Augie had not attended high school, with this minister’s help he was admitted to Victoria College, arriving three weeks late and walking into a class on Chaucer being taught in Middle English. He began to wonder what he had gotten into. Their courtship, while Augie studied at Victoria and later at Emmanuel College, consisted of letters, phone calls and occasional visits home while Gerry continued to teach.

Gerry and Augie were married on a hot August day in 1949 shortly after his graduation. Their first charge was in Wawa, a remote village on the eastern shore of Lake Superior. At the time, there was no road directly into Wawa and the final leg of the journey was by plane. Their call was for two years, but they stayed an additional year in order to witness the completion of a new church building constructed with a lot of volunteer effort. Their daughter Mary was born in Wawa. Other charges took them to Thamesford where their son John was born, and Blenheim whose subsequent

closing was a source of great sadness to them both. Their final move was to London when Augie accepted a position as the Personnel Officer for the London Conference of the United Church of Canada. It was the first time they had lived in their own home. They began attending First-St. Andrew’s in 1973. Gerry has attended ever since, even after Augie’s stroke and his later passing in 2010.

As a minister’s wife Gerry described herself as not aspiring to leadership roles, but helping wherever she was needed. Her contributions have continued all through her time at FSA

where she has been an enthusiastic member of: Bible Study; the Handbell Choir for 19 years under Barb Plante’s caring leadership; and most recently the Membership and Nurture Committee where she has been responsible for writing over 177 letters of sympathy, consolation and support to FSA members experiencing loss, grief, or illness.

Gerry keeps in close touch with her daughter, Mary, who lives in Windsor and has three grown children. Gerry has also been regularly able to visit her son, John, who lives in Florida and has one daughter. Her other interests, outside of church and family, include bird-

watching, a passion she has shared on outings with Spencer and Helen Inch and with David and Winnie Wake. She also has a keen interest in her family history and has been able to prove her status as a United Empire Loyalist through the submission of primary documents tracing her maternal family roots back to 1778.

Gerry would want you to know how thankful she is for the church, how it has been able to remain necessary and relevant, capable of growing and changing, and adding meaning to her life and the life of others. Gerry closed our wonderful time together by sharing one of her favourite bible verses which her life exemplifies:

And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8) †





Anne Cummings

THE ROBINSONS

It is with great pleasure that I introduce to you the Robinson family of Jeff, Lindsey, and Zoe, who have been attending FSA since 2019 and became members in November of 2023.

Lindsey grew up in Scarborough with a sister, a father who was a banker, and a mother who sold Avon products and later became a real estate agent. Lindsey liked school, did well and enjoyed being in school musicals. She completed a degree in political science at the University of Toronto and then secured a job at the Toronto Public Library. She currently works at St. Joseph's Hospital as a medical secretary in endocrinology and loves her job. She is a vivacious, outgoing person with lots of energy.

Jeff grew up in Bowmanville, near Oshawa, with two older sisters, a father who worked at General Motors and a mother who was a kindergarten teacher and later became a supply teacher in retirement. The couple moved to London after Jeff's job at Labatt transferred him from Toronto. At Labatt, Jeff served as union president for ten years. He is a reflective thinker who gets things done.



Daughter, Zoe is in grade 7 at Stoneybrook School. Her passion is theatre with Original Kids and she has already been in six productions. She loves to read and likes mystery and fantasy books best. At FSA, she enjoyed Sing for your Supper and now enjoys Joshua's Crew. The final members of this family are their two whippet dogs named, Gordie and Letti.

For their leisure time, this family are big fans of the Buffalo Bills and are season ticket holders. They have had many family trips such as going to Seattle, Victoria, a resort in the Muskokas, and Jays games. They are hoping that their next adventure will take them to New Zealand.

The Robinsons started coming to FSA in 2019 during Black History month. They found that our theology, as well as our social and economic justice focus, were more aligned with their beliefs than their previous church had been. They also valued our concern about the environment and thought that our choir was lovely. They soon became involved with the Ark Aid setup and learned to work our dishwasher as regular volunteers for clean-up at Coffee & Conversation!

As with all of our young families, the Robinsons are very busy with all of their activities. It is a blessing for us that they have carved out time to add their skills and commitment to the FSA family.

†

TINA ROBERTS
REAL ESTATE AGENT



📞 519 872 0778
 📞 519 438 8000
 ✉️ tina@trusttina.ca
 @trusttinaroberts
 www.trusttina.kw.com

"Your Home Appliance Experts"

www.arvaappliances.com

ARVA APPLIANCE CENTRE

Bill Stewart

21593 Richmond Street N, Arva, ON N0M 1C0

p (519) 660-8314
 f (519) 660-1340
 bstewart@arvaappliances.com



Cherry Bulmer

Kay Hillier

May 1938 - December 2023

It was in the pinkish glow of the Beattie window that I first met Kay and Jack Hillier. Jack welcomed me and let me know that this beautiful stained-glass window beside us was dedicated to the Rev. Wm. Beattie, Kay's grandfather. Rev. Beattie ministered to this congregation from 1921 to 1932. It was the time of union when First Presbyterian and St. Andrew's became First-St. Andrew's United Church. Kay was very proud of that window and her Grandpa. Each week she would take a moment to stop by, touch the window, and let people know who this person was and how he was related to her and to First-St. Andrew's.

Kay lived much of her life in and around London. Kay and Jack had three children, six grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. Because of Jack's job, the Hilliers relocated to many cities in Canada and the United States. Although Kay was a wife, a mother and a homemaker, she was active in each place, taking advantage of the opportunities provided and being involved in many activities. She was an excellent seamstress. She loved animals, shopping, travelling, and meeting new people.

When they moved back to London and returned to FSA, Kay was very active in congregational activities and committee work. Kay helped at the rummage sales and Christmas bazaars. She was active with ELUCO and the "Caregivers". Kay was on the search committee that resulted in hiring Rev. Dr. David McKane. Aren't we blessed?

Kay was emotional and shed tears for the homeless and needy on our streets. She was a member of the May Court Club of London. She helped run their shop and worked on other committees that supported London's youth with nutri-

tional and educational programs.

Kay was an active member of the West Haven Golf Club. Besides being an avid golfer, she was very proud to let folks know that "her golf club" won awards for its environmental upkeep and the careful use of water on the golf course and in the club house. One day, Kay said she would like to take me



out for lunch. We drove to West Haven... enjoyed delicious food and then Kay had something to show me. As we walked along the hallway, there was a plaque with her name engraved as having top score in the ladies' annual tournament. She was proud of that and seemed surprised that so many people there remembered her and chatted about those fun days. Her golfing interest continued as she participated in FSA's annual White Squirrel Tournaments in Exeter.

In her closing years Kay resided at Richmond Woods and Fox Hollow Retirement homes. She loved having visitors and getting out with family and friends. One special friend, Michelle, would regularly meet with Kay

to do crafts and go out for ice cream, coffee, and other events. A special treat for Kay happened when Michelle took her to visit a horse-riding arena. In her eighties, Kay bravely got up in the saddle and took a turn around the arena. Bravo Kay!

Kay Hillier was fun to be around. She made us all laugh and feel important. Family was most important in Kay's life. As her daughter, Karen, said "we were best friends!" Kay was generous and compassionate to all, and quick to welcome visitors to FSA and to her world. †



Glenna Hall



Lillian Reid

MEMBERSHIP & NURTURE COMMITTEE

Membership and Nurture (M&N) is one of FSA's standing committees and, as such, its Chair is a member of the Leadership Council. The purpose of the committee (as per FSA Policy and Procedure document) is "to promote membership in the Church, to welcome and integrate new members into the Church, to encourage active participation through a volunteer program that maintains pastoral care and ensures that the volunteer needs of the Church are met, to facilitate recognition for volunteers, and to arrange for the maintenance of the Church Rolls." Through the Chair/co-Chairs, M&N reports regularly to Council and provides a report for the Annual Report to the Congregation.

The responsibilities of M&N are multifaceted and touch everyone in the FSA community:

- encourage membership in the congregation and active involvement in its life and work.
- formally welcome and integrate new persons into the congregation.
- be accountable for, and oversee the maintenance of, the recording of members and adherents, membership transfers (in and out), deaths, and baptisms.
- maintain contact information such as addresses, phone numbers, and

emails and occasionally organize a photo directory.

- occasionally oversee a time and talent survey of the interests and skills of the congregation
- suggest names of persons to be approached for volunteer and committee positions.
- develop and carry out a means of recognizing the efforts of all volunteers.
- arrange for activities to nurture individuals and provide fellowship, for example, Coffee and Conversation, Lemonade on the Lawn, Knitwits, and coordinating a list of people prepared to drive members to Church services.
- in collaboration with the Pastoral Care Minister and the Designated Pastoral Care Volunteer, provide for the pastoral needs of the congregation through telephone contact or visits to those who are shut in, in retirement or long-term care facilities, experiencing illness, bereavement or other losses and with other special needs.
- support and maintain FSA's volunteer pastoral care teams: the Caring Callers; Visitation; Prayer Chain; and Letter Writing.
- provide support to any subcommittees.

There are two subcommittees

that operate under the auspices of M&N: the Affirm Committee and the Archives Committee. The purpose of the Affirm Committee is to continue to support, challenge and encourage First-St. Andrew's as it seeks to live into its identity as an Affirming Ministry of the United Church – working for the full inclusion of people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, ethnicities, abilities and means, in the church, in the community and in the world. The role of Archives Committee is to preserve the record of the church's activities, achievements, and governance in an orderly and accessible fashion and to transfer records to the United Church of Canada (UCC) and/or Regional Archives as required by UCC guidelines on archival records. The records of congregations held at The United Church of Canada Archives constitute an important research collection for church workers and those studying the church's history.

Membership and Nurture is blessed by continuing support and spiritual guidance from Rev. Joshua Lawrence and Rev. Annie Jannaway.

Anyone interested in joining or contributing to the activities of M&N or one of its subcommittees should contact the co-Chairs of M&N (Glenna Hall, Lillian Reid), the Chair of Archives (Don Jones) or the co-chairs of Affirm (Karen Low, Annie Louise Jannaway). †

HARRIS
FUNERAL HOME LTD

Traditional Services ❖ Cremation Alternatives

For preplanning information visit
www.HarrisFuneralHome.ca
or call 519-433-7253

Family-owned & operated since 1962

AUSTIN TAYLOR
HOME FURNISHINGS INC.

1350 Fanshawe Pk. Rd. W. London, ON N6G 5B1

ph. 519.473.5400 fx. 519.473.1305

www.austinandtaylor.com



Kerry Hill

MINISTRY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Ministry and Personnel Committee (M&P) is the only congregational committee required by the United Church of Canada (UCC).

Surprised? Many are. Personnel expenses account for roughly 60% of FSA's budget. This includes staff salaries, contractors' fees, mandatory government and benefit payments, continuing education allowances, and other items.

An effective M&P Committee requires members who have experience in managing people, and an ability and willingness to occasionally handle difficult situations. An M&P committee, like any employer, sometimes walks a fine line between keeping employees engaged and dedicated, but also productive and following church procedures.

M&P Committee Duties. The Manual of the UCC outlines the duties of M&P: supporting staff in their relationships with each other and the congregation; reviewing work conditions and job tasks; developing and revising job descriptions; conducting annual performance evaluations of each employee; promot-

ing continuing education; and resolving conflicts or problems facing staff to ensure a productive and healthy work environment.

M&P responsibilities reflect two different aspects of employee management: Human Resources (HR) and Supervision. The FSA M&P committee acts as an HR department and, collectively, serves as the employer/manager of staff. Each year M&P recommends appropriate salary increases for staff. That said, significant decisions made by M&P are really "recommendations" to Council and/or the Congregation. For example, the Congregation must approve the hiring of a minister; Council must approve hiring a lay employee; Council and the Congregation implicitly approve annual salaries for staff via adoption of an annual church operating budget.

All current members of the FSA M&P committee are experienced in running organizations (two as CEOs) and/or managing people. Some have hands-on experience in HR activities. Each employee is assigned a "liaison" – an M&P member who meets regularly with

an employee and serves as a channel of communication to the entire committee. A liaison's role is one of employee support in the case of work, staff or congregation related issues that may arise. A liaison is not the employee's supervisor. It is important that FSA members and staff understand that personnel issues should be brought directly to the attention of M&P. It is not the role of ministers or Council members to intercede in staff issues.

In the past three years, FSA's M&P committee has: restructured the performance evaluation process; just finished a major revision of the Employee Handbook; developed or revised all current job descriptions; participated in hiring five staff; and dealt with one resignation.

M&P meets monthly (including over the summer months) to discuss various issues and holds extra meetings to deal with major projects. Occasionally, we consult with an outside HR expert. As one of FSA's standing committees, its Chair (Kerry Hill) is a member of the Leadership Council. The Chair is also a member of the Executive Committee.

A note on confidentiality: Much of the work of M&P must remain confidential. Some information cannot – by law or respect for employee privacy – be shared with Council or the Congregation. When Council needs to be advised of a staff situation or an M&P confidential recommendation, it is done at an in-camera session of a Council meeting, which excludes all staff and other observers. FSA members should realize that they may never know all the circumstances surrounding a staff issue and should refrain from drawing conclusions based on partial information. We're open to hearing from congregation members. †

*Reconnect with life ...
imagine the possibilities.*

BENTLEY
HEARING SERVICES
www.bentleyhearing.com

For all your hearing needs:
• Tests • Hearing Aids • Supplies • Noise Plugs

Springbank ☎ 519.936.5850
Wonderland North ☎ 519.473.5850
Boler ☎ 519.471.5850

Free Patient Parking at both locations

BBB Chamber of Commerce BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



Barb Dalrymple



David Wardlaw

This recipe comes from the Purity Cookbook, a Complete Book of Canadian Cooking (first published in 1967).

FSA Backstory

from Barb Dalrymple

In the 1970's, I started making corn relish for my family about 50 years ago, following in the footsteps of my mother. However, I used a recipe from the Purity Cook Book. It's still one of my favourites – I love the taste of it. Much to my surprise my daughter, Libby, followed in my footsteps and, using this recipe, won first prize several years in the Beaverton Fall Fair much to the delight of her husband!

from David Wardlaw:

In 2022 I was looking for a new corn relish recipe to replace one with which I was not satisfied. I mentioned this to Barb Dalrymple at the annual September corn roast luncheon in support of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Barb sent me the Purity Cookbook recipe the next day and the rest is history! I immediately made a double batch with about half of it being donated to the annual UCW fall Bazaar. In 2023, I expanded the operation by making a quadruple batch, with again about half being donated to the Bazaar (and the rest going to family and friends). It is simply the best corn relish I have ever tasted.

Recipe

Cook 6 to 7 ears of corn for 5 minutes in boiling water. Dip in cold water. Cut corn from cob and measure 4 cups. Excess niblets can be frozen for later use.

Place corn in large saucepan or preserving kettle and add:

- ½ cup chopped onions
- ½ cup chopped green peppers
- ½ cup chopped sweet red peppers
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1 ½ cups white wine vinegar
- ½ cup water
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 ½ teaspoons coarse salt
- 1 teaspoon mustard seeds
- 1 teaspoon celery seeds

Mix well; bring to a boil, then simmer gently for 10 minutes.

Separately, make a paste by combining:

- 1 ½ teaspoons dry mustard
 - ½ teaspoon turmeric
 - ½ cup all-purpose flour
- with
- ½ cup water

Gradually stir paste into boiling relish. Allow mixture to cook for about 10 minutes or until thickened, stirring constantly. Fill hot sterilized sealers and seal.

Yield: About 8 cups

NOTE: This recipe can be doubled, tripled or quadrupled with good results.



Customized Wealth Management

Great advice pays off.

Paul Creighton
Investment Advisor

Brian Dunn
Senior Investment Advisor

The Creighton Dunn Sumler Group
One London Place 1900-255 Queens Ave, London, Ont
Tel: 519-646-3004 | Fax: 519 679 8848
nesbittburns.bmo.com/creighton.dunn

BMO  **Private Wealth**

© Registered trademark of Bank of Montreal, used under license. BMO Private Wealth is a brand name for a business group consisting of Bank of Montreal and certain of its affiliates in providing private wealth management products and services.



MUSIC

Chris Fischer

“Justice and Joy”

I recently had the opportunity to attend the annual Music United conference, *Music Matters*, in Thunder Bay, ON. We discussed topics such as inclusive language and the effective leadership of new hymns, but the real highlights for me were the choral workshops, hymn festival, and worship service attended by two hundred people representing the city's seven United Church faith communities. Our singing was joyful, enthusiastic and loud!

This has led me to reflect on the reasons that human beings sing, particularly when we sing, as described by John Wesley, “lustily and with courage,” in public worship. Singing emboldens us to become the “beloved community” of the church: it compels us to reach out into the world beyond our walls, doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with our God. Justice and joy: these are the key words I want us to remember.

Our Senior Choir presented the powerful oratorio, *Considering Matthew Shepard*, in April, inspiring those present (audience and performers alike) to overcome fear and hate with love, forgiveness, and compassion. This is the meaning of making justice through song; our singing has an impact on the lives of the people around us, including the members of Queer Intersections of London-Middlesex, to whom we will be making a donation to support their programs for queer youth and adults in our region.

Singing together is not just about beauty for its own sake, but about making positive change in the world. To that end, I am hoping that we at FSA can strive to make a difference: through outreach initiatives such as our recent concert, but also through the act of singing the songs of those on the margins of our society. When we do this, we develop empathy, moving outside our comfort zones and away from “us” and “them”. Singing changes us.

The new resource, *Then Let Us Sing*, will be available this fall, introducing us to new songs that amplify less frequently heard voices, including women, 2SLGBTQIA+ folk, those with different abilities, Indigenous and racialized people, non-Western traditions, and songs in other languages. I challenge us all to embrace the potential, in our song, to transform our church into a family that practises, as Joshua regularly exhorts us, radical hospitality and extravagant welcome. This is my hope for First-St. Andrew's United Church, in 2024 and beyond. May it be so. †

Editor's note on terminology:

2SLGBTQIA+ is an acronym for Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and/or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, and the plus reflects the countless affirmative ways in which people choose to self-identify.

Folx is a variant of folks; while the word was already gender-neutral, the suffix -x is a deliberate social signal of awareness of sexual minorities (from Wiktionary).



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

Rev. Marilyn Arthur

Firstly, I want to thank all of you for your best wishes and congratulations on my being commissioned into the Diaconal Ministry in May. Thank you also for the generous and beautiful gift of my commissioning stole.

The theme this Spring and into the summer months that the youth and young adults have been passionately discussing is “Community.” It's a topic that resonates with all of us, regardless of age. We also delved into this theme during our youth/family retreat at Camp Kee-Mo-Kee. The questions we are pondering are: Who is part of your community? Where do you find community? How can we continue to create local communities while starting to learn more about our neighbours in our neighbourhoods, faith communities and the wider city? There will be activities and opportunities in the coming months to participate in meeting people and learning about others through fun and engaging events.

It is with excitement that we will celebrate confirmation with five young people during worship on June 16. The confirmation program began in January, and during our time together, we have had the opportunity to learn about our faith, beliefs, who God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are for us, teaching about the United Church of Canada, the early church, different types and ways to pray, the Bible, outreach, and justice. We put our faith into action when we visited the residents at Richmond Woods to have conversations and play bingo with the residents. We also baked cookies to hand out in the local community, learned about homelessness, and engaged in activities when we had a visit with the volunteer coordinator from Ark Aid. Each young person also had the opportunity to help lead in worship and in the life of the church during the program.

Each youth also has a mentor with whom they meet four-six times during the program to share their faith and beliefs

with each other. A resource that was provided helped them discuss the Trinity, what it means to be a servant/disciple, worship and the life of the church, their gifts, ministries, talents, and what they are passionate about as they continue to engage in outreach within the church and the wider community.

I wish you all a wonderful summer. †



CHILDREN

Christina Lindsay

It is hard to believe summer is almost here and things are winding down for another year. Children’s programming is growing quickly and plans are being made for the fall.

The children of FSA have had a successful and busy few months. On April 14, Joshua’s C.R.E.W. enjoyed some shenanigans on the front lawn as we pelted each other with love (aka NERF FIGHT!). This event was particularly exciting as we welcomed new friends from Calvary United and White Oaks United. All together, 16 kids from 4 churches came out and had a blast together! Joshua’s C.R.E.W. wrapped up our year with a weekend at Kee-Mo-Kee filled with laughter and games.

Another major success for the past few months was our children’s choir, Treblemakers. We all worked hard and did our debut musical recently for the congregation with great success. Registration for September is already open and we hope to make even more new, young friends in the fall. As with all new programs, we had some hurdles but generally, it was a positive experience for everyone. As September will start the second year of this program, we will have a better idea of how many volunteers we need each week, especially those with the safe food handling certificates, so if you have some available time on Monday afternoons 4:00 – 7:30pm, please reach out to Christina Lindsay.

The Sunday School has continued to have an average of 17 – 22 children each week. Easter was exciting with 30 children here to celebrate and have fun together. The children whole-heartedly thank all of the adults who have shared their time throughout the year with us...we love you for it! Please come back in the fall so we can make more memories with you.

Of course, FSA would not be the same without Charity and Charlie Churchmouse ensuring that the children are welcomed each week. The mice will stick around FSA in July and August keeping a watchful eye on things while everyone enjoys the summer! †

PASTORAL CARE



Rev. Annie Jannaway

My own Pastoral Care ministry was somewhat suspended in April and May due to hip replacement surgery at the beginning of April. However, I was on the receiving end of many cards, emails, visits, and phone calls which I was delighted to receive. FSA is such a caring community! I would like to thank our Volunteer Associate Minister, Rev. Karen Low, for stepping in to address the more urgent pastoral needs of the congregation during this time. Her visits, phone calls, and follow-up were most appreciated.

I did participate virtually for part of the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care (CASC) National Conference which was held in London, ON, April 14-16. There were 2 Keynote Speakers. Shadrach Kabango (Shad), a black Kenyan born rapper, hip-hop artist, and Juno award winner who grew up in London ON, spoke of his faith journey, meaning-making in music and art, the experience of new Canadians, the meaning of suffering, and spiritual inspiration. The second speaker, Rev. Dr. Carrie Doehring, Professor of Pastoral Care and Counselling at Iliff School of Theology, is a psychologist whose most recent publications explore the moral stresses of religious leadership and chaplaincy, the moral stress of student debt, military moral injury, and assessing competency in intercultural and evidence-based spiritual care.

The Workshops I viewed were: “Spirituality, Meaning-Making & Reality – Helping Clients Make Sense of Spirituality, Life and Its Events,” “What Modalities Do Spiritual Care Practitioners Use When Offering Spiritually Integrated Psychotherapy?” and “Early Exits: Spirituality, Mortality and Meaning in an Age of MAID.” I was grateful to be enriched by this Continuing Education opportunity. †

1. (c)
2. (b)
3. (a)

Answers to the FSA History Quiz (page 20)

Note: Marion Esther (Miller) was the wife of Rev. Donald MacGregor. She penned seven of her seventeen books while living in the manse. Her Sunday Club for girls was very popular. [source: 100 Fascinating Londoners by Michael Baker & Hilary Bates Near]



COUNCIL

David Wardlaw

A multi-year, multipoint plan to contribute to a sustainable operating budget for FSA was approved by Council last year. Its implementation began in earnest in September 2023 and continues unabated in 2024. The plan, including annotations indicating progress, is on the FSA website and can be accessed via the following link (https://www.fsaunited.com/files/ugd/25fec5_ad2151e83cf54a43a22271fab1510d75.pdf). A major component of the multipoint plan is fundraising to increase operating budget revenue. In 2024, this fundraising consists of: FSA Kitchen Sales (ongoing throughout the year); Helping to Run-the-Church-for-a-Day (ongoing throughout the year); sale of a 2025 FSA calendar (fall 2024); and a gala dinner event (Fri. Sept. 20, 2024).

At its March meeting, Council received a report from the Chair of the Planning Committee concerning FSA's interactions with an organization called Kindred Works. This initiative is being led by the Planning Committee augmented by others (e.g., Chair of Property, Chair of Council, and a few more). Kindred Works (KW) is an organization created by the United Church of Canada to partner with churches in redeveloping church property to provide an income stream for the church while simultaneously providing a mix of affordable and market-based housing. KW is building a nationwide portfolio of mixed-income rental housing and gathering spaces being developed in collaboration with individual churches. Initial discussions between FSA and Kindred Works have taken place. KW is currently undertaking an extensive feasibility study to look at what is possible on the FSA property and provided an interim report in April. There is no charge for the study. Completion of the feasibility study is not anticipated until late 2024 or early 2025 and an update will be provided once this study has been received and vetted by Council.

Council has approved FSA's participation in Doors Open London 2024 which takes place Sept. 21 & 22, 2024. Our participation is being coordinated by the Associate Chair of Council, Linda Badke. The Music Committee and Outreach Committee have volunteered to take part in this event.

Council has approved a name change for the Mission and Outreach Committee. It is now simply the Outreach Committee. This change came the request of, and was pre-approved by, the Committee.

A Special Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday,

April 7, 2024, at which a provisional call was issued to Marilyn Arthur, our shared Minister of Youth and Young Adults, to be appointed as a Diaconal Minister (in her current role as Minister for Youth and Young Adults). Siloam and Metropolitan United Churches have also approved a provisional call to Marilyn. She will be commissioned as a Diaconal Minister in The United Church of Canada at a meeting of the Antler River Watershed Region in late May 2024. †



TRUSTEES

Jackie Williams



Paul Cooper

In 2020, the Long-Term Giving and the Memorials Committees within the Board of Trustees, created the "Proudfoot Society Benefactor Program" to provide an opportunity for living donors to support the Trust Funds. There have been many generous donations made to the Proudfoot Society since its inauguration, enabling the value of these gifts to grow and increase the sustainability of FSA. May 19 will be Proudfoot Sunday at FSA, and this year the ceremony will recognize the new 2023 Benefactors of the Proudfoot Society, and a leaf will be placed on the Proudfoot Tree to honour the legacy gift from Jim and Nancy Hutchinson.

Our Trust Funds continue to provide FSA with significant financial support annually. These funds are thoughtfully invested to protect the principal of the funds while providing income annually for FSA operations and capital projects. Although markets experience short-term fluctuations, the Trustees are focused on the long term. This year, to date, has seen some rebounding in the markets, ensuring that the Trust Funds will continue to generate sufficient revenue to support FSA programs in the future.

Other good news is that Kenneth Wright and Barbara Plante have agreed to become new Trustees this year. The Board of Trustees is delighted to welcome them, and their years of service in many different capacities will make them invaluable members on the Board.

Prudent Trust Fund stewardship is important, not only for the current congregation and to future congregations, to give them confidence that all gifts will be used wisely, but also to those who have generously left legacy contributions in the past.

As summer approaches, we wish everyone a happy and relaxing season and time outdoors. †



We welcome Jane Glaves (standing) as our new UCW Correspondence Secretary and thank Millie Bates for her faithful service.



Justin Bertolin, kinesiologist, leads our UCW in a sample VON SMART exercise class on April 29.



The Treblemakers share a meal and practise on a Monday evening.



Saidat joins the congregation and children on April 7.



The Choir, FSA Strings and Guests present *Considering Matthew Shepard*, April 21.




L to R: Heather Locking-Cusolito, Glenna Hall, new member, Karin Symonds, and Pastor Joshua on new member Sunday, April 14.



Dancing inspired by Jazz Musicians at the Service on May 5.



Covers 
Designers' EDGE
 BLINDS | SHUTTERS | DRAPERY

Your Shade and Drapery Experts since 1987

In-Home Consultation
 Showrooms Open M-F 10-5

297 Exeter Rd. London 519-652-0222
 1950 Hyde Park Rd. London 519-660-3661
www.coverscanada.ca

Baptisms:

Adarsh Yadav: March 19, 2024

Deaths

Robert Walters: January 21, 2024

Mayme Marti: March 25, 2024

New Members

Karin Symonds: April 14, 2024



Judith Walker

The FSA manse (Farquhar House) at 356 Queens Avenue has housed many famous people in its lifetime including Mary Esther (Miller) MacGregor. Mrs. MacGregor was a noted juvenile writer.

Oakcrossing Retirement Living
a peopleCare community

BOOK YOUR TOUR NOW!

Get ready for something new in retirement living! Offering a large variety of spacious studios, one bedrooms and two bedroom suites. Enjoy beautiful decorated common areas, indulge in our culinary delights and experience all the best that retirement living can offer, rolled up in one fulfilling new lifestyle.

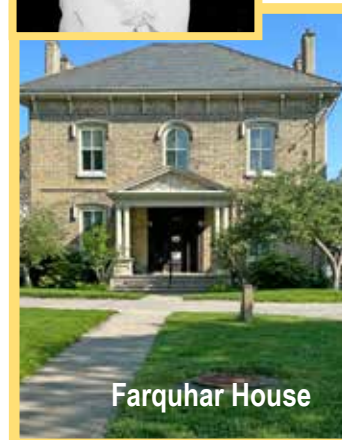
Don't miss out! Call Shelby today!

➤ www.Oakcrossing.ca ➤ 519-641-3131 ➤ Info@Oakcrossing.ca

1. She used a pen name. What was it?
a. L. M. Montgomery
b. Laura I. Wilder
c. Marion Keith
2. What was her role at FSA?
a. Choir Director
b. Sunday Club for girls
c. Organist
3. How many books did she write?
a. Seventeen
b. Five
c. Seven



? her name



Farquhar House

Answers on page 16.