

Tidings

Vol 27, No 2 – PENTECOST/SUMMER 2017

**READ ABOUT
"THE JACKET"
ON PAGE 7**

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Tidings

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GUEST EDITORIAL
Discerning the Call of the Holy Spirit
 Nancy Quinn

Here are some thoughts on this rather dense topic, offered in a spirit of opening a dialogue within each reader. As with many important faith concepts, the Holy Spirit has had other names, which in Judaism include Shekinah (the presence of God on Earth) and Sophia (feminine wisdom). St. Augustine saw the Holy Spirit as the Love between the Father and Son. Building on Augustine's interpretation, and with others, such as the poet Rumi, I posit that the Holy Spirit is the burning, dynamic, divine life force that we generate between each other as members of the body of Christ. The Holy Spirit is our love for our own 'in process' souls, one another, and for the "other"—our love is inspired by the Christ, embodied by Jesus. The Holy Spirit is also, importantly, the holy wine which we co-create in worship with the divine realm. Dancing with the Holy Spirit is an ever-changing, regenerative act which can include meditative bliss, sacrifice, and repentance.

Jesus said "I will leave you a comforter, which is the Holy Spirit" (John 14:26). Jesus warned against the unpardonable sin of "blaspheming" against the Holy Spirit (Luke 12:10). I suggest that this "blaspheming" occurs when we lose our sense of reverence for life—when we refuse to take part in the on-going drama of interacting and finding balance within ourselves, with others, and with the Divine.

Here at First-St. Andrew's we have the dove, symbol of the Holy Spirit, in the stained glass of our atrium entry, and it is embedded in the heart of our carpet crucifix. Both guardian and meditation invitation, the dove symbol invites each of us to make a personal connection with the divine. We are challenged to find a reverential balance within ourselves, our faith community, and the larger world, where we are Christ's ambassadors.

As you read the pages of *Tidings* in this Season of Spring renewal, hold your fellow members of the body of Christ gently, for they are the Holy Spirit made flesh for you to learn from and to cherish. For more history of our faith and the concept of the Holy Spirit, please see in our FSA Library *A History of God: The 4,000 Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity and Islam* by Karen Armstrong. †





Today I got an e-mail from a colleague in British Columbia Conference asking for the names of the people in London who were going to be Ordained, Commissioned or Admitted into the United Church at our Conference Annual Meeting. He wanted to pray for them by name, and ask for God's blessing to be upon them and their ministry. He sent this same e-mail to colleagues in every conference across the country, reaching out through the Power of Prayer.

Today I had someone in my office who was travelling from North Bay to Windsor because his brother had died. Over coffee he told me what tribe he belonged to, and the traditional indigenous ceremonies that would take place with his people, to honour his brother. As it turned out, I had met his uncle, one of the elders of a tribe here in Southwestern Ontario. Reaching out, we shared stories as siblings of Mother Earth.

Today I got a post from a friend who is a member of the Trans community who is celebrating that they got a new job, in an environment that has gender neutral bathrooms, and a hiring policy that supports the celebration of all people regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation. Reaching out in diversity, inclusion, and acceptance.

All three of these people are teaching us important Christian values. Maturing in our faith, and increasing our discipleship is the work of every Christian; and today I revel in all of the ways that God



(Cont'd. on page 19)



DOES ONE SIZE FIT ALL?

Steve Elson

Being involved in planning the future of FSA through the Ad Hoc Planning Committee has given me the opportunity to become more aware of what the church is currently offering, and the challenges it is facing. Many challenges are not new but the context in which the conversation is taking place is.

The reference material we have posted to the FSA website point out that the world we live in is not the same as it used to be, and that it will continue to change in significant ways.

One particular theme that has come to my attention is the notion that we live in an increasingly diverse urban community where many different forms of worship now take place. While there was always diversity, it is now more pronounced and visible. One size does not fit all and the growth of mosques and Buddhist temples are excellent illustrations.

And while this might be unnerving to some, it is also an opportunity to celebrate and welcome difference and diversity. From the point of view of sexual orientation FSA has been a leader, and our theme of Welcoming Well illustrates this point. If we consider that responding to diverse interests means offering a range of options or programmes to suit different people, FSA is already on that path through the different groups that use our facilities, as well as our own programmes, Sing for your Supper being one.

The cornerstone of our life as a faith community is our Sunday morning worship service. It is where we gather to share in a common experience, to be spiritually uplifted and to gain insights into how to live our lives better on a daily basis. Offering this one form of worship assumes that one size fits all—but does it? It meets the spiritual needs of many but in increasingly smaller numbers. From my point of view it's not a matter of taking this form of worship away, but of developing different options for those who need another form of worship to sustain and nurture them.

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



THE EAGLE FEATHER

Anishinaabeg Elder George Henry, Chippewa.

The “Eagle Feather” Anishinaabeg Niibwa (Ojibway Wisdom) represents the balance of the cognitive thinking and heart thinking of the brain, as related to mankind in reasoning.

Our Anishinaabeg Elders described Sacred gifts from (kaisay manitou) the kind Creator. We always give thanksgiving to the Kind Spirit.

There are four Sacred Kinds on Mother Earth:

- The Physical Kind—the first kind: sun (light energy), stars, planets, moon, elements; water (life) on Earth (H2O), land, space, rock, soil, from which Mother Earth is formed.
- The Plant Kind—the second kind: trees, bushes, grasses, flowers, vegetables (root crops), fruits, all plant life, sea plant life, (algae, nutrients).
- The Animal Kind—the third kind: four-legged, two-legged crawling reptiles and flying (birds) and swimmers. The ancient ones call the third kind our teachers, nourishment (energy, growth). The third kind we eat every day giving us (nourishment and growth).
- The Human Kind—the fourth kind. We were given the philosophy of reasoning through symbolic mediums conscious/unconscious.



Our gift is to look after all the above Kinds. We are the stewards of Mother Earth as we hurl through space at the speed of light. All life is in a cycle of the elements.

In our Mind, Body and Spirit we always give thanks to the kind spirit every day. From this comes our interconnectedness (Spirituality). †

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CELTIC SPIRITUALITY

David McKane

At its height Celtic civilization stretched across Europe, and while many people think of it in terms of Ireland and Scotland, it all began in what is present-day Armenia. Paul's letter to the Galatians is his letter to the Celts, though by the time Christianity came along the civilization of the Celts was in decline. The Celts worshiped the sun, so it was easy for Patrick to lay the sun over the cross (the Christian symbol for the Son) and give us the Celtic cross.

One of the central aspects of Celtic culture was speech. As an oral culture words were important and carried great power. Storytelling, myths, poetry and song were of prime importance, as were proverbs, riddles, prayers and blessings. "Three things cannot be recalled, the spent arrow, time wasted, the spoken word." The gospel beloved by the Celtic church was that of John, "the Word becoming flesh ..." and John's totem is the eagle, the one that can look into the eye of the sun/Son without blinking. So in many British/Celtic churches the Bible/Word rests upon the outstretched wings of an eagle. Spirit stories, hero tales, the Authurian legends,



The year was divided into four seasons beginning with Samhain or Hallowe'en, moving through Beltane, Candlemass or Groundhog Day, Imbolc, May first and Lughnasadh, the feast of the sun god at the beginning of August. For the Celts all life, plant and animal, begins in the dark, and all outer actions begin with inner thoughts. So the Celtic year, like the Christian year, begins in darkness and moves towards the light.

sweat lodges and night visions or dreams are all part and parcel of Celtic spirituality, as is the power of place. The natural world was considered a doorway into the mind of the Creator, so science became a natural outcome, the way of the fish, the wisdom of trees, the healing of herbs and ointments, the "sacredness" of the land. Perhaps the simplest way to think of Celtic spirituality is this: "Find a wrong and spend your life to make it right." That's it in a nutshell. ✚



TARA AND DOUG GONDER

David McKane

In his play *Twelfth Night* Shakespeare notes that “journeys end in lovers meeting.” That was certainly the case of Tara and Doug Gonder. While Tara was born in Montreal, both she and Doug grew up in London. After completing high school Doug

Marketing Committee, his avocation is NASCAR racing, a sporting event for which he is an inspector of rules. His passion takes him to such exotic places as Daytona, Mosport, and The Brickyard. If you’ve ever wondered what an inspector of rules entails just ask Doug to explain the procedures of starts and re-starts, car and driver changes, and what is and is not allowed on car livery; you will be suitably impressed. Tara is a past Chair of the Stewardship Committee, but drama, dance



went off to Fanshawe while Tara attended York and Western universities. Upon graduation Doug went to work for Bell Canada, where he is still employed, while Tara taught high school English, Dance and Music, picking up her qualification in Library Science, before retiring from Saunders. Tara and Doug met at Green Hills Golf Club—Doug was playing golf and Tara was there with her dad who was receiving an award. Their stars aligned and they were married in First-St. Andrew’s in 1986 and have been active in the life and witness of FSA ever since. Doug, a third generation member of FSA, is active in both church and community. While he serves on the Communications and

and music feed her soul. When not singing in the church choir you will find her learning her lines or her dance steps for the next play. A recent recipient of the Brickenden Awards for her part in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Tara has just finished *Twelfth Night* at the Palace Theatre with the London Community Players.

Doug and Tara are the proud parents of two remarkable children. Son Gareth is a third generation employee of Bell Canada, while daughter Ainsley is completing her studies in Urban Planning at Western. “Be not afraid of greatness,” says the bard; just say hello to Doug and Tara when you see them around FSA. †

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THE JACKET

David McKane

I have an old jacket I wear for gardening and other chores. It began its life as a fashionable Barn coat, but it's now old and stained with oil, grease,

pen-knife—a gift from a friend—secateurs, an old pair of gloves, and a packet of Fisherman's Friend, well beyond their "best past due date," rather like the jacket and myself. The jacket, of course, is filled with memories—pushing children in strollers, fixing up old church manses, tending a long list of gardens, building two cottages, long walks with several

family dogs, or just sitting on the deck or the end of the dock soaking up the memories along with the day. It hangs in the hall closet alongside much newer raincoats and ski jackets, but I never open the closet without greeting it like an old friend, gently caressing it and sometimes just slipping it on for the sheer pleasure of the feel of it.

My faith is like that old jacket. Gifted to me years ago by another generation it wraps me around and gives me comfort. It, too, has many pockets filled with odds and ends picked up over the years; childhood hymns, favourite passages of Scripture, scraps of poetry, a tangled skein of various theologies, too many memories to name. It, too, has stains or marks of this or that theological struggle, this General Council decision, this LGBT struggle, this confession of sin or that Apology, this personal faith encounter, this crisis of faith, this moment of grace. It also has a pair of secateurs for pruning and encouraging growth and an old packet of "fisherman's friend," faith stories and songs that sing

me through the darkness into the light.

Once it used to define me, perhaps it still does, but these days sitting on the back deck with grandchildren or walking down memory lane with old friends, I just wear it for the sheer pleasure of the feel of it. ✚



grass and dirt. It's kind of a relic, bought years ago, for those who remember, in Eatons in Toronto. Its pockets are filled with an odd assortment: pieces of string, several wood screws, candy wrappers, several buttons that need re-attaching, a tape measure, an old



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Jim Silcox

Chris Silcox, Mathematics Learning Coordinator for the Thames Valley District School Board, was the recipient this year of one of the Board's Awards of Distinction. The awards were

established by the Trustees in 2000 to recognize members of our school communities who model the Board's foundation principles and make a significant difference in improving student learning. Congratulations, Chris!

At Huron College University's Convocation Ceremony on May 11th, Kerry Stover was honoured for "Citizen Leadership." This is awarded to ... "a second year, full-time student who has demonstrated, through academic work and field education, community leadership, tolerance and respect for all human beings, personal devotion and deep faith, and an ability and commitment toward the work of Christian leadership, recognizing personal ability, the gifts of others and the work the church is called to exercise." We at FSA think this is a much deserved reward and wish Kerry



Chris's family watch their dad at the Awards of Distinction Event



At the 2017 Annual Meeting of London Conference, our own Joyce Payne was installed as the new president. Our best wishes to her as she sets out upon a very meaningful role with the United Church.

all the best as he moves on to complete his theological training. †



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KEN WHATMAN
Pat McGregor

Knowing that Ken is a busy man, I sent him a list of questions to answer at his convenience without having to take up time arranging a face-to-face interview. He kindly provided the following information:

What brought you to FSA? “While it should be obvious, the reasons that brought me to FSA are well known to the congregation; however, I do want to share that it was with much prayer and long discussion that the decision was made. For Terry, the decision was very easy, but for me I had a management position with Peer Support South East Ontario, as well as a small congregation at Calvary United in Kingston, Ontario, where I served as their student minister. I realized that God was moving Terry to ministry here in London, and I felt that if God made a way for Terry then I would follow knowing God would also make a way for me.”

What do you like about FSA? “I must say that since coming to FSA right from my first visit I have felt I am not treated as the partner of Terry Head, but treated as an individual with my own talents and not under the shadow of my partner. A person of this congregation came up to me to ask a question and I immediately thought this would be regarding Terry, but they made it very clear that they wanted to get to know something about me. This genuine and purposeful attention to who I was and who I am made me feel very accepted, and I have to admit that is a quality that I have not always found in other churches.”

Where did you live before coming to London? “I have lived from one side of Canada to the other, originally born and raised in Peterborough, Ontario. However, my life as a minister has taken me from Dawson Creek to St. John’s, Newfoundland. My role has included pastoral care to health care administration.”

Who comprises your family? “As the partner of Terry, we are celebrating our 10th

anniversary this summer. I also have two children, Mark in Winnipeg, and Craig in Vancouver, and two grandchildren, Skylar and Joshua.”

What do you do for work? “I work from home over the ‘phone where I coach people from B.C., NWT and Nunavut. The calls support people working through addictive behaviours and crisis management with the Help Line.”

What do you do for fun? “I enjoy public speaking and earned my DTM with Toastmasters International, where I achieved many awards. I love playing piano and singing. I also am a puppeteer, ventriloquist, magician, and yes at times, a clown.”

What do you like to eat? “I have been strictly a meat and potatoes type of person most of my life; however, after meeting a fabulous cook I have learned to be more adventurous in the foods I eat. Over the years, I have become more conscious of needing a more balanced diet. I would have to admit that my favourite food is peanut butter, so wherever I go, if someone serves any form of peanut butter, I am at home.”

What feeds you spiritually? “As a person who cares about others, I am fed generally when I can be of help. I love the word of God, and listening to sermons. I believe at FSA, we have both inspirational and challenging messages most Sundays. When I can put my faith in action that is when I truly feel being spiritually fed.”

If you haven’t formally met Ken yet, please take the opportunity to introduce yourself, and let him know that we consider ourselves blessed to have him as part of the FSA family. †





COUNCIL
Easter in Germany
Bob Swartman, Chair

I spent Easter this year in Germany and, as you may be aware, Germany has strong traditions in matters of religious faith. This year is the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's 95 Theses, whereby began the Protestant Reformation in Europe. He called into question some of the basic tenets of Catholicism, and his followers soon split from the Catholic Church to begin the Protestant tradition. One tenet was Indulgences that were a means for rich people to be forgiven their sins by payment to the church. In 1517, Pope Leo X announced a new round of Indulgences to

Lutheran women played their violins with a 20-voice choir in an old Catholic church dating back to 1688. I wondered how many wars have been waged in that part of Bavaria in the intervening 329 years! But the church is still intact, both structurally and spiritually, and on Easter Sunday was packed with about 150 people! After lunch we spent Easter Sunday afternoon in a Munich beer garden.

Barbel's partner, Heinz, is a Bavarian born mechanical engineer, so he and I got along famously. Heinz was a Catholic until some years ago, when Josef Ratzinger was Archbishop of Munich (1977–81). Heinz left the church in protest over some issue and the former archbishop later became Pope Benedict. I asked Heinz where the church will be in 15 years and he predicted there will not be one!

When I am in Germany I try to understand what happened to bring us into the Second World War and I can see similarities to what happened in 1933 to what is happening in the USA today; many Germans confirmed this thought. However, I hope

"Germany has strong traditions in matters of religious faith."

help build St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, and in October of that year, an angry Martin Luther wrote his 95 Theses. Though he intended these to be discussion points, the Ninety-Five Theses laid out a devastating critique of the Indulgences as corrupting people's faith. Some friends translated the Ninety-Five Theses from Latin into German.

Aided by the printing press, copies of the Ninety-Five Theses spread throughout Germany within two weeks and throughout Europe within two months. It was 62 years previously that Johannes Gutenberg had invented the printing press, and completed his Gutenberg Bible. About 180 copies were printed and a copy still exists in the Gutenberg Museum in Mainz. The new invention was like the cell phone today! The Catholic Church eventually moved to stop the act of defiance by Luther and he was excommunicated. Thus began the Lutheran church that is still the dominant protestant church in Germany.

On Easter Sunday morning I went with Hanne's sister, Barbel, and her two daughters, to Oberpframmern, a small Bavarian village about 20 kms south of Munich. Bavaria has a strong Catholic tradition and the three



the world will continue to unfold as it was meant to, in spite of the challenges posed by our neighbour to the south, and that First-St Andrew's will continue to provide leadership in London. †



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Stephen Adams

The unifying thread running through many of our worship services since Christmas has been Indigenous spirituality and its intersection with traditional Christianity. Michelle started it off in January by telling us about the Teaching of the Light of Four Directions, and MOE sponsored a very special service on February 5th with a visit from the Indigenous leader Rev. George Henry. Michelle then organized the services through Lent inspired by the seven sacred teachings of Love, Respect, Courage, Honesty, Wisdom, Humility, culminating on Easter Sunday with Truth.

The Greening of the Cross on May 21st is not directly connected with this series, but it seems to grow out of it very naturally. Every



Sunday seems a special day of some kind at FSA, but some of the others stand out as memorable. UCW sponsored a guest speaker for January 22nd—Nancy Sutherland. On Mother's Day, May 14th, we said farewell to our beloved Rev. Tom Hiscock and wished him a well-earned retirement. And on April 30th, there was a very moving double header devoted to the young people of our congregation: First, the junior choirs presented their musical on the *Image of God*, under the direction of Terry Head, with a host of dedicated volunteer assistants. Then this year's Confirmation class celebrated the completion of their programme, each of the four confirmands speaking briefly to the congregation. Personally, I found their messages very meaningful, and I know that wherever their future paths lead, they will be taking a part of FSA with them. †



MEMBERSHIP & NURTURE

Audrey Coulthard

The committee welcomed Mason Robichaud at the beginning of the year. As a member of the Youth Group, he keeps us informed of their activities and provides feedback from this committee of Council.

A proposal to formalize the position of Roll Clerk was approved by Council to be ratified by the congregation at the AGM. Terms of reference have been drafted and the Policy and Procedure will be revised on approval. Jo Ann Silcox currently assumes this responsibility.

Thanks to individuals and committees who continue to prepare and serve refreshments following Sunday service. Lemonade on the lawn during the summer starts on June 11th. Heather Locking Cusolito and Deanne Pederson continue to organize this important time of fellowship and appreciate your support.

Discussion by the committee members affirmed the importance of the Pastoral Care ministry following Rev. Tom Hiscock's retirement. Appreciation for the support he has provided to the committee was celebrated with cake (made by Glenna Hall) and ice cream at his final meeting with us in May. †

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MISSION, OUTREACH & ENVIRONMENT

Marilyn Beach

East London United Church Outreach (ELUCO) continues to support families living in poverty in East London. Nancy Howard, our outreach worker, provides programming and a listening ear, attends meetings with families at appointments with schools, Ontario Works, Settlement Meetings and Court, to name but a few. Food programmes include a Collective Kitchen for adults, Growing Chefs for youth, a breakfast and weekly lunch programme for school-age children, the Welcome Wednesday weekly lunch and social programme, as well as the Food Cupboard. Fun activities Nancy organizes such as trips to a maple sugar bush and a summer picnic

and swim at the Langford Farm, are the highlights of many families lives.

Registrations are now due for children to attend Camp Kee-Mo-Kee. More donations are needed to allow these children the opportunity to get away from the city, explore nature and learn new skills. Camp donations can be sent to: Nancy Howard, East London United Church Outreach (ELUCO), P.O. Box 32013, London, ON, Canada, N5V5K4.

Does ELUCO sound like the kind of organization with which you would like to get involved? Do you want an opportunity to really make a difference in ending poverty in London? ELUCO is looking for someone like you to become a member of our board. We need your new ideas and fresh perspective. Please contact Linda Badke (519-432-5420 or linda.badke@rogers.com) for more information or to attend one of our meetings.

Notes from Carol Langford, Chair of ELUCO

2016 was an exciting year for ELUCO as we undertook an entirely new venture—a trip to Haiti for seven youth from the ELUCO community. Nancy [Howard] and I had talked about the possibility of doing this for some time, but never were really sure that it would or could happen. But happen it did! Board support was unanimous but the caveat was that financial support had to come from outside sources. Numerous funding proposals were submitted and we received generous financial support from the United Church Vision Fund, Middlesex Presbytery Division of Mission and Outreach, UCW groups and many individuals. The Youth Team members participated in car washes, BBQs and a silent auction. Funds raised covered air fares, in-country transportation, and food and accommodation in the host community. Orientation sessions were held for the youth and their parents, but perhaps the greatest challenge was securing passports—the final passport came through two hours before the group left. With great trepidation on the part of the youth—some had

never been outside of Canada, some had never slept in a hotel, some had never flown—they set out on a life-changing journey, and what a journey it was! They worked side by side with Haitian youth planting gardens, painting play equipment, and experiencing life in a different culture and country. On their way home all of the youth were eager to return to Haiti and the new friends they had made. They keep in contact via e-mail and texts with the hope of returning to re-establish these friendships. It will be most interesting to follow these youth in the months and years ahead and witness the impact of this experience on their lives.

ELUCO is truly blessed to have Nancy Howard as its Community Outreach Worker. She is dedicated and committed to the Marconi community and the ELUCO ministry. She spends countless hours supporting and advocating for members of the community, collaborating on programmes for adults and youth, ensuring camp placements for youth and Christmas Share baskets for families. All these activities and many more are carried out with love, faith and caring.

CANADIAN FOODGRAINS BANK GROW-A-ROW

Jean Knowles

We have had our kick-off—many of you have made your contribution for the 2017 Campaign—and I know many of you still plan to make your donation to this our 22nd year in conjunction with our friends at St. Marys United. As you know, your funds are matched at a 4-1 ratio—\$1 = 5—to help our neighbours in South Sudan, Yemen, Somalia, Syria, etc., who are in famine or war situations. Envelopes are still available on the tables in the Atrium and Narthex.

Mark your calendars now for Sunday, September

10th, for our terrific Corn Roast, with all the trimmings, to be held in Proudfoot Hall right after church. The guest speaker will be David Epp, our representative from the CFGB, who will be able to answer all your questions.

ST. PAUL'S DAILY BREAD

A number of you attended the 9th Annual Soup and Sandwich Dinner on Monday, May 15th, at The London Club. This is the major fundraiser, with a Silent Auction. Thanks so much to those who attended. Many less fortunate Londoners depend on this food bank and the kind volunteers who serve them.

Thanks also to the folks who kindly remember their regular contributions to the Shopping Cart in the Atrium and White Baskets located around FSA. †



MUSIC
Merran Neville

This has been an amazing first year with our new director of music, Terry Head. We've enjoyed the Advent and Lenten series of recitals and lunches, with Terry performing on the organ in each series; two winter concerts—*Winter Interlude* and *Shakespeare Sings*—and the spring concert on Saturday, April 29th. This final concert *From Sea to Sea to Sea*, celebrated Canada's 150th anniversary, with slides prepared by Terry to enhance the whole event. The programme featured inspiring music written by Canadian composers, including our own Jean Anderson-Wuensch. The Senior Choir welcomed the participation of the FSA Strings

in this concert.

The children's choirs delighted all with their performance of the musical *In the Image* on Sunday, April 30th. Congratulations to Terry, Jane Dockrill, Allyson Watson and Gabriela Ocadiz for all their hard work in preparing the children for this performance.

The Laudamus Bells look forward to participating in "Festival 2017," which is being held at McMaster University in Hamilton May 25th–27th, and culminates in a concert on the evening of May 27th. Terry is one of two guest conductors at the Festival and is a member of the board of directors of the Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers (OGEHR), which is responsible for organizing this event.

We look forward to exciting music-making in the fall. Watch for news of planned events. †



Nancy Quinn



From Sea to Sea to Sea,
April 29th



Sonja Gustafson



Jean Wuensch



Bruce Richardson



Terry Head & The Laudamus Bells at a Lenten Recital



Children's Musical, *In the Image*, April 30th



CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Allyson Watson

Christian Development would like to begin by thanking all of our many collaborative partners this spring. We worked with BBL to provide a great *Mining the Mystery* series. The proceeds from these talks were able to purchase a new portable sound system for the church and send at least one child to camp. This wonderful group of men also helped us with the Pancake Supper. We have thoroughly enjoyed working on these two projects together and look forward to future endeavours.☺

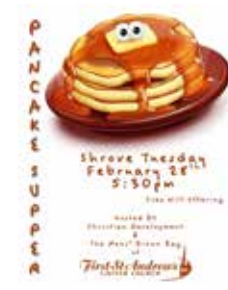
Next, we would like to thank the MOE and Worship committees for working with us to produce the 2017 Lenten

Project. We raised approximately \$1,200 to donate to the Heritage Week at Camp Kee-Mo-Kee. Thank you for your support of this project, and we hope you were able to take something positive away from your journey.

Thank you to all the participants and helpers that made the musical a success. Congratulations to the new confirmands at FSA: Jade Mahabir, Claire Jones-Fright, Mason Robichaud and Hanna Patterson!

We will be hosting Vacation Bible Camp from July 10th–14th. Please contact Jane Dockrill to register. This is a great way to have your grandchildren visit for a week and have them entertained during the day.☺

Turkey Pot Pies are back on the menu for the fall, if you are interested in ordering some, please grab an order sheet from the office and submit your order ASAP. †



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY, APRIL 30TH



Mason Robichaud



Claire Jones-Fright



Hannah Patterson-Bullick



Jade Mahabir




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COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Jim Silcox

The C & M elves have been toiling away this past quarter helping to promote a variety of FSA functions, including the Petrolia Playhouse Cabaret evening, the Sea to Sea to Sea choir concert, the Remember, A Sentimental Journey event and the Rummage Sale. With the Brown Bag Lunch, we have put online (on YouTube) the videos of their Mining the Mystery series and we are currently working with MOE to help promote the

White Squirrel Golf Event. On Saturday, September 16th FSA will once again play host as a Doors Open site. Watch for more details and be sure to tell your friends of this great opportunity to see the interior of one of London's landmarks.

In all this flurry of activity, we have come to realize that FSA is such a busy place that there is a real risk that some events may compete with others for congregational and community attention. To that end we are working with Council to come up with a fair and easy policy for sponsoring groups to run their dates past us to ensure that they have a reasonable "window" of time for promotion of their event. Stay tuned as we get this initiative underway. †



UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Nancy Quinn

Retrospective:

With gratitude to our many faithful donors, the *Phantom Tea*, organized by Millie Bates, raised over \$1,100.00. At our meeting, March 15th, Pam Cullen, Chaplain, using an effective Powerpoint slide show, introduced us to the essential outreach work of the *London Community Chaplaincy*. Two centres serve Limberlost and Southdale; see <http://www.londoncommunitychaplaincy.com/> for more on this important work. *The Rummage Sale*, Saturday April 22nd, was a great success, raising \$3,301.00. Many thanks to Jan Hendry, our co-ordinator, and to the many able volunteers who worked tirelessly to prepare and then welcomed people on the big day.

The UCW forged a trail into new territory by having a Desert Concert on May 6th, as part of FSA's 185th anniversary celebrations. The UCW invited all to come and enjoy *Remember—A Sentimental Journey* concert, featuring nostalgic music from film, Broadway, and popular song. A symphony of heritage desserts followed in Proudfoot Hall. FSA musicians, Nancy Quinn, soprano, and Jordan Baldwin, tenor/violinist joined with producer/arranger/pianist Norm Abbott, music director of Dundas Street Centre, our sister United Church.

The concert was a success with nearly \$400.00 in proceeds given to Middlesex UCW Presbyterial for *Bread Not Stones*. These funds will help advocacy efforts on behalf of the more than 9,000 children living in poverty here in London. On May 30th, United Church women from across London (FSA was well represented) joined together for a *Rag Doll Workshop* at Wesley Knox to make *dolls of hope*. The goal is to make enough dolls in the workshops to be able to present one doll of hope to each MP in Canada's House of Commons. At the presentation there will be a call to work diligently to develop a *National Poverty Strategy*. For breaking news see <http://www.endchildpoverty.ca/bread-not-stones.html>

Upcoming:

Monday, June 19th at 9:00am: Middlesex Presbyterial UCW Annual Camp Kee-Mo-Kee. Registration is \$5.00. Workshops, fellowship, singing. Bring a lawn chair and come and enjoy.

Saturday, July 22nd: 8:45am to 3:00pm at Siloam United Church: London Conference UCW, "Sustaining Hope." Glen Pearson is the speaker, with SOUP providing entertainment. More details to follow.

Saturday, September 23rd: A trip to Leah Morise's home in Fingal, with lunch out and live music at Leah's. Details to follow. †





Rummage Sale Bounty



Cast of Remember, A Sentimental Journey, May 6th



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**TOM'S RETIREMENT
LUNCHEON, MAY 14TH**



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

is working in and through our church. As a minister I am blessed to intersect with these kinds of incredible people every day. People that are sharing gratitude for the way God is working in their lives.

FSA is working to develop a new vision for our future. An emerging consensus is budding with hopes of new opportunities to grow in our strengths of music and the arts; to cultivate partnerships with other organizations and churches to nurture spiritual growth, and to work in service and community for social justice and outreach. So as we plan for the summer, I want to ask you ... how are you maturing your faith and increasing your discipleship? How are you reaching out in prayer, action, mission or justice? How are you using your life, to better the lives of those around you, and around the globe?

We are blessed in so many ways, so let us be a blessing to others. Let us intentionally give our gratitude to God, and lift our hearts in praise, and our hands in service. Let us make every day a day like today, where people are prayed for, honoured in life, death and life beyond death, and celebrated, accepted and included for who they are.

In Faithful Discipleship—Michelle



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DID YOU KNOW?

KEEP THE DATE

from the UCW

- Mon. June 19th at 9am — Middlesex Presbyterial UCW Annual Kee-Mo-Kee Day
- Sat. Nov. 18th — Boutique Bazaar

From Communications & Marketing

Sat. Sept. 16th — We host Doors Open

From MOE

Sun. Sept 11th — Corn Roast

From CD

July 17–21st — FSA Vacation Bible School

MILESTONES

Marriages:

- Stuart James McKay and Tanya Lynn Marshall, January 14th, 2017
- Joseph James William MacDonald and Janet Reeva Hudson, May 10th, 2017

New members by Confirmation/Baptism:

April 30th, 2017

- Mason Brent Robichaud (confirmation and baptism)
- Hanna Marie-Lynn Patterson-Bullick (confirmation and baptism)
- Claire Elizabeth Jones-Fright
- Jade Dawne Xiang Hong Mahabir

On June 12th FSA's Archives Committee has been invited to meet with the team currently working on renovation of the site where the gravestones and remains from the old St. Andrew's Cemetery on St. James St. were interred in Woodlawn. A report on the visit will be featured in the fall issue.



Easter, inside and out



Steve introduces the Planning Committee Report at C & C



Social Time

CHURCH STAFF

Minister, Worship and Congregational Life
The Rev. Michelle Down (Ext. 1)

Minister Emeritus
The Rev. Dr. David McKane

Designated Pastoral Care Volunteer
Jo Ann Silcox

Director of Music
Terry Head (Ext. 5)

Church Administrator
Heather Vouvalidis (Ext. 6)

Youth and Young Family Coordinator
Jane Dockrill (Ext. 4)

Administrative Assistant/Receptionist
Jane Dockrill (Ext. 0)

Facility & Maintenance Coordinator
Tim Miedema (Ext. 7)

Part-Time Custodian
George Jolink

Atrium Steward
Barry Tiffin

Nursery Care
Kendra Shouldice

Organist Emeritus
Paul Merritt

Volunteer Associate Minister
The Rev. Karen Lowe

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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