

*First-St Andrew's*  
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# Tidings

Vol. 32, No. 4, 2022

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS/EPIPHANY

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# Tidings

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## Editor's Message



David Wardlaw

**T**he focus of this issue is mission and outreach. The feature article by Steve McGinnis is about the ongoing international work of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGFB) in helping those experiencing food shortages and food insecurity, and also teaching some of those in this situation how to improve local food production. FSA, in partnership with St. Marys United Church, makes an annual donation to the CFGFB via the Grow-a-Row campaign. At the local level, there is an inspirational Our Neighbours article about the East London United Church Outreach (ELUCO) organization by Nancy Howard who is its community worker. ELUCO is sponsored and financially supported by a number of local United Churches including FSA. And back to the international scene, the Outreach article by Anne Cummings describes the Canadian end of the immigration journey of a recently arrived Syrian family for whom FSA was the formal sponsor and for whom a local constituent group of 6 dedicated volunteers, including Anne, were the 'doers' who shepherded the process, step by step.

This being the last issue of *Tidings* published in the calendar year, it is again time to thank and acknowledge the many people who contributed their time and talent in 2022 to make this magazine vibrant and sustainable. There are far too many individuals to list by name, so I'll recognize the myriad of volunteers in groupings. First, there is the *Tidings* team as listed on the inside of the front cover. Next, the authors of the articles and reports most of whom are within our midst and some of whom are authors from elsewhere, often having been guest speakers at a worship service. Finally, there are the fiscal contributions that make possible the high-quality hard-copy printing of each issue, namely our paid advertisers and the congregation as a whole by virtue of approving an annual budget for Communications and Marketing that includes a supplement to the advertising revenue. To all of you, I express my sincere thanks and deep appreciation for the high quality of your varied and valued contributions to *Tidings*.

The *Tidings* team wishes you a peaceful, joyful, and restorative holiday season. May Advent provide opportunities for reflection, worshipful moments, faith development, and sharing the joy of this season. †



# Adaptive Transformation



Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

*"It's been a long/A long time coming/But I know a change gonna come/Oh, yes it will." (Sam Cooke)*

**A**re we, as Gandhi suggested, invited to become the change we wish to see? Which, of course, means changing our practices and attitudes as an example for others. Are we change-makers at the legislative level (national, provincial, local), consistently advocating for policy shifts towards inclusion, reparation, and adequate climate response? Or, are we to embrace the changes that are already happening around us, internalizing the emerging wisdom from our young people as well as those who have been pushed to the margins of mainstream society? The answer, which we at FSA would most likely give, is (D) All of the above!

But how do these changes work, and how do we fit into the ever-evolving landscape of which we are a crucial part? As some of you will know, through friend or family, our Bible Study group has been focused on a combination of Biblical texts and contemporary sociological theory, specifically the work entitled, *The Uncontrollability of the World*, by German scholar Hartmut Rosa. In this text, Rosa argues that modernity—and we are perhaps late moderns—can be characterized as the “hope and desire...that we can make the world controllable.” Unfortunately, Rosa sees the consequence of this disposition as a view of the world which is strictly aggressive, not relational or invitational. In other words, when we only seek to

control or master the world, any resistance to our effort must be met with force. In this view, the world does not address us, but merely stands in our way. To make things worse, our consistent efforts to place the world under our control has led to disastrously uncontrollable events, many of which all humans have experienced over the past few decades. From climate change to geopolitical tumult, our world feels increasingly unstable due in large part to our consistent pursuit of control.

Now, what does this have to do with us? Well, I believe that the Biblical witness and that of other wisdom traditions the world over, communicate an alternative vision of human existence. This vision can be articulated as a kind of “call-

and-response.” We are “affected” by the needs of another, by an event, by a work, and are invited to respond appropriately as persons capable of entering into a constructive “dialogue,” not simply with words but more importantly, with our actions. This “accommodating” and “attuned” response leads to adaptive transformations that are crucial to our survival and the survival of all life. As one

expression of the Church, I would like to invite us to consider anew how we are being invited this “season” to respond. And in responding, how are we adaptively transformed to meet the needs of increasingly dynamic situations. I believe that this understanding of our selves will help us to achieve more fruitful dialogue and generate more emancipatory spaces where both safety and abundance can be experienced, not just by humans but by all our relations. †

»How do we fit into the ever-evolving landscape of which we are a crucial part?



# ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY AROUND THE WORLD



Steve McInnis\*

**C**anadian Foodgrains Bank is committed to working with people around the world to feed hungry people. As of a few years ago, together we have channeled one billion dollars toward that aim. In 2021-2022, we provided over \$52 million of assistance for over 939,000 people in 34 countries. We're making a difference in many lives, although at \$56 per person, no one is getting rich!

Despite these efforts, the world hunger situation continues to deteriorate. In 2022, approximately 828 million people live with food insecurity, 98% of them in developing countries. That number is expected to grow this year because of the war in Ukraine. The good news is that the Foodgrains Bank continues its mission in 34 countries around the world.

Canadian Foodgrains Bank has been able to raise money from individuals and growing projects. There are currently about 240 growing projects, including 100 in Ontario. Last year, the Canadian Government agreed to extend the traditional \$25 million annual core grant for another three years. There were also matching



grants provided through the Humanitarian Coalition, of which the Foodgrains Bank is a member, for hunger relief in some of the drought-stricken areas of Africa and the severely flooded areas of Pakistan.

There is one Canadian Foodgrains

Bank relief project that I want to mention. Afghanistan is suffering, but it has been hard to deliver relief there. Over half the country, 24 million people, is said to be hungry. The Foodgrains Bank has funding for cash vouchers for 2000 households. Funding for this came from many members of the Foodgrains Bank, including the United Church. The bad news is that the Canadian government doesn't allow this relief work to take place because the Taliban is a terrorist organization. Other countries have managed to get around this issue, but not Canada. You can help by sending an email or letter to your MP and to the Prime Minister. It's

somewhat automatic at [www.aidforafghanistan.ca](http://www.aidforafghanistan.ca). Contacting your MP with your concerns is like voting twice. And it's perfectly legal.

Next door to Afghanistan is Pakistan, where significant flooding occurred.



Think of the dead, the bereaved, the homes destroyed, the infrastructure, and the crops lost. Another desperate country is Syria, where 12.4 million people, or 70% of the population don't have enough food to eat. Canadian Foodgrains Bank, through our member agencies and their partners, delivers aid for these and other people.

The primary mode that Canadian Foodgrains Bank uses is to provide emergency food assistance to villages of hungry people, or groups of refugees. Don't think that there are too many people and we can't grow enough food – it's a common refrain. There is a surplus of food in the world. When Canadian Foodgrains Bank provides food overseas, we don't send Canadian-grown food, but we buy local food and redistribute it. The food is there. However, fertilizer availability is down, cost is up everywhere because Ukraine and Russia won't be supplying as reliably this year.

We also work with farmers to improve farming practices to cope with climate change. In many parts of Africa, small-scale farmers have commonly experienced poor crop yields or failed to generate any crop at all. Canadian Foodgrains Bank members work with local farmers to improve their crop yields using the techniques of conservation agriculture (CA).

Pastor John Mbithi in Kenya converted his fields to CA. The first priority is to reduce tilling so that the soil retains moisture and resists erosion. Pastor John is enthusiastic about his crops. He has insects that take some of his crop, but, he says, "They can't finish". Ever the gracious host!

Pastor John is also an interesting illustration of changing gender roles in Kenya. Typically, a family's husband and father provides for his family and takes the role of farmer and making all the decisions. However, following crop losses in recent years, the head of the family and young men leave home and look for work in a nearby town or city. The men then provide for the family through their wages. This leaves many

women at home to continue trying to grow crops on the dry land. In Pastor John's case, however, his wife has a job in Nairobi, and Pastor John remains to farm the land. He might be the head of his household, but he told us that "All the clever men will consult their wives to make decisions. Only the stupid ones make decisions on their own."

Pastor John is not actually in the poorest of the poor category, and we would normally want to help the most needy. He would fit in the category of richest of the poor. The strategy is to convert this cohort over as leaders in the community, so Kenya will have numerous example farms and experienced farmers to train the less affluent. The

to future years. Typical of rural African households, Susan's husband has a job in the city, and she manages their farm. She intercroops maize and beans and has seen a huge improvement.

In her field of maize, she had three-meter-high stalks. People – perfect strangers – came by and asked her how she did it. She will take the top half of the stalks for animal fodder, keep the middle third for mulch and leave the rest in the ground.

Thank you for your good work that you do in Jesus' name and celebrate with me the successes, like the ones I mentioned when I spoke at FSA in September. You are helping Pastor John, Susan, and thousands of others. †



**Pastor John Mbithi**

risk of changing farming practices is not easily embraced by farmers living at a barely-subsistence level.

One of his neighbours is Susan Waja. Susan is an example of a younger woman farmer who has adopted CA. Obviously, the young need to adopt CA to keep expanding the technology

*\*Steve McInnis is an Ambassador for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and was the guest speaker at FSA for Canadian Foodgrains Sunday on Sept. 18. The article is based on the reflection he delivered during the worship service.*



Nancy Howard\*

*We are called to be the Church!*

**E**LUCO (East London United Church Outreach) is an incorporated ministry of the United Church of Canada supported by Mission and Service. Founded in 1984, recognizing challenges faced by impoverished families, ELUCO began its outreach ministry in East London. It's somewhat disheartening to realize the plight of poverty has not changed much in all these years. Still, we remain committed to our mission to advocate for and support people who build community in the midst of challenging circumstances. Our work is simply our Christian faith put into action.

We offer programming at the request, and to meet the needs, of the current community. There is an underlying focus on the development of life and leadership skills. Our current preferred structure is to offer short targeted workshops addressing topics such as literacy, employment readiness, stress management, self-care, mental health and addictions. No doubt, it is through these programs that some individuals have come together in community and even formed otherwise unlikely but lasting friendships.

Food security is a concern for our families and a number of our programs address this need. We have our ELUCO Emergency Food Cupboard, and Welcome Wednesday Lunch Program in Northeast London. Our School Lunch



# The Church Has Left the Building

Program, Breakfast, and Snacks are offered in Southeast London to our Marconi Community. We distribute grocery gift cards and Harvest Bucks to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables

assistance and Children's Aid. Along with other agencies, ELUCO advocates for changes within the system such as income security, bans in winter hydro disconnections, transit subsidies, and affordable housing. You might be surprised and inspired by the resilience of some of our marginalized and vulnerable individuals as they face life's challenges.

Many of our community members have absolutely no support system, so perhaps what matters most and the greatest gift we have to offer is just being there to listen with an open mind, to reach out in love and understanding, sometimes to help with a solution or a referral to another agency. It's this

personal connection that sets ELUCO apart from other agencies. And it's this personal connection where seeds are planted for individuals to find the courage to believe in themselves, where hope is fostered.

A non-profit organization, ELUCO



**Welcome Wednesday Lunch Program**

at our local markets.

Sponsorship programs include Christmas Share, Back to School Supplies, Registration to Camp Kee-Mo-Kee, and our ELUCO Post-Secondary Education Scholarship fund. In some cases, this helps relieve the burdens of an already stretched budget and in most cases, it's an opportunity realized that would otherwise have been missed.

ELUCO continues to support and join initiatives to seek social justice for our families. Often, we become the voice to negotiate and resolve issues with landlords, utilities, social

is as vulnerable as the community we serve. Our Board of Directors and



**Partnering with London Public Library for stories, rhymes and activities**

countless volunteers, including many who use our services looking for a way to give back to ELUCO and the community, work hard to enable our continued ministry. Only with the support we receive from churches, UCW, organizations, and generous individuals, is ELUCO able to offer our programs and services. Both the UCW and the congregation of FSA share in our commitment

to social justice and outreach. ELUCO is most grateful for all of the support we have received in our longtime partnerships. Thank YOU!

As Christians there's a code of conduct that sets us apart from non-believers. In our hearts we seek to uphold the ways of God, to love one another, to be hospitable and caring for all. Challenge your hearts and minds to find ways in

your everyday living to ensure that the Church has left the building. Be the Church. †

*\*Nancy Howard is the Community Worker for ELUCO. She was the guest speaker at FSA for a worship service celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Church Women (UCW) on Oct. 16. Further information about ELUCO is available at [www.eluco.ca](http://www.eluco.ca).*



Anne Cummings



## to our Syrian Refugee Family

It was with great joy that FSA welcomed a Syrian refugee family at a reception in Proudfoot Hall after the service on Nov. 6. Husband Feras Aldakkak, wife Waad Al Sawas, their toddler, Zeinab, and a new baby coming soon arrived at Toronto's Pearson

Airport on Oct. 13 after two years of delay in their application to immigrate due to COVID restrictions.

I have been part of a group of six retired Londoners who did the necessary paperwork to bring this couple to London to join Feras's parents and siblings, who had been separated from each other for 11 years. We were required to partner with an established refugee organization that was recognized by the Canadian government and found World Renew in Burlington which used to be the Christian Reform Relief Committee. World Renew required that there be a local organization, such as a church, to provide support for immigrants at the local level. In 2019, both the Mission and Outreach (MO) Committee and Council agreed to support this application with Barb Dalrymple and me becoming signatories on documents. Our Trustee Co-Chairs (then Doug Jones and Jackie Williams) also got involved as signatories with Kamar (Feras's sister) for releasing monthly expense money that was held in trust at the family's bank. This remarkable London family provided all the money needed to support Feras and Waad in their first year in London.

World Renew staff have been very helpful in guiding us through much paper work and for expediting this application in

September so that Waad would be able to fly before she was too pregnant to be allowed on an airplane. I was privileged to be present at the airport when the couple arrived and signed their release papers on behalf of FSA. What a homecoming

it was for this lovely family with many tears, hugs, and smiles!

In attendance at our reception were Feras's parents, his sister who is providing a furnished basement apartment for this family, and his nineteen-year-old niece, Kaltoum, who provided translation at the reception for the family members who do not speak English yet. Kaltoum is in first-year science at Western and is an example of how much the second generation of immigrants can benefit from their move.

Both Pastor Joshua and David Wardlaw, on behalf of Council, gave lovely, heartfelt welcomes to these refugees and their family by promising our continuing support for them as they deal with a new home and culture. They congratulated the couple on overcoming the many obstacles to getting here and saluted them for their courage and perseverance.

To show our love and caring for this couple, we gave them gifts from our Knit

Wits of warm knitted and crocheted blankets, scarves, toques, shawls, baby clothes, and a snuggly for the new baby. There was a welcome cake and a tray of Syrian sweets made by a member of the local family. The Arabic symbols for the word, welcome, were projected on the screen on the stage. Many thanks to MO for serving the cake, providing drinks and doing the cleanup. We are all part of a great outreach team! †





David Knoppert

# Bill Knowles

(August 1935-July 2022)



**W**illiam (Bill) Knowles was born in Toronto and grew up in the west end. In the early '60s Bill came to London with his buddy, Jack O'Brien. They both worked for CN and remained good friends, staying in contact right up until Bill's death this past summer. Jack would visit Bill in London, or Bill would visit Jack in Niagara on the Lake, and it would always be dinner together at a pub.

At CN, Bill met Jean. That opened up a whole new world for him. Bill and Jean were married in 1965 and lived in an apartment in downtown London. So began their relationship with FSA. They were able to walk to work, to church, to the theatre. In time they moved to their one and only house in Byron.

It was, and still is, difficult to think of Bill or Jean without thinking of them both. They did everything together, whether it be volunteering on the MO Committee at FSA, St Paul's Daily Bread, Grow-A-Row, Orchestra London rummage sales, etc.

Bill really discovered the Scottish side of his family after he met Jean. He had several cousins in Scotland, and a cousin in England. To Bill, this was his family. He had one sister, who died when she was relatively young. Bill and Jean visited his UK family every 2 years. On alternate years they visited the world. Their 50 years of travel together resulted in about 120 photo albums with perhaps 250 pictures per album. Their local trips to Stratford, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Toronto are well known by friends at FSA.

Their legacy will be their support for outreach and social justice, as well as their support of the arts. There probably will never be a couple quite like Bill and Jean at FSA. Jean was the go-getter; Bill tagged along and was always supportive of all the activities in which both were involved. They would often finish their volunteer days with a meal at a local restaurant and

a glass of red wine.

Jean passed away suddenly at home in November, leaving Bill at a loss. Jean was his whole world. They were a pair and did all of

their activities together. Jean took care of all finances, planning, cooking, shopping etc.

Fortunately, their close friends, Eileen Howay (the sister of Jean's best friend, Mary Harris) and her husband, Herman Sahrman, came to Bill's aid. Bill moved to an apartment just around the corner from FSA. He was able to easily walk to church, go to the theatre at the Grand or in Toronto with friends. He also took a trip to the Canary Islands and to Victoria. These activities helped Bill, but every day he would tell us how much he missed his beloved Jean.

And then, in March 2020, COVID began and Bill felt more isolated than ever. Finally, he could no longer live on his own and it was time to move to a retirement home. This was a major move, and a real challenge for Bill, who craved his independence. Bill's health continued to worsen, and in July 2022 he elected medical assistance in dying. Bill passed away, very much at peace with the world and his life, surrounded by his closest friends. The mention of their names immediately conjures up recollections of their volunteer work and enjoyment of life as a couple. Spiritually, Bill and Jean are together again.

Plans are being made to create a Jean and Bill Knowles Endowment Fund at FSA to honour their contributions and create an everlasting legacy to this wonderful couple. †

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Merran Neville

## Madeline Berman and Daryn Nowlin

### Eberhard Vocal Scholars 2022

In September, we welcomed our two new Eberhard vocal scholars, Madeline (Maddie) Berman, soprano and Daryn Nowlin, mezzo-soprano. It is through the generosity of the Eberhard family that we are able to offer an Eberhard Memorial Music Scholarship to two Western students each year. Since 1988, the scholarship has enabled us to bring vocal scholars from the Don Wright Faculty of Music to join the senior choir.

We are indebted once more to Professor Patricia Green who teaches voice performance in the Don Wright Faculty of Music at Western, and for the third time has assisted in advertising the positions and finding singers for us. Daryn first met Professor Green a couple of years ago at the summer opera program, La Musica Lirica, (<https://lamusicalirica.com/>) held in Novafeltria, Italy. While attending this summer program for a second time this past summer, she met Maddie who was attending for the first time. While they didn't sing together in the summer, they are now able to do that in the FSA Senior Choir. They performed the duet "Laudamus Te" from Vivaldi's Gloria on Sunday, October 16.



Madeline Berman

Maddie is in her second year of undergraduate in vocal performance, studying with Professor Patricia Green. She grew up in Burlington and began voice lessons at age 10. During high school, Maddie performed many singing and dancing roles in school and community musical theatre productions. At the time of writing, Maddie is covering the role of Hansel in the UWO Opera production of Hansel and Gretel. In spring 2022, she performed in the chorus of the UWO Opera Gala and on February 12, 2023, she will be a featured soloist in the UWO Opera Gala. During the summer program in Italy, Maddie was a soloist in the Opera Scenes Concert and sang in the chorus of La Bohème.

Daryn joins us from Lamoni, Iowa, U.S.A. and in September entered the first year of the Master's program in Voice

Performance and Literature. Prior to coming to Western, she attended Graceland University, Lamoni's resident university, as a third generation student. There she completed a double major in Vocal Performance and English with a minor in Creative Writing. Daryn's interests were more in musical theatre and jazz and it wasn't until

her senior year that her passion for classical vocal music was manifest. Because of the La Musica Lirica experience, she was inspired to pursue classical music to a higher degree and meeting Professor Patricia Green there led to her decision to come to Western.

During her time at Graceland U., Daryn placed first in a concerto and scholarship competition, performed the lead roles as Molly in Ghost, Velma Kelly in Chicago and Captain John Powell in the play Men on Boats. Daryn was the invited guest speaker and performer at her 2021 graduation ceremony.

Daryn is also thrilled to have had the opportunity to perform as the Witch in the UWO production of Hansel and Gretel.

Daryn has ambitious and exciting plans for the future. She would like to travel the world performing in many different mediums, may they be opera, musical theatre, film, plays, etc., while running her own freelance copywriting business. She is so thankful to be a part of the congregation and such a welcoming community.

Both Maddie and Daryn are thankful for the experiences they are having at Western and here at First-St. Andrew's. And we are fortunate to have two such talented young singers as members of our senior choir. Welcome Maddie and Daryn!



Daryn Nowlin



Susan McKane

*Cynthia Simpson*



**Y**ou may have seen Cynthia Simpson moving swiftly up/down the aisle on a Sunday morning – she is a self-described “very fast walker” – in fact one of her pastimes is her 8-10 km walk with friends on a weekend!

But she is so much more than that! She is “Mom” to two grown daughters (Andrea in Toronto and Katherine in Ottawa). She is a crossword and jigsaw puzzle, and book enthusiast (no ebooks, thanks!) and she enjoys working on short term, focused projects at FSA like the Grow-a-Row campaign, reader/greeter, or the Bazaar. Folks who have worked with Cynthia on various projects describe her as a creative, humorous, clever, enthusiastic, and “get-it-done” person. Cynthia sat on the Christian Education committee for a number of

years and also chaired that committee – but is stepping away from committee work for now.

Cynthia grew up in Chatham and attended a United Church there as a child and teen. She moved to London to do a B.A. and then an M.A. in Library and Information Science, and landed a job as librarian with the Middlesex Law Association immediately after graduation – remaining in that job still.

The story of her arrival at FSA is an interesting one. As a new parent, she began her search for a church in London where her children could experience a faith community as she had. She started her search at FSA and never looked further. Do you know why?

That morning the children of the “Gone Fishing” program were performing at the service and Cynthia was drawn by both the involvement and the honouring of the children that day. Who knew that “Gone Fishing” would result in such a great catch! Keep fishing! †

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**FSA History Quiz**

(from the Archives Committee)  
Answers on page 14

**Time to test your memory:**

- In what year was the first edition of *Tidings* published?
  - 1979
  - 1981
  - 1985
- That same year the recently established Youth Group presented a production of “Easter Response.” The director of the show was:
  - Doug Jones
  - Gordon Hill
  - Don Jones
- In 1982, the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of FSA, a production of the acclaimed play “Proudfoot Papers” was presented. The opening date was:
  - September 5
  - October 20
  - November 5



Winnie Wake\*

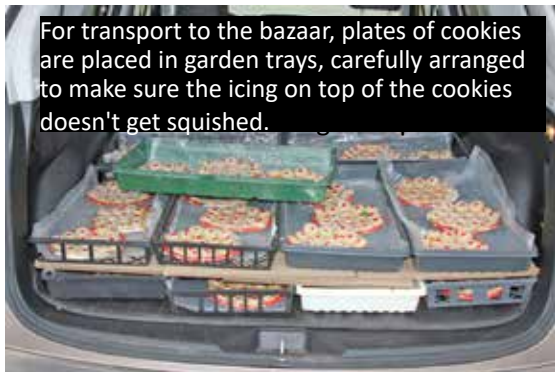
# A Short(bread) Story

A purist probably wouldn't call them shortbread, though others often do. Here is the story behind the Scotch cookies that have regularly appeared at the FSA bazaar in November.

When I was growing up on Prince Edward Island in the 1950s and '60s, my mother made Scotch cookies as part of her regular baking repertoire. Containing icing sugar as a sweetener, her cookies were never decorated or associated with any particular season. Still, we children considered them a treat and were always delighted when a fresh batch appeared.

After my mother passed away and my father remarried, our stepmother introduced a new recipe and a new tradition to the household. Each year in the weeks before Christmas, she made great quantities of Scotch cookies, each topped by a generous daub of creamy-white icing and a snippet of red cherry. The cookies were packed in little boxes and tied up with ribbon. Then she and my father made the rounds of the neighbourhood, delivering cookies and stopping for a brief visit and to extend Christmas greetings. Additional cookies made their way to nursing homes, shut-ins, relatives, lonely acquaintances and whomever it was thought might enjoy a puckle (an old PEI word for a small quantity or amount) at Christmastime.

After I married Dave Wake in 1984 and moved to London, I continued the Scotch cookie tradition, following my stepmother's recipe. That first fall, in rummaging through a loaf pan of kitchen miscellany inherited from Dave's grandmother, I discovered the perfect cookie cutter. Small and with gently scalloped edges, it has been the defining shape of my Scotch cookies for almost 40 years. As a bonus, it created cookies of just the right size to fit 19 on a small Christmas paper plate. I was in business!



For transport to the bazaar, plates of cookies are placed in garden trays, carefully arranged to make sure the icing on top of the cookies doesn't get squished.

For a number of years, I delivered Scotch cookies to neighbours, friends, relatives of Dave's, and anyone who might appreciate a little treat at Christmas. Somewhere along the way, I also began baking these cookies for sale at the FSA bazaar. People seemed to like them, perhaps because the bit of red cherry on top looked so festive. To meet the demand, I began baking in early October and stockpiled the cookies in the freezer. The week before the bazaar, I thawed and decorated the cookies, thereby ensuring the icing was fresh. Dave, the

self-appointed quality control inspector, was always a great help with decorating and packaging. Some years Anne Cummings or Diane Knoppert helped out too.

When the cookies were at the height of their popularity, people sometimes went to extra lengths to make sure they got a plate before the supply ran out. Occasionally someone would offer an inflated price to a person who had some cookies in their possession. Choir members came up with their own ingenious solution. Since Dave sang in the choir, some hoped for first dibs, ahead of the bazaar crowd. Accordingly, on Thursday nights in early November, Dave would arrive at choir rehearsal with the back of the car loaded with plates of cookies. After rehearsal, sales transactions took place under shadowy lighting in the FSA parking lot.

In December, after I had time to catch my breath following the baking spree for the bazaar, I embarked on a second round of baking. This time was purely for giveaway to friends, neighbours, family, and others. Between the two baking stints, some years I made and decorated as many as 150 dozen Scotch cookies. Whether purchased or received as a gift, my hope has always been that each of these little cookies brings a spot of joy to someone's Christmas season. †

\*Winnie's recipe for Scotch cookies is found on p.12



## Scotch Cookies (a.k.a. Christmas Shortbread)

Winnifred Wake

### Ingredients:

- ½ c brown sugar
- 1 c butter (room temperature)
- Speck of vanilla
- 2 c flour

### Procedure:

1. Cream sugar and butter together. Add vanilla.
2. Mix flour in thoroughly, working in the last by hand. Add up to ¼ c more flour, if needed\*\*.
3. Divide dough into two balls. In turn, place each on a floured baking board and flatten somewhat. Use a well-floured rolling pin to make a smooth surface and the desired thickness.
4. Cut out cookies and place on a greased baking pan.
5. Bake in pre-heated oven at 300° F until undersides of cookies just start to turn golden (use a lifter to peek under the corner of a cookie). Baking time depends on thickness and diameter of cookies and may range from about 10 mins to 20 mins or more. Keep an eye on them!
6. When cookies are cooled, make icing by mixing a blob of soft butter, icing sugar, milk, and a speck of vanilla. Spread on cookies, and top with a small piece of red glace cherry.

*\*\* If, after baking, the cookies have cracks on their tops or are overly tanned, cover with a thicker coat of icing. If the cookies have spreading bottom edges, feed them to your partner and, increasing the amount of flour, make another batch for the bazaar or give away.*

## Seville Orange Marmalade

Laurel Kenney

*This pre-confederation marmalade recipe was handed down to Laurel's family from her grandmother, Celia Warwick Scoffin.*

Seville oranges are available from January to March only at select stores. During the making of the marmalade, keep all the water and juice you can. It will contain some of the pectin from the fruit which will make the marmalade set (no external pectin is added).

### Ingredients:

- 5 large Seville oranges (or 6 medium)
- 1 lemon
- 6 cups water
- 7½ cups white sugar

### Procedure:

- 1) Scrub the oranges and lemon well with hot water. Place them into a large, wide saucepan and add enough water to cover them. Cover pan and simmer gently for 2 hours until the fruit is soft. Do not let the water boil; add some water if needed to keep the fruit covered. When the fruit is soft, turn off the heat and remove the fruit with a slotted spoon. Let it cool for about 5 minutes to make it easier to handle.
- 2) Cut each fruit in half and scoop out the pulp back into the pan of water. At this time, you can start to remove the seeds of which there will be many. Slice the rinds thinly into strips and keep moist until needed. Put the pulp mixture with juice into the canning pot and bring to a boil for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. This step is important because it cooks the pulp thoroughly and helps preserve the marmalade.
- 3) Line a colander with dampened cheesecloth (or a jelly bag) and place it over a large bowl. Strain the pulp mixture from the saucepan through this. Gather the ends of the cheesecloth together and twist out the remaining juice. There should be 6 cups of liquid; add water to make up the difference if necessary. Put the cheesecloth contents, the strained liquid from the large bowl, and any any added water back into the saucepan and add the rind strips. Pick out the rest of the seeds if necessary.
- 4) Add the sugar and stir contents over low heat until the sugar is dissolved. Bring to a rapid boil, stirring very often for 25 – 30 minutes, until setting point is reached (nominally 220°F). Remove from the heat. Stir for 5 minutes to prevent floating fruit, and skim off any foam. Ladle into sterilized jars and seal with sterilized lids. Let the jars sit in place as long as possible to give them a chance to set properly. Makes about 8 x 250 ml. jars.

**NOTE 1:** *It is a good idea to have your jars and lids already sterilized before step 4. This can be done during step 1 when the fruit is softening.*

**NOTE 2:** *Laurel's way of testing for the setting point is to have 2 small saucers in the freezer to chill. To test for setting point, drop a small spoonful of liquid onto 1 chilled saucer. Refrigerate it for a minute then run your finger over the marmalade. If it wrinkles, it is done. This test may have to be repeated a few times until setting point is reached.*







**COUNCIL**  
David Wardlaw

At its September meeting Council approved recruitment for a part-time Pastoral Care/Visitation Minister subject to subsequent approval of an updated job description and delineation of a sustainable funding model for the salary. It is reliably anticipated that a significant portion of salary for this position will be covered by investment income from a pending Trust Fund donation dedicated to the fiscal support of FSA's pastoral care ministry. The steps required by the UCC in order to advertise a ministerial position are now being undertaken, and Council gave final approval for proceeding at its November meeting.

At its meeting in October, Council endorsed three priorities to guide planning and decision-making for the next few years. These priorities were identified in the Council-Staff workshop held on Oct. 4, 2022 and are as follows:

1. Focus attention on service/outreach
2. Promote and facilitate intergenerational Involvement
3. Promote and facilitate inter-congregational and inter-faith collaboration

The intention is to assess, in quantitative terms, progress

on these priorities in the fall of 2023, possibly at a follow-up workshop. In the process of arriving at these three priorities, the foundational pillars of Faith, Service, and the Arts were reaffirmed and will continue to serve an important complementary role in planning and decision-making. That is, the degree of alignment of a proposed initiative, activity, or project with both the three priorities and the three pillars will be critically assessed.

Council has endorsed a renewal of FSA's partnership with Ark Aid in order to provide a 'campus' for the 2022-23 Out of the Cold program which provides overnight shelter for homeless individuals during the winter months. A small working group representing FSA was authorized by Council to meet with Ark Aid staff to refine operational details and arrive at a proposed lease and operational agreement for 2022-23 for presentation to Council. Final approval was given at the November Council meeting. The Out of the Cold program is set to begin at FSA on Dec.1 and run for four months. †



**MUSIC**  
Merran Neville

It has been a busy fall with many wonderful services, all seeming to celebrate some special occasion or other. This of course keeps our organist, Paul Merritt and choir director, Viki Meredith, very busy as they plan, well in advance, the music for our weekly services. The Laudamus Bells have played in a number of services. The choir staff soloists and our two Eberhard vocal scholars, guest string players, and a brass quartet with timpani have also participated. In all, a rich panoply of beautiful music.

Concerts leading up to and through the Advent season included:

- FSA Strings with their director, Igor Saika-Voivod, on Wednesday, November 23, 2022. This concert was dedicated to the memory of Geoff Nuttall, first violinist and founding member of the St. Lawrence String Quartet (SLSQ). Geoff and his family attended FSA and the SLSQ performed at FSA on several occasions.
- Sing-along Messiah on Saturday, December 3 – this was a collaboration with the FSA Senior Choir and the London Pro Music choir plus the FSA Strings, piano, trumpet and percussion. Paul Grambo and Igor Saika-Voivod shared the conducting of this performance.
- Friday Noon Advent Recitals – Dec 2: Sonja Gustafson, soprano and Francesca Ranalli, mezzo soprano with Lynda Kennedy, piano; Dec 9: Margaret Trethewey,

flute and Paul Merritt, organ; Dec 16: Laudamus Bells, Richard Frank, director.

By the time you read this issue of *Tidings*, some of these concerts will have occurred, but with posters and handbills around FSA advertising them we hope that you have been able to attend some.

Sunday, November 27, the first Sunday of Advent, was the annual Lessons and Carols, a much-loved service. That evening, the 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Carol Service of the Royal Canadian College of Organists (RCCO) was held at Metropolitan United Church. FSA Senior Choir members and choirs from other local churches and the Salvation Army London Citadel Band participated. Paul Merritt was the organist, Viki Meredith conducted one of the anthems and Joshua gave one of the readings.

We thank everyone who brings their musical talents to be part of the music scene both in enriching our worship and in concerts. The Music Committee and all choral and instrumental performers wish everyone a peaceful Christmas season.†

#3  
#2  
#1  
1981  
Don Jones  
October 20  
Answers:  
**FSA Quiz Answers (See Quiz on page 10)**



## MEMBERSHIP & NURTURE

Heather Locking-Cusolito

Our committee is delighted to welcome two new members, Bev Lindsay who has assumed the role of leading the Prayer Chain and Lillian Reid who is ensuring that new people in the pews are being acknowledged and offered such things as mail slots, name tags and eblast registration. At the same time we have reluctantly accepted the “retirement” of Deanne Pederson whose presence and hard work on the committee over many years has been a blessing we are all going to miss.

The report of the work of the Pastoral Care Task Group (Heather Locking-Cusolito, Kerry Hill, Barbara Ridgewell, Jo Ann Silcox and Jackie Williams) was tabled at the September meeting of Council. We are happy to report that a motion to authorize recruitment for a paid part-time position to provide pastoral care to the FSA community of faith was unanimously approved. Work on a position description and funding options is underway.

In order to incorporate new volunteers into our pastoral care teams, Mary Mattar, who coordinates the Lay Visitation Team, Annabelle Logan, who coordinates the Caring Callers Team and Heather Locking-Cusolito recently met to reconfigure the teams. We hope to announce training opportunities for volunteers in the New Year.

With the presence of some new and returning familiar faces in the pews we are planning to resume the Newcomers’ Friendship Group, an opportunity to gather with members of the congregation in order to learn more about one another

and share the many opportunities that FSA has to offer. If you or anyone you know is interested in learning more about the programming at FSA, or meeting other members of the congregation, please plan on attending on Wednesday, January 18, 2023 from 7- 8:30 pm. For more information feel free to contact Glenna Hall or Heather Locking-Cusolito. Preliminary plans for a New Members Sunday in the Spring are also underway. If you or anyone you know is interested in joining the FSA Community of Faith please contact Pastor Joshua or Heather Locking-Cusolito.

Recently as part of our Affirming ministry, Pastor Joshua coordinated two important events. On November 19 at 7 pm a service to acknowledge the Transgender Day of Remembrance was held at FSA. On December 1 at 7 pm the World AIDS Day vigil was held also at FSA.

Finally, we have resumed Coffee and Conversation following our Sunday service. Since it has been two and a half years since we last had Coffee and Conversation, there have been a few hiccups this fall. We are, however, very thankful for the work of the following committees who have volunteered so far– Membership and Nurture, Planning, and Mission and Outreach. Because Christmas and New Year’s Day fall on a Sunday this year we have elected to forego coffee on those Sundays.

Finally, as always, we are filled with gratitude for the many ways that each of us contributes to nurturing and supporting one another in many ways every day. †



## MISSION & OUTREACH

Barbara Dalrymple

### St. Paul’s Social Services

The Daily Bread Food Bank opened in the 1970s to meet what was supposed to be a time-limited need. It continues almost 50 years later. Since the beginning of 2022 food has been distributed to some 5,000 people on its client list, as well as 660 homeless individuals. Their costs for fresh eggs and milk powder have increased significantly with inflation. The donation from the White Squirrel Golf Tournament was used to buy a freezerless refrigerator to store fresh produce.

The Fellowship Centre is now providing hearty lunches on Thursdays. During 2022 they have served over 3,000 lunches.

Here is a quote from Orlo Miller’s history on the 1860s depression. “St. Paul’s opened one of 5 soup kitchens in the city to attempt to meet the staggering needs of the poor. The Cathedral ladies took baskets of food and scuttles of coal to poor families at a time when inflation was high and paid work was scarce. The 19th century also faced repeated outbreaks

of cholera in the city.”

FSA continues to collect non-perishable food items for St. Paul’s. Bags of onions and potatoes are also accepted. You may also donate at [stpaulsocialservices.ca](http://stpaulsocialservices.ca) and receive a tax receipt.

### Indwell

Tenants began moving into the 67 one-bedroom and 5 two-bedroom apartments at Embassy Commons, 644 Dundas St. in November. The grand opening will take place in the new year. There was also a groundbreaking ceremony for the next project on the old Victoria Hospital site.

### Ukraine Appeal

UCC members donated over \$1,350,000 to the Ukraine appeal. This money has been sent to the ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together) which is working in Ukraine and surrounding countries supporting 1.7 million refugees.





## Grow-a-Row 2022 Campaign Report

Cynthia Simpson

The 2022 project has now ended, and we are pleased with the results of our shortened campaign. We were concerned that donations would be down with a compressed marketing campaign, but our FSA family rose to the challenge. This campaign is done in partnership with St. Marys United Church and our 2022 donation total to date is \$7115, which is close to last year at this time (\$7290). Of that, First- St. Andrew's has raised \$4,055, which includes donations in the amount of \$125 in memory of Jean and Bill Knowles. We are still waiting on the proceeds from the sale of the crop, but it does appear that we are on track to be close to or exceed our 2021 funds raised. This is matched 4:1 by the Canadian government. Thank you to everyone who donated to this worthy cause and attended our Fall Corn Roast.



## Refugee Sponsorship Report

Shannon Hawke

On October 17 the Canadian government opened a temporary program allowing private groups or organizations to sponsor Afghan citizens currently living outside of Afghanistan as refugees, but who have not been able to get UN refugee status. As spots are limited to 3000 applications, time is incredibly limited for the Refugee Committee to get the applications in for a family being sponsored by FSA. Thanks to a gracious loan from the Church Trustees, the Committee was able to fulfill the financial obligations set forth under the program and is, at the time of writing, diligently filling out the necessary paperwork to bring all 6 family members to London. \$40,000 has been fundraised to date, and we are planning many exciting opportunities over the coming year as we fundraise to repay the loan.

Be sure to check out the working group's classified ads in the weekly bulletin. If you have any offering you would like to donate to the classified ads please reach out to David Knopfert. This process continues to be a massive undertaking, but one that is worth every minute spent as we work to bring the family to London. Our goal of getting them out of the dangerous and uncomfortable situation they are enduring in Pakistan has never felt more urgent. We are very hopeful their applications will be accepted through this new program, and we look forward to the day we welcome them to their new home in Canada.

†



## PLANNING

Steve Elson

It is with sincere sadness and appreciation for a life well lived that the Planning Committee at its October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting took time to reflect on Bob Swartman's long-standing contribution to the committee and to FSA. For more information about Bob's life and work visit the Solcan website – [solcan.ca](http://solcan.ca) and then click on history. This is the solar company Bob founded.

The Planning Committee is pleased that David Manness and John Eberhard have joined as liaison members from the Board of Trustees.

It is often said that when one door closes another one opens – and the Planning Committee is feeling that way about the fact that a local non-profit organization has expressed interest in renting parts of St. Andrew's Hall. Our fingers are crossed that a meaningful long-term relationship is possible, as we have with Ark Aid.

A sub-group of Planning Committee members has agreed to develop a framework for a strategic planning process for FSA – something we have been missing.

As a revenue generation idea, another sub-group of the committee is exploring the merits, and what would be involved in advertising FSA as a wedding venue.

Yet another sub-group is looking at putting a communal garden on the grounds of FSA using raised beds. This is seen as a neighbourhood outreach and engagement project.

As a follow-up to a workshop involving Council and staff held on October 4<sup>th</sup> the Planning Committee has agreed to develop follow-up steps and strategies to translate three general priority areas into action. The three opportunities for action are:

1. Focus attention on Service/Outreach
2. Promote and facilitate intergenerational involvement
3. Promote and facilitate inter-congregational and inter faith collaboration.

†



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## ARCHIVES

Don Jones

Church members who have been in the church for many years will be interested to know that many of the bits of information that have found their way into the Archives are now the focus of the Archives Committee. The information that we are required to keep for the United Church Archives has been reorganized into boxes to avoid dust and temperature changes. Our attention has turned now to organizing what we are referring to as Miscellaneous (articles, photos, information). Although not required to maintain this information, none of the committee members feels we should simply discard it because it represents the passion and the efforts of many of our members both past and present.

An example of such 'miscellaneous' information is a huge scrapbook prepared in the 1970s by Merrie Young, a very active member of the choir and diligent worker for all things musical in the church. This scrapbook contains calligraphy written pages of information, newspaper articles, photos, and descriptions of many of the FSA events of the time. It highlights the work of our Church musician, composer and recitalist, Barrie Cabena, who emigrated to Canada from Melbourne Australia to be our Director of Music.

There are many other 'miscellaneous' keepsakes found in the Archives, including special awards, articles from the London Free Press about our church, information about our ministers, such as John Y. MacKinnon, Alex Farquhar, Moir Waters, Angus MacQueen, Piercey MacLean, Frank Meadows, and David McKane, among others. At present there are many things happening with Joshua as our leader, such as the Ark Aid Project in the winter of 2021-22. These events will find their way into our extensive archives collection as they happen.

Our FSA website is a treasure trove of information about our church. Under the Archives Tab on the website, you will find many of the miscellaneous items that we have been organizing for safekeeping. You can even read the *Tidings* as far back as the year 2000. †



## TRUSTEES

Jackie Williams

Paul Cooper



In re-reading the Trustees Report for the December 2021 issue of *Tidings*, it is striking what a difference a year can make. The FSA Legacy Funds one year ago were at a high point, but the past year has seen a severe downturn in the stock markets and much volatility in our economy. This has made selling any of our investments inadvisable, and the Trustees have gone to great lengths this year to make sure all FSA expenses are covered from cash positions from assets that have matured at prescribed periods during the year.

Our Trust Funds continue to provide FSA with significant financial support annually. Our Trust Funds are conservatively invested to protect the principal of the funds while providing income annually for FSA operations and for necessary capital projects and repairs. Although the stock markets have been low for all of 2022, and may be so for some time yet, the Trustees are always focused on the long term. We expect that even with the current uncertainty, the Trust Funds will continue to generate sufficient revenue to support FSA programs and repairs in the future.

The Investment Committee meets regularly with our professional investment advisors to make the best investment decisions. To date in 2022, financial support for FSA operations totalled approximately \$140,000 without drawing down capital. This included capital projects such as the work on the church's stained glass windows, installing security gates on an outside entrance and upgrading some of the exterior lighting to LEDs. Also, over half the cost of installing Livestreaming equipment within the Sanctuary was borne by the Trust Funds, but with a sizeable amount coming from personal donations within FSA.

We still must be careful in prioritizing new projects, giving our current and future congregations confidence that all gifts are used wisely to sustain the ongoing financial health of our beautiful church. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of a member of our congregation, we should soon have a new, part-time individual to deliver pastoral care to those in need.

Peace and blessings to all from the Trustees during this holy Christmas season! †

Bob Peel 519.203.5000 peelvideo.com info@peelvideo.com



**WORSHIP**  
*Jo Ann Silcox*

In recognition of the many areas of overlap in services to be provided, Worship and Christian Development have elected to meet jointly as the Faith Formation Committee—collaborating in ensuring that multi-generational opportunities for gathering are honoured wherever possible.

The Youth assisted in a November service and we look forward to similar conjoint efforts in the months ahead as we welcome newcomers of all age groups to the corporate life of First-St. Andrew's.

We have been blessed by the willingness of clergy from other United churches and retired clergy to provide leadership in Worship—namely Revs. Karen Low, Ann Corbet, Tom Hiscock, David McKane, Paul Ross, and Kerry Stover and anticipate pulpit sharing with Metropolitan in the summer months.

As we look forward to rejuvenation of the Children's Ministry in the months to come, intergenerational worship will become an even more vital part of our shared life together.

Adult Bible study, under the capable leadership of Pastor Joshua, is proving to provide a fertile ground for individual and group exploration of scripture as we seek to be more fully grounded in Christian traditions.

Wherever possible it is our aim to join our sister congregations in conjoint opportunities to worship God in new ways, not only on Sunday mornings but in the community at large. †



**FINANCE**  
*Laura Wood*

As we wrap up our Stewardship Campaign for this year, we have been reminded of how your gifts and talents have been the linchpin that has enabled us to stay strong and nimble during these challenging times.

At the end of September 2022 (Q3) FSA's operating expenses year-to-date exceeded revenue by \$86,000. Trustee support from the Proudfoot Fund has been budgeted at \$100,000 for 2022. The Proudfoot Fund contribution is not included in calculation of the above mentioned operating deficit at end of Q3 but will be taken into account at the end of the 2022 fiscal year.

The Finance Committee has spent considerable time this year investigating any variances between budgeted and actual revenue and expenses. This year we have worked closely with other committee chairs to find opportunities to reduce costs and leverage revenue as we begin to work on our budget for 2023 while continuing to serve our community through *Faith, Service and the Arts*. †



**SHARED YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY**  
*Marilyn Arthur*

I write this report with incredible gratitude for the opportunity to be engaged with our teenagers and young adults in this shared youth and young adult ministry. The connections, community building, and learning have been heart-warming.

A few months ago, while sitting at the pub with a handful of young adults from various faith communities, one of them shared how "thrilled" they were to have this opportunity to gather with fellow peers that shared similar beliefs. The other people around the table agreed. Many of them come from strong congregations that had a solid and meaningful children and youth ministry. Once they graduated from high school, many scattered to embark on the next phase of their lives but felt a "hole" without the consistency of planned activities that allowed their peers to gather for faith discussions and community building. Many are grateful for the present opportunities of this intentional ministry that helps bring this age group together.

Throughout our retreat and youth events this Fall, my heart is warm when bringing our teenagers together and observing the magic of them meeting others, re-kindling present connections, and happy to be gathering again following the pandemic. Some of the teenagers have articulated with gratitude that these youth opportunities help them feel that they can be themselves, due to the non-judgmental, inclusive, and welcoming environments of these faith gatherings.

Old and new connections are being made with our youth and young adults. Meaningful and rich conversations about our faith and how this pertains to our lives are helping our young people continue to feel a sense of belonging among their peers within the Body of Christ. God is amongst us, moving through the relationships being formed and the connections being made.

May this season of Advent be an enriching period of time for you to reflect and pay attention to where God is moving in your lives. May the season of waiting help you embrace the gifts that Jesus brought of hope, peace, joy, and love. †



## CLIMATE ACTION LONDON

Mary Ann Hodge

Climate Action London was created in 2019 to help people engage with the climate emergency. We have held a variety of events from awareness to gardening and food, and have over 250 subscribers to our weekly newsletter. The City of London has an action plan that few are aware of, and often struggle to see how they can engage.

It has become increasingly difficult to ignore the impacts of climate change, even here in London, but we all know that changing our habits can be difficult. The good news is that climate actions are also good for your health and your wallet!

This Fall, we began working with several students from the Ivey School of Business at Western to figure out how we can best connect with more Londoners.

We would like to hear from you! Drop us a line at [ClimateActionLondon@gmail.com](mailto:ClimateActionLondon@gmail.com). What would make it easier for

you to identify opportunities to take action?

- Would you like someone you can email to ask questions, like “is this recyclable?” “I have to replace my hot water heater, what do I choose?” or “how will we produce enough electricity to handle electric vehicles?”
- Would you attend a workshop? We are planning a new format for EarthFest2023 with hands-on workshops where you can ask questions. What topics would interest you?
- Would you subscribe to a blog? What topics would you enjoy?

Climate Action London has a goal of reaching out to 10,000 Londoners in the next six months. I invite you to visit our website [ClimateActionLondon.ca](http://ClimateActionLondon.ca) and subscribe to our weekly newsletter. We look forward to engaging with you more. †

## Milestones

### Baptisms

Manuela Milena Fonseca – Oct. 2

### Deaths

Bill Knowles – July 27 (Funeral, Sept. 22)

Bob Swartman – October 8 (Memorial Service, Nov. 12)

### Marriages

Anne Maria Sorvari & Karyn Stacie Dumble – Sept. 24

Joshua Gordon Taylor & Lindsey Jean Colbary – Oct. 8



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**UCW Recognition**

At a special UCW Anniversary Service on Sunday, October 16, special recognition of the following United Church women was made:

- **UCW Charter Members:** Linda Badke, Barbara Corbet, Jane Graves, Laurel Kenney, Annabelle Logan, June McKay, Mary McKim, Gerry Meacham, Shirley Savigny, Louise Slater, Jeane Stewardson and Margaret Taylor.
- **FSA UCW Life Members:** Millie Bates, Donna Fraleigh, Jane Graves, Donna Goulin, Jan Hendry, Laurel Kenney, Annabelle Logan, June McKay, Gerry Meacham, Ann Pinchin, Joni Pypka, Glenda Robinson, Debbie Schram, Louise Slater, Sally Smith, and Jeane Stewardson.

**Robyn Butt and *The Window Sonnets***

On Sunday, October 23, FSA celebrated the launch of Robyn Butt's book, *The Window Sonnets*. Robyn, FSA's Writer in Residence, has produced a book of sonnets related to our stained-glass windows. The proceeds from the sale of these books will flow back to the church and the book itself will be an enduring record of the beauty and inspirational power of the colourful images that surround us during each worship service. We owe her our special thanks for sharing her talent with us in this way.

**Geoff Nuttall**

We extend our condolences to the family of Geoff Nuttall, a long-time friend of First-St. Andrew's and violinist with the St. Lawrence String Quartet. Geoff passed on October 19, 2022. In a CBC memorial piece it was said that he would long

be remembered for his "informative banter and a flailing performance style. Seeming to sweep audiences off their feet, he occasionally played with both his own shoes off the ground. His hair was funky; his thrift store suits, even more so."

The SLSQ earned two Grammy nominations along with numerous prizes at music competitions and even a summons to play at the White House. It was an honour, therefore, when the quartet came to play at FSA on numerous occasions. Geoff's personality and his devotion to great music will be sorely missed.

†

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