

Tidings

Vol 25, No 1 – Lent/Easter 2015



INSIDE

The Editor's Desk	2
Note from Tom	3
View from the Pew	3
Getting to Know	4
Profile	5
Vignette	6
Remembering	8
Travel Tales	9

The Next Generation	10
Behind the Scene	11
Did You Know?	12
Committee Reports.....	12-18
Noteworthy	19
Windows on First-St. Andrew's.....	20
Church Staff.....	20



Tidings

Managing Editor David Flynn
Editor Pat McGregor
Layout Jim Silcox
Photographers Willis Buckingham, David Wake, Jim Silcox
Ad Sales Bob Peel
Team Members Willis Buckingham, Jane Daichendt, Barb Dalrymple, David Flynn, Nancy Howard, Diane Knoppert, David McKane, Bob Peel, Pat McGregor, Jim Silcox, Jay Snyder, Pat Sole



Published by:

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

Printed by:

Sterling Marking Products

Four issues are published yearly, the first Sunday in December, March, June and September. Submissions, due three weeks before the publication dates, must be **under 350 words** and are accepted only from members of First-St. Andrew's. The editors reserve the right to edit or reject submissions. The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors, and are not necessarily those of Council or the staff of First-St. Andrew's United Church.

Services gejolink

- Yard/garden maintenance
- Spring/fall cleanup
- Landscape design/ Installation
- Seasonal installations
- Urns/planters
- Curb appeal enhancements
- General cleaning interior/exterior

• gejolinkpropertyservices@gmail.com

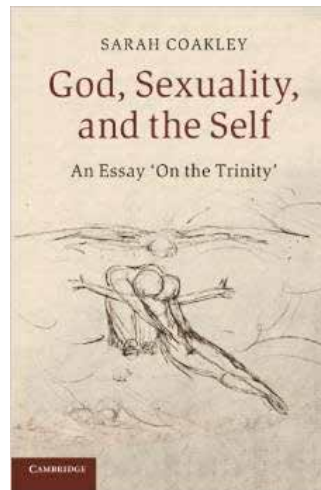


EDITORIAL

David Flynn
pdflynn@rogers.com

Jo Ann Silcox, in her Council report, reminds us that we pass through the dark period of Lent (and Good Friday) before we reach the rebirthing which Jane Westmorland highlights in the Worship report. Throughout this issue—Steve Elson's *View from the Pew*; Tom Hiscock's *Notes* on the future of the United Church's structure—there is a sense of uncertainty, as we consider the future of FSA and, indeed, life on earth.

Yet there is at the same time so much that is going well, especially in our congregation. New people, such as the Salmoni family, chose us after experiencing other congregations. Christian Development and music activities are just some of the sixty-plus programmes listed in our annual Programme Guide. We reach out to London and elsewhere through the work of the United Church Women and the Mission, Outreach & Environment Committee. We are cared for by counselling services—and the comfort of the prayer shawls. We radiate a unique and valuable aura with our worship and action. We are not just sitting and waiting for death in the so-called post-Christian era.



I have recently started reading a remarkable book, *God, Sexuality and the Self*, by Sarah Coakley, who is both an Anglican priest and a philosophy of religion professor at Cambridge University. In her book she re-examines the doctrine of the Trinity. From her perspective, God the Father represents power and authority. The Son symbolizes all of us. In her view, however, we should start with the Holy

Spirit, because that is the aspect of God which draws us together, fills us with love and hope—and optimism.

Will FSA be reborn as a large congregation again? Probably not. We are surrounded by other United churches, downtown and throughout Canada. We are immersed in a world which offers many ways to find spiritual fulfilment. Rebirth is not a restoration of the past, but the emergence of something new, something we may not anticipate.

It's not easy to live through uncertainty, but the promise of Easter is that out of the dark comes new life. ✚

RESTRUCTURING

Tom Hiscock

Sometimes it is difficult to relate to the actions of the United Church General Council because it seems to be so distant from the local congregation. In March 2015, the Comprehensive Review Task Group of General Council will release its recommendations for action at this summer's General Council meeting. It appears one recommendation will be to move from four levels of governance to three. More specifically, they will probably recommend the elimination of Presbytery. In my view this move is long overdue.

When the three founding churches

planned to unite, the debate centred on the structure of the new church. The Presbyterians called their middle governance body Presbytery, and the Methodists called their middle body Conference. At Union in 1925, both Presbytery and Conference were preserved, giving the United Church a four-level governing structure: General Council, Conference, Presbytery, and Congregation.

The two obvious solutions are to expand Presbytery and eliminate Conference, or to eliminate Presbytery in favour of Conference. I would have supported either recommendation. Unfortunately the church has tried restructuring on three occasions and failed each time. (*cont'd. on page 19*)

Note from
Tom



UNCERTAINTY

Steve Elson

It seems to me that we're living in a time of great uncertainty. It's always present, but I think there are times when big changes come to the fore and begin to dominate our thinking. Climate change is an obvious one and the related reality of rising ocean levels and the widespread human migration that will follow. We're also seeing a lot of conflict—not on a large scale like the two world wars of the 20th century, but consistent strife with strong ideological drivers that seem to have no defined beginning or end. Nation states seem to be secondary actors rather than primary instigators, which is a new dynamic. Casualties include the fact there are probably more displaced persons than at any other time in history. We seem to be seeing extremes emerge and inequalities that challenge our sense of fairness and of how life should be. And we think not just of ourselves but also about what the future will look like for our loved ones, especially the generations to come. How to respond?

An essential step, from my perspective, is to be able to connect with one's spiritual centre—the place where silence

lives, where peace resides. It may or may not have a name like one's soul but it's like that.

*He speaks from the centre of
the universe, in the silence
beyond all thought.*

*Mightier than the crash of a
thunderstorm,*

*Mightier than the roar of the
sea, is God's voice silently
speaking in the depths of the
listening heart.*

~ Psalm 93

From this spiritual perspective it's possible to develop a deeper sense of self and at the same time develop a deeper understanding of how to think about and act in the world. It's the foundation from which to actively engage and make a difference in the world—not to escape from it.

While the world is a deeply challenging place filled with uncertainty, we do not need to feel helpless or powerless. We can make a difference. It begins with us and nurturing our spiritual well-being.

At least that's the way I see it—from the pew. †

View from the
Pew





MEET THE SALMONIS

David McKane

Ring the doorbell of the Salmoni home and you will be warmly greeted by Bel (Bellissima), their eleven-year-old

completed his undergraduate degree at Western before obtaining his PhD. from the University of Michigan. Before coming to Western he taught at Laurentian University for twenty-six years and is a member of Laurentian University's Hall of Fame as a coach. Pam grew up in Leamington and attended St. Clair College in Windsor, then worked as a legal secretary. Growing up in communities that were so close Pam says they probably attended lots of school sports events at the same time but never met. Years later they did meet at a Surfside 3 summer dance and have been together ever since.

When they first came to London, like many new members, they church shopped. On their first Sunday at FSA they were warmly greeted by the Slaters and invited to attend Coffee and Conversation. The team ministry, the music, and the children's programmes helped convince them that FSA was the place for them. Alan says they have only belonged to three churches throughout their lives thus far: the churches of their respective childhood, St. Peter's United in Sudbury, and FSA. While at St. Peter's with their two children, Elisa and Tom, they were active as Sunday School teachers, youth group leaders, members of the church council, and Pam sang in the choir. Active in FSA as greeters, Alan is a member of the Search Committee while Pam has worked with the Hospitality Meal programme and is currently a member of the Anti-Poverty Committee.

Their daughter Elisa was married to her husband David at FSA. They have two children, Ella and Lucas. Their son Tom, a London firefighter, is married to Krissy and they have three boys, Jaden, Ryan, and Daxton. Like all grandparents Alan and Pam delight in their grandchildren and can often be seen greeting with grandsons Jaden and Ryan their enthusiastic helpers.



Springer Spaniel. Alan and Pam came to London in 2001 when Alan was invited to be the new director of kinesiology at Western. Alan grew up in Kingsville,



JANICE ELLIOTT

Jane Daichendt

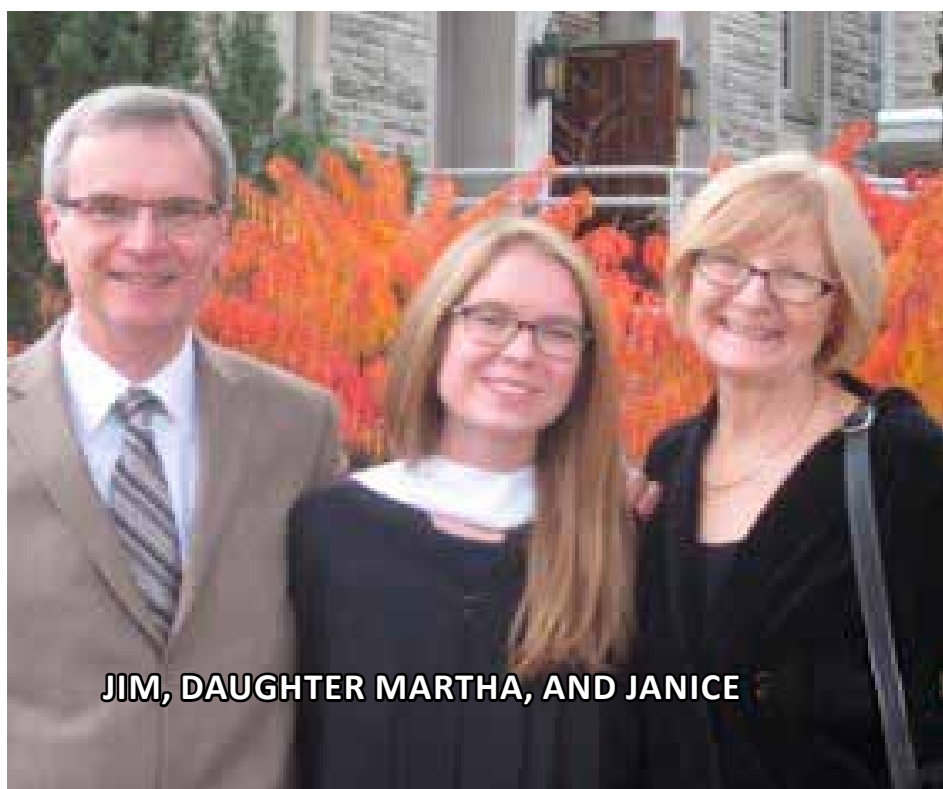
With FSA's support, Janice offers her enthusiasm, devotion and know-how in participating in outreach projects, including her recent volunteer trip to Nicaragua with her husband Jim and Linda Badke. They focussed their efforts this year on Los Quinchos School for children who work as street vendors. They built homes, assisted teachers and provided the school with resources. This is the third volunteer trip to Nicaragua that Janice has participated in, along with other members from First-St. Andrew's. Working with the organization Companeros, a great deal of pre-trip collaboration was done with teachers and Companeros staff to plan a programme that would meet the needs of the teachers and students at the school. They were able to buy materials for the school at stores in Nicaragua using funds that had been donated by members of FSA, thus contributing to the economy of Nicaragua. Janice gains much joy and fulfillment with these projects.

She is active with other MOE Committee (Mission, Outreach and Environment) projects, such as ELUCO, Amnesty International and the White Squirrel Golf Tournament. Janice states that these initiatives put her in a leadership role, and she was very glad for this learning opportunity as well as the chance to work co-operatively with a group to improve social justice. Currently, Janice has extended her volunteer work to include the London District Distress Centre, a 24-hour helpline for those experiencing crisis and distress.

In 1990, Janice and her husband decided, for many reasons, to look for a new church. She was then invited by Jane Westmorland and other friends to "just give FSA a try." They never looked back. Upon her arrival, Janice offered her gift of teaching by taking on the roles of Sunday School teacher and youth leader.

Her welcome to FSA was like no other!! Jim and Janice portrayed the roles of Joseph and Mary in FSA's 1990 Christmas Pageant. Their newborn daughter Martha was baby Jesus and their three daughters Rachel, Heather and Megan were angels.

Last year, Janice and Jim celebrated their 40th anniversary with a family cruise in the Caribbean. Growing up in Stoney Creek, Janice remembers Jim because they shared the same last name. When attendance was taken at their Sunday School, Janice always knew when to say "here" because her name followed Jim's. They also attended the same high school



JIM, DAUGHTER MARTHA, AND JANICE

and were students at Western.

A retired speech and language pathologist at the London District Catholic School Board, Janice recently enjoyed reading the book *The Humans* by Matt Haig twice, and re-watched one of her favourite movies, *Groundhog Day* starring Bill Murray. Janice and Jim now enjoy time at their cottage in Huntsville. What a wonderful way to gather calm and peace—alongside the water, trees and rocks of Muskoka. †



MY GRANDFATHER AND THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR
Bob Peel

So ... might you be a "Doubting Thomas" too? It's always

if I were to say great-grandfather, but grandfather ... come on!


Okay, here's how it plays out. My dad was 63 when I was born in 1942. My dad's father, William T. Peel, signed up in Company C 97th Pennsylvania in 1863. The British North America Act would not allow British citizens to fight for another country, so WT signed up as George Brown. He fought at some of the most brutal battles, including Cold Harbor and the Siege of Petersburg, where he was wounded. He was discharged, but signed up again in September, 1864 with the same company, only this time as William Anderson. After the war, he came back to London.

Why would Canadians fight in the Civil War? The main reason is they were paid well ... up to \$1,000. Sometimes Canadians would fight in the name of a son of a rich American family. There also was the concern that should the South win the war, taking Canada would be "a piece of cake." My grandfather had Irish blood in him and it's said the Irish love a good fight. The 97th group was Pennsylvania's "Fighting Irish." My grandfather was only sixteen and probably looking for adventure. More than 50,000 Canadians fought in the Civil War. My grandfather is the only veteran confirmed to have been born and buried in London.

For three years, London's Joe O'Neil organized an Annual Service of Rededication for all known and unknown Canadian veterans of the Civil War. In

interesting to look at the face of someone when I tell them my grandfather fought in the American Civil War. No strange looks

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC
HANNIBAL HAMLIN POST #652
 LONDON, ONTARIO, DOMINION OF CANADA



Photograph of William T. Peel from the archives of the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada. U.I. Soldier Regimental Collection, Hannibal Hamlin Post, G.A.R. Fund. Used with kind assistance of Robert Peel, grandson of W. T. Peel, who will be in attendance.

**Third Annual
 Service of Re-dedication
 For all Known and Unknown
 Canadian Veterans of the
 American Civil War.**

Place
 Mount Pleasant Cemetery
 303 Riverside Drive, London, Ontario

Date
 Saturday, October 14, 2006
 (First Saturday after Thanksgiving)
 2:00 p.m.

Civil War Re-enactors, firing of the salute, music and more history will be celebrated. All ages welcome to attend. Please bring your own lawn chair if you wish seating as this event will last about one hour.
No Charge - Free Admission

**Civil War History
 How It Affected London and Canada**
(Just some of the many stories)

Calixa Lavallee, the man who wrote our National Anthem "O Canada" was a Civil War Veteran, serving in the 4th Rhode Island Regiment

John Brown, the abolitionist, raised his money for the raid on Harper's Ferry here in London.

George Branstead is one of three Londoners buried in Andersonville Prison Cemetery

Lizzie Crompton was a 16 year old girl from London who posed as a young man and served in SEVEN different Union units, including Clevelly, and was wounded twice.

Archibald Shawell from Delaware was in the honour guard at President Lincoln's funeral.

Jeremiah Thomas of London was an 18 year free black man, born in Canada who served in the 54th Mass. Infantry (re: movie "Glory")

Ira Kilborne of Byron was part of U.S Grant's personal guard, and met the General in person.

Featured Veteran
William Thomas Peel
aka Private George Brown
 Co C, 97th Penn. Infantry
 Saw action at Cold Harbour, wounded in the trenches at the siege of Petersburg, Va on 17 June 1864. Absent as sick
aka Private William Anderson
 Co A, 97th Penn. Infantry
 Re-entered service on 17 September 1864, discharged 11 September 1865

Born
 Circa 1847, London, Canada West

Died
 October 19, 1927, London, Ontario

For further information, or if you have a missing Civil War veteran in your family history and you would like to learn more, please contact Joseph G. O'Neil, event organizer, O'Neil Funeral Home, 350 William St., London or call 519-432-7136.

2006 the service was held at Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Nine veterans of the war were honoured and the main service was held at my grandfather's burial site. Civil War re-enactors from Pennsylvania were on hand.

Here is some interesting information re Londoners and the American Civil War:

- John Brown, the abolitionist, raised his money for the raid on Harper's Ferry here in London.
- Lizzie Crompton was a 16-year-old girl from London who posed as a young man and served in seven different Union units, including cavalry, and was wounded twice.
- Archibald Shotwell from Delaware, ON was in the honour guard at President Lincoln's funeral.

- Jeremiah Thomas of London was an 18-year free black man, born in Canada, who served in the 54th Mass Infantry (re movie *Glory*).
- Ira Kilbourne of Byron was part of Ulysses S. Grant's personal guard and met the general in person.
- More than 600,000 people died fighting in the American Civil War. Countless other civilians also died.

There you have it. Now will you believe that my grandfather fought in the American Civil War? And you have been thinking I'm only about 43-years old. †

**My thanks to Joe O'Neil for some of this information. Joe operates O'Neil Funeral Home and is one of the most knowledgeable people in London re our history.*



Remembering



GEORGE FURTNEY
Annabelle Logan

Can you imagine your calling card being a tape measure? Well it was for George! George was born on October 16th, 1933 in Petrolia. The family moved to London and then to St. Mary's.

While attending high school there George would work part-time driving the ambulance for Ball's Funeral Home. (Back in the forties and fifties funeral homes usually had an ambulance component and often a furniture store attached.) George was never in the back rooms; he liked helping the families.

certificates. The rest is history.

Mary Sue was born in 1957 and Debbie arrived in 1960. In 1962 George bought Logan Funeral Home here in London. The family lived above the funeral home until 1964 when they had twin boys, Bradley and Gregory, and subsequently moved to Hunt Club Drive.

Logan Funeral Home was just a few blocks away from First-St. Andrew's and the young family could walk to church.

In 1972 George changed the name to Furtney Funeral Home—Logan Chapel, and also purchased Evans Funeral Home and again changed the name to Furtney Funeral Home—Evans Chapel. All this time George served on the Board of Stewards, counted collection on Sundays and served as an elder, visiting several families. Joyce was in the Thursday Evening Unit of the UCW.

In the eighties George survived three brain tumour surgeries but he could not battle a fourth, and he passed away



George enjoyed the work and decided to attend the Ontario Embalming School. After graduation he worked at Ridley Funeral Home in what was then New Toronto. As luck would have it, a charming young woman named Joyce Carroll worked at New Toronto City Hall, and one of her duties was stamping death

on March 20th, 1988. Joyce ran the business for fourteen years after George died and started the memorial tree programme at Fanshawe Park. Joyce passed away on July 20th, 2013.

I remember a lovely family that enjoyed and enhanced First-St. Andrew's United Church. ✝



TAHITI AND BORA BORA

BORA

Jim and Pat Pettit

We visited the islands of Tahiti and Bora Bora in early October last year. With a population of approximately 185,000, Tahiti is the most populous of the 118 islands and atolls in French Polynesia, an overseas collective of France. The six largest islands, including Bora Bora, make up the group known as the Society Islands located south of the equator in the same time zone as Hawaii, halfway between California and Australia.

These idyllic, isolated islands of Polynesia were among the last places on earth to be settled by humans between 300 and 800 CE, and were also some of the last places to be colonized by Europeans. The modern belief is that Polynesian voyages originated from the Philippines or Indonesia. Polynesians make up about 70% of the population with the rest made up of Europeans, Chinese and those of mixed heritage. French is the only official language, although the Tahitian language is widely spoken.

On a guided tour of Tahiti, one can see remains of ancient Tahitian culture in its *marae*, open-air places of worship, which are paved platforms built of basalt or coral; many of these temples have been destroyed or left to become engulfed by vines and weeds.

Today, Polynesians have fully embraced Christianity.

Copies of the paintings of French artist, Paul Gauguin, are on display in the northern part of the island.

Tahiti was visited by Captain James Cook during his voyages to the area between 1769 and 1789. The island was made famous by three Hollywood extravaganzas inspired by the events of the mutiny of William Bligh's ship, the

HMS Bounty, in 1789.

Bora Bora, with a population of about 8,000, is less than an hour by plane from Pape'ete. It is the most celebrated of the South Pacific islands. The view from the plane window is an unforgettable sight as the iconic Mount Otemanu comes into view rising above the turquoise lagoon



water. Most of the accommodation on Bora Bora is in overwater bungalows which give a view of the lagoon life below through a glass window in the floor. Here, you can be as active or inactive as you wish to be. The main village of Vaitape, as well as boutiques and restaurants, are easily accessed on foot or by cab. We thoroughly enjoyed our five days of fun and relaxation on this beautiful Pacific island. †

The Next Generation

CLAIRE JONES-FRIGHT

Diane Knoppert

She was two-weeks-old when she attended her first service at First-St. Andrew's. Now she's 12 and a member of the TNT group. Her favourite foods are pancakes, pizza and cinnamon



buns. Her favourite colours are electric blue and lime green.

Claire Jones-Fright is a grade 7 student at Lester B. Pearson School for the Arts. At Pearson, students study drama, art, music and dance, as well as all of the academic subjects. Claire plays the oboe and the keyboard. She also participates in vocal music classes and is a member of the Pearson Singers. Outside of school, her dance studies include ballet, jazz, lyrical,

musical theatre, tap and hip hop!

Claire's favourite activities are acting and playing the violin (she even likes to practise!). She's been playing the violin since she was two, with her mother as her main teacher. Claire has performed in many plays—in school and beyond. At the age of ten, she had her first professional theatre opportunity, playing the role of Brigitta in *The Sound of Music* at Huron Country Playhouse in Grand Bend. This has been her favourite acting role so far.

You may have heard Claire being interviewed by Andy Oudman on CJBK radio in September 2013 and June 2014. These interviews came about because of her performances in two environmental plays by Caity Quinn, a local playwright. The first play was about the bee population crisis; the second one the global water crisis. The latter play was performed locally and in Ottawa as part of the People's Social Forum.

Claire loves performing (singing, dancing and playing the violin) with the musical group Haggis Stew (led by her parents). These performances are a highlight of FSA's Robbie Burns' suppers.

The Jones/Fright family enjoys many activities together—watching movies, skiing, skating, swimming, travelling to Florida to visit grandparents, playing games—and laughing (they laugh a lot!).

Claire loves animals and has a dog (Pudge), a cat (Quill), two guinea pigs (Willow and Edelweiss) and many fish.

When I talked with Claire, she had just come through a rough couple of weeks—she was recovering from a foot injury and an emergency appendectomy. This incredibly active young woman has had to “slow down” for a few weeks. I'm sure she'll be dancing again soon.

In the future, Claire wants to be an actress, do “something with animals,” and be a Phase 1 Suzuki early childhood education teacher (in the family tradition).

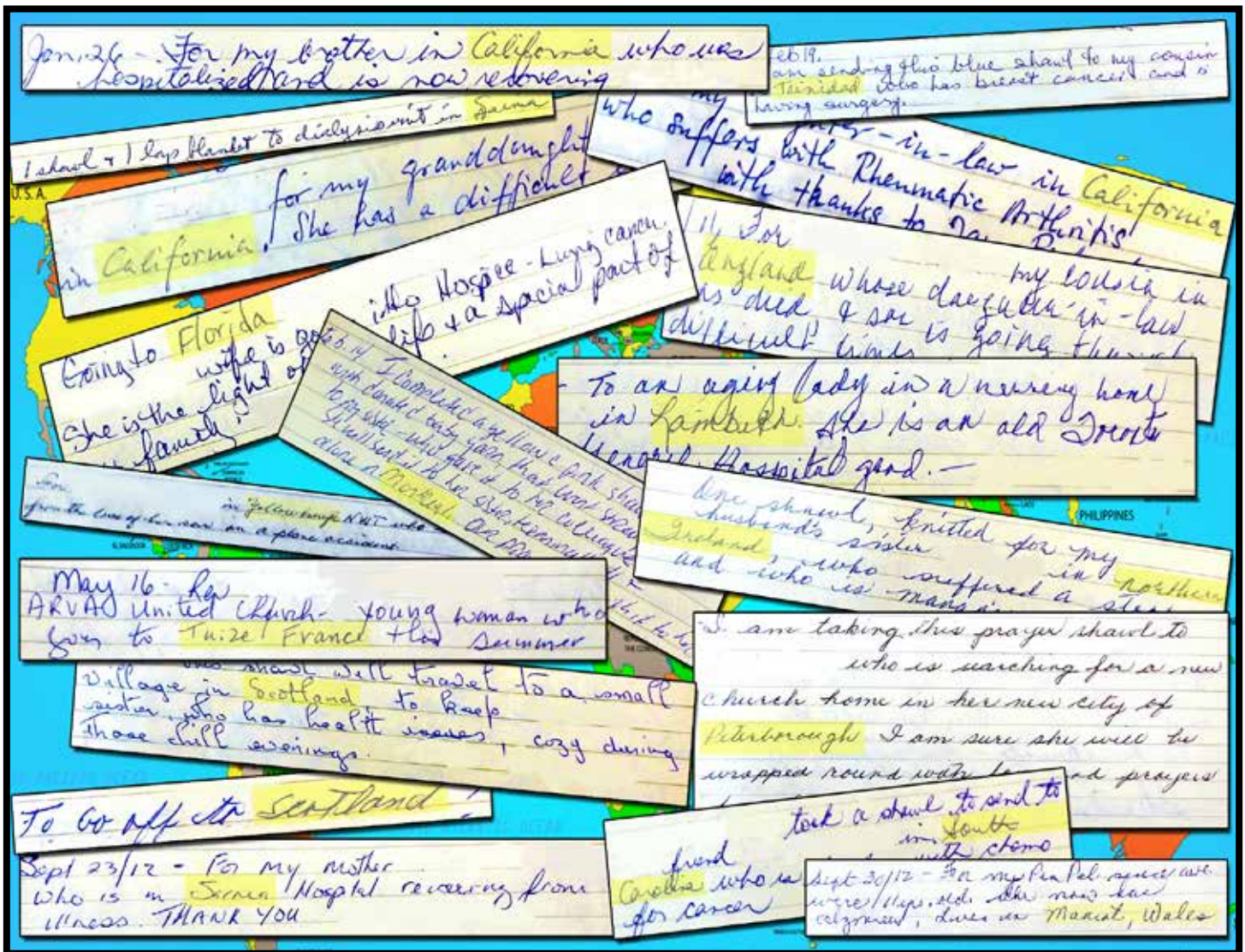
This is Claire Elizabeth Jones-Fright—actress, activist, animal lover, violinist, loving daughter—a remarkable and determined 12-year-old who will succeed in whatever she chooses to do. The sky's the limit! †

THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Have you noticed how quickly the shawls disappear from the table in the sanctuary, only to be replaced seemingly overnight—a real testament to the dedication of the KnitWits team*, and the ongoing need for this ministry? Have you ever wondered where they all end up? How far some have journeyed to reach the ones in need of comfort? Since the KnitWits began making prayer shawls in 2007, the group has made and distributed more than 490 shawls

within our congregation and throughout the world, including Ireland, Scotland, England, France, Trinidad, Russia and many U.S. states. Our prayer shawl ministry at FSA is part of a world-wide ministry that began 15 years ago in Hartford, Connecticut. While knitters may use any pattern they wish for the shawl, the most common choice is knit three, purl three to represent the Trinity. Prayer shawls are made in prayer, as prayer, for prayer, and are passed hand to hand and heart to heart as gifts that are freely given. †

Behind the Scene



*Ruth Adams, Sheila Alton, Millie Bates, Christine Cavers, Anne Cummings, Barbara Cunningham, Marion Evans, Mary Ellen Gustafson, Helen Guthrie, Jan Hendry, Jean Hudson, Shelley Kosteki, Pam Turner-Langley, Ann MacKenzie, Lesley Pergau, Barb Plante, Jan Richardson, Glenda Robinson, Jo Ann Silcox, Marcia Snyder, Pat Sole, Laura Swartman and Marion Wilson.

DATEBOOK

from Music and "Music at FSA"

March 6th—Lenten Noon Recital

April 19th—Mass in Blue

from Christian Development

March 2,9,16,23—Lenten Series

March 29th—Palm Sunday Big Circle Breakfast

from Worship

April 2th—Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service

April 3th—Good Friday Service at Metropolitan

April 19th—Greening of the Cross Service

May 3rd—Memorial Leaves Sunday

from the UCW

Apr. 25th—Rummage Sale

CHANGES

Deaths

Dec. 15th—Catherine Pook

Dec. 31st—Marian Buckingham

Jan. 14th—Jim Swartman

Jan. 22nd—Ramsay Gunton

Feb. 4th—Astrid Detje



COUNCIL

Jo Ann Silcox

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a person going on a journey...."

~ Mark 32–34

As this issue of *Tidings* goes to print, the Liturgical Season has turned downward from Epiphany into Lent, and the Lectionary year has abruptly shifted from the triumphalistic tones of Matthew to the dark urgency of the Gospel of Mark.

This Season and this Gospel seem particularly fitting for us at FSA at the beginning of 2015, as we find ourselves again in uncertain times—times in which we might be tempted to simply watch and wait.

But if Mark's Gospel is to be our guide, passivity is not permitted. Everything in this Gospel points to the call to urgency and to action—even as the lights of Epiphany fade and the glorious new resurrection light of Easter morn seems far away.

Council and congregation alike might be tempted to plead for time-out, for a season of mourning and reflection as we face increasing expenses, decreasing

income, reduced congregational size, the mounting sorrow of deaths and disease in our elderly population, the daily global evidence of a world gone mad in the name of religious perversions, and the anxiety of calling a new minister of worship and congregational life.

Yet nowhere in ancient scripture, nor in modern science, can we find licence for passivity in the in-between times. We are called rather to reflect, regroup, rejoin, renew, reach out, risk, rebuild—to do our part in preparing for a yet-to-be fully articulated new corporate life—knowing that these desert times are often the times of richest new understandings of the breadth, depth, height and width of the riches of GOD's grace.

As *Tidings* goes to press, we have already seen the fruits of a faith which calls us to collaborate, rather than work and witness individually. Individuals and committees have increasingly begun to work together to do the work of rebuilding. Young and no longer quite so young will have collaborated in planning the Burns' dinner, the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, the Palm Sunday breakfast, Sing for Your Supper, Supper Club, and the Bridges out of Poverty meals, to name but a few occasions in which we broke bread together with glad and wholesome hearts. Similarly, young and not so

(cont'd. on page 19)



WORSHIP
New Beginnings
Jane Westmorland

As we approach the spring season, we eagerly anticipate the trees budding into leaf and the first flowers making their way through the dormant earth. Nature is being reborn.

At First-St. Andrew's, we are also awaiting a rebirth, as we eagerly anticipate the arrival of a new minister. However, unlike the earth, we have not been dormant. Thanks to Tom Hiscock, Kerry Stover, and David McKane, who have stepped in to share the preaching duties, we have been able to maintain meaningful, interesting, and often challenging worship services.

Upcoming worship services include a Tenebrae service on Maundy Thursday, a Good Friday service

at Metropolitan, and a communion service on Easter Sunday. We are eagerly anticipating the Greening of the Cross on Earth Sunday, April 19th, the children's musical on April 26th, and Confirmation and Baptism Sunday on Mother's Day, May 10th.

Thanks to the outgoing co-Chairs of the Worship Committee, Kerry Stover and Joan Bancroft, who have provided us with the leadership to help continue with our worship. John McDonald and Jane Westmorland will replace them as co-Chairs. We have a dedicated group of people remaining on the committee, but would like to welcome new members as well. If you would like an opportunity to participate, please contact John or Jane. If you would like an opportunity to participate in worship, but would prefer not to attend meetings, consider becoming a lay liturgist. Please contact John McDonald for more information. †



TRUSTEES
John Eberhard

David Manness



Our church is blessed through the generosity of our members and those who have gone before! Fortunately, through the prudent policies of our Church Council, the Board of Trustees continues to carry out its related fiduciary duties to the congregation

Special Restricted Funds and bequests designated to the Unrestricted Fund are vital to the overall financial health of our wonderful church. These funds are invested and put to good use as needed for capital projects. Significant end-of-life gifts from thoughtful people come to FSA through estates. These people are recognized each year on the occasion of our Proudfoot Sunday held in May.

At December 31st, 2014 the funds under Trustee management totalled \$3,337,253. The Unrestricted Fund was valued at \$2,568,706 and the Restricted Funds at \$762,430, made up of the Wilson Music Fund, Clark Fund, Eberhard Memorial Music Scholarship Fund and the Wm. & J. Brown Fund.

The Unrestricted Fund is the benchmark used for the "Cap Formula," which represents the amount of money our congregation agreed should be sustained for the purpose of generating income for the church. In 2014, Council approved a motion to establish the CAP value at 3.5 times (up from three times) the prior year's operating expenses. This increase to CAP was

justified based on an increased need in the amount of sustainable revenue required by church operations to support the 2014 budget as compared to the previous year. This may have to be increased again.

Your Trustees continue to support the work of the Finance Committee for managing a deficit budget in 2014. There is a delicate balance between the use of earned income from Trust investments for operational purposes, and the need to have funds available for capital purposes in order to preserve our beautiful and historic premises. The Board has cautioned Council to ensure that Trust funds are not depleted on operational items so as to ensure for the long-term financial health and sustainability of our important assets.

We are also mindful of the need to increase the revenue side of the budget. Operational funds need to be increased for FSA. This means imaginative new strategies to attract new members and programmes that support operational revenue streams. We encourage the Council and its committees in its determination to achieve these important objectives. †



1350 Fanshawe Pk. Rd. W. London, ON N6G 5B1
 ph. 519.473.5400 fx. 519.473.1305
www.austinandtaylor.com



MISSION, OUTREACH & ENVIRONMENT

Barbara Dalrymple

Amnesty International

Together we have such power! Can writing a letter change a life? Yes it can. With your help, last year's Amnesty International Write for Rights letter-writing campaign led to the release of prisoners and helped other people at risk of human rights abuses feel safer and more supported. Salil Shetty, secretary-general of Amnesty's global movement, reports that not a week goes by without people who have suffered appalling human rights abuses writing to Amnesty with thanks for the work that members have done on their behalf. Your participation this year can bring real change across the world. Join us for First-St. Andrew's Annual Write for Rights event after church in Proudfoot Hall on Sunday, March 8th, 2015, to enjoy the Mission, Outreach and the Environment Committee's delicious soup and an opportunity to write a letter and change a life.

ELUCO

This year our Christmas Share Gift Card proceeds were directed to the Marconi area. Gift card purchases valued at \$1,994 benefitted 70 ELUCO families and FSA. Our Christmas Eve loose collection offering of \$940.85 was given to ELUCO.

Cinnamon buns prepared by ELUCO volunteers will again be available before Easter. Nancy Howard, our outreach worker, will speak at Supper Club in March.

Just Christmas Alternative Gift Fair

The CD Committee joined with MOE on this project which raised about \$2,200 for various outreach projects. See CD report for more details.

Grow-a-Row/Canadian Foodgrains Bank

The final total for FSA and our partner, St. Marys UC, is \$10,044 to be matched 4-1 by CIDA. Over the past 19 years our two churches have raised over one million dollars.

The Comfort Quilts

On the last Monday of each month eight women gather to make Comfort Quilts that are donated to Project Linus, which distributes them to the Children's Health Foundation, Ronald McDonald House, Women's Community House, Heartspace, and SWIM (Single Women in Motherhood). To date 32 quilts have been donated.

White Squirrel Golf Tournament

Planning for the 2015 White Squirrel Golf tournament, nature walk, putting contest and dinner has begun! Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 13th. The location will once again be the Ironwood Golf Club in Exeter. This is the MOE Committee's biggest fundraiser of the year for outreach projects. We're looking for hole sponsors (\$150 to have a sign with your company name on one of the holes) as well as silent and live auction items. If you can contribute or have an idea of someone who can, please let us know.

Co-Chairs: Margo Christodoulou and Diane Knoppert. Committee members: Marilyn Beach, Janice Elliott, Liz Galbraith, David Knoppert, Bill and Jean Knowles, Ivana Klouda and David Manness

MOE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Make a Note of These Dates

- Sunday, March 8th—**Amnesty International Write-a-Thon** and soup lunch
- Saturday, April 11th—**ELUCO fundraiser**—*Voices of Broadway* concert
- Sunday, April 26th—**Hotdog Day and White Squirrel Golf Tournament** kickoff
- Saturday, June 13th—**White Squirrel Golf Tournament**
- Sunday, September 13th—**Corn Roast** †

JLC Companion
specializes in giving care to elderly

Jennifer Cull
Personal Support Worker
jlccompanion@gmail.com 5197198627

At Your Service for
Seniors

*Transportation,
Cook, Shop, Clean,
Companionship,
Laundry
& So Much More!*
Since 2008

The Finest, Customized Solutions for Seniors' Independence!
atyourserviceforseniors.ca 519-872-0875

ACCREDITED BUSINESS



COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Jim Silcox

This quarter C&M has been working actively to promote the shopping and gift card programme. We are heartened by the fact that 2014 audits show it to be earning a greater than 4% return on investment. Not bad for its first year of operation! We would like to see that number increase in 2015. Expect to see little reminders in the bulletin and on the web about how you might “buy into” our programme.



PROPERTY

George Jolink

First-St. Andrew’s United Church is an historic structure which requires constant management in order to ensure its longevity for generations to come. The Property Committee has been working diligently in the early part of 2015 to address ongoing issues, both long-term improvements and regular maintenance. As you read this article you will no doubt already have experienced the new flooring in St. Andrew’s Hall, and perhaps enjoyed the increased visibility of FSA after dark due to enhanced exterior lighting. Both projects will result in operational savings, aesthetic enhancements and improved safety. In addition, the Property Committee continues to manage snow removal issues, heating requirements, and cleanliness around the building in order to meet staff concerns and the needs of our membership. The winter brings annual challenges, and our committee would especially like to recognize the efforts of Tim Meidema, our facilities manager.

Our current priority projects include organ repairs (spring 2015), exterior painting and repairs

Despite what it may look like outside, warm weather is coming and that means golf season is just around the corner. Last year we joined hands with MOE to promote the White Squirrel Tournament, and we expect to do so again this year with posters, registration forms, programmes, etc. It is not only a fundraiser but also a wonderful fellowship-builder. How can it miss?

Finally, we continue to look for ways to promote coming events at FSA. We only ask that you think of us well ahead of the date of your event so that we can do our best for you. †

(summer 2015), Fireside Room flooring (summer 2015), and possible HVAC conversion for a portion of St. Andrew’s Hall (unscheduled). As always, finances and urgency dictate priority sequencing and scheduling. The committee works hard to collect reliable competitive quotes from service providers prior to making any recommendations to Council for approval. We also rely on the support of the Trustees as we manage the ongoing demands of our aging infrastructure.

The Property Committee oversees all aspects of building use including the scheduling of our rental clients. Currently we have two long-term rental clients (Deva Tree and Soul Care) in the main building, as well as Meals on Wheels in Farquhar House. We also have many repeat clients who use our facility on an occasional basis. While we recognize that rentals place an increased demand on our space, the revenue stream is very important to the ongoing health of our church.

If you have an interest in property-related matters please consider joining our committee. We meet on the second Monday of each month. Current committee members are: George Jolink and Heather Vouvalidis (co-Chairs), Willis Buckingham, Bill Guthrie, Peter Ross and Donna Travis. †

*Mount Pleasant & Oakland Cemeteries
Crematorium, Chapel & Reception Centre*



Considering Cremation?
Call 519 434 6504
to discuss your needs
303 Riverside Drive, London
www.mpcemetery.ca
Non-profit, service organization since 1875

londonaudio.com

LONDON AUDIO

home theatre
audio systems
home automation
lighting control
commercial AV

716 York St.
London, ON N5W 2G8
519-673-1780
1-800-713-8666



FINANCE
Down the 2014 Road of Stewardship
Harold Jackson

In 2014, the financial support received from local church revenue sources and forecast trust fund investment revenue transfers was insufficient to meet the original plan to be operationally in a deficit of \$8,933. **After factoring in local revenues,**

a deficit of (\$125,199) resulted, which was reduced to (\$21,719) with trust funds assistance. Reserves (carried on the Statement of Financial Position) accrued from prior years were used to fund the additional expense requirements presented in 2014. Financial details can be found in the **Review Engagement Report** of our Auditor, Gary E. Mason, Chartered Accountant, contained in the 2014 Annual Report. The following table serves to present 2014 results compared to 2013.

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Actual</u>
	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>		<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
<u>LOCAL REVENUE</u>			<u>LOCAL EXPENSE</u>		
Givings	\$474,461	\$482,774	Personnel	\$389,300	\$399,336
Rentals	\$77,918	\$57,600	Operations	\$171,036	\$165,080
Designated Income	\$42,567	\$56,726	Outreach	\$81,721	\$82,355
Projects/Appeals	\$12,217	\$9,082	Programmes/Services	\$104,688	\$100,026
Miscellaneous	\$10,547	\$22,434	Total	\$746,745	\$746,797
Gift Cards*	\$3,836	-0-			
Total	\$621,546	\$628,616	<u>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</u>	(\$125,199)	(\$118,181)
			<u>CAPITAL RESERVE</u>		
			<u>FUND TRANSFER</u>	(\$5,500)	-0-
<u>TRUST FUND ASSISTANCE</u>					
Unrestricted	\$95,000	\$60,000	<u>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</u>		
Restricted	\$13,980	\$13,137	<u>with ASSISTANCE</u>	(\$21,719)	(\$45,044)
Total	\$108,980	\$73,137			

**Note: Net profit from the Gift Programme is only included to allow for ease of comparison*

The 2015 budget forecast has been prepared to clearly identify sources of revenue available to fund expense plans. A significant deficit approaching \$60,000 is forecast. Reserves in the balance sheet Operating Fund line accrued from prior years will only support \$22,626 of the unbalanced requirements presented for 2015. The vacancy of a minister of worship and congregational life, as well as other expense and fundraising considerations can have the effect of

bridging the remaining financial funding gap. During 2015 Church Council and the congregation will need to re-examine expense priorities that set in place realistic plans that can result in a stabilizing impact on the financial position beyond 2015.

Your continued support and generosity will assure that this great congregation continues to deliver the promise of being **“At the Heart.”** †



UCW

Pat McGregor (reporting for Laurel Kenney)

At the Middlesex UCW Presbyterial annual meeting a Women of Distinction award was presented to Laurel Kenney in recognition of her work in the UCW, church, and community at the presbyterial level.

All women are invited to the Unit meeting on April

14th with a speaker from Medical Electives. Check the bulletins in March for details and time.

The UCW is again sponsoring our annual rummage sale in Proudfoot Hall and the Fireside Room, 9:00am-12 Noon on April 25th. A special feature will be a children's rummage sale held in the Chapel and Sunroom. The proceeds from this area will be directed to ELUCO and FSA. Please drop off donations one week before and mark either for the children's sale or general rummage sale. †



CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

Allyson Watson

We are off to an exciting year already and it is only February. Since the last *Tidings* issue we have hosted a community Christmas party, had a Christmas pageant, (*I Just Wanna be a Sheep*), co-sponsored the Alternative Gift Market with MOE, which raised \$2,315 for a variety of organizations, including some special FSA projects (flooring for the Fireside Room, quilt supplies, and yarn for prayer shawls).

Coming up in the next few months we have many activities planned, starting with a Lenten series led by David McKane and David Pederson, which will be held on Monday evenings. Keep your eyes open for some Labyrinth walks during Lent. Confirmation is off and

running; please look to support our youth and their mentors as they walk this journey.

Chris Lindsay and Jordan Baldwin took nine young people to Worshiplude in Ottawa for a fabulous weekend. We continue to appreciate all the time our volunteers take to create fun and meaningful times for our youth.

Mark your calendars for an exciting weekend in June—we are going to Camp Kee-Mo-Kee again. There will be a youth retreat Friday night, June 5th, and an everyone-else-night (families, singles, old, young) on Saturday, June 6th. This weekend will culminate in a worship service and church picnic at the camp on June 7th. It was fabulous last year and we hope to see more people come this year. If you have any questions or want to help, please contact Allyson Watson or Jane Dockrill. †

Wernham Wealth Management Inc.

Ted Wernham CLU CFSB EPC
retirement income and asset manager

ted@tedwernham.com
519.670.3177



Will & Estate Lawyers

Michael A. Menear LL.B. | Karen E. MacDonald LL.B.

478 WATERLOO ST, LONDON • 519.672.7370 • www.menearlaw.com

Jim Deacon
(519) 870-RUGS (7847)

DEACON FLOORING
CARPET, WOOD FLOORS & CERAMIC Inc.

EXCLUSIVE SHOP AT HOME SERVICE

1900 Hyde Park Road
London, Ontario N6H 5L9
Tel: (519) 472-2992 Fax: (519) 472-2998
E-Mail: jim.deacon@deaconflooring.com

Residential Renovations Commercial

CHERYL SAMSON
Registered Massage Therapist

WOODFIELD MASSAGE THERAPY CLINIC



11 Fairlane Cres.
London, ON. N6K 3E1
(519) 852-4269
cherylsamsonrmt@gmail.com



MUSIC

Paul Cooper

Easter is “early” this year in the liturgical cycle and so our Friday Lenten Noon Recitals started in February. I hope you had the opportunity to attend one or all of them.

The Senior Choir has been working very hard

throughout the fall and winter on a jazz setting of the traditional Latin Mass, to be presented on Sunday, April 19th at 2:30pm—hear the London premiere of Will Todd’s jazz-styled *Mass in Blue* featuring the choir of First-St. Andrews, Sonja Gustafson, soloist, with a jazz ensemble. Also John Rutter’s *Feel the Spirit*, a cycle of traditional spirituals with Amanda Perera, soloist, all under direction of Paul Merritt. †



MEMBERSHIP & NURTURE

Audrey Coulthard

Our Membership & Nurture Committee is collaborating with the Welcoming Committee to pursue issues related to:

- Hospitality.
- Volunteer recruitment.
- Communication between committees and general membership.
- Expanded use of technology to share information.
- Community-building.

A proposal to establish a Catering Committee is

being considered. Current pastoral visiting and Caring Caller lists are in place. Annabelle Logan has a team of callers who do phone “visits” several times a year to keep members informed of FSA activities. Please keep her informed of anyone who might appreciate this connection.

Coffee and Conversation continues to need volunteers to prepare, set up, and serve following the worship service on Sunday mornings.

Thank you to everyone who has assisted; however our volunteer pool needs to be expanded. Please support this social enterprise by offering to help once or twice a year. Supplies are provided; training support available. Contact Audrey Coulthard (ajcoulthard@bell.net) or any other committee member if you can help. †



WELCOMING

Heather Locking-Cusolito

The Welcoming Committee has had a recent change in membership. Jay Snyder has resigned and we thank him for his work. Joining the committee of Anne Cummings and Pam Turner-Langley are Barry Tiffin and Jean

Wright. We are happy to report that two of the three Task Teams developed to work on priorities identified in our survey are up and running.

- The “General Welcoming Practices Task Team” has as members David Beach, Heather Locking-Cusolito and Barry Tiffin. This group has met twice and has been generating ideas which they plan to work on with other committees. One priority is making it easier to find volunteers for

the many activities that require support from the congregation at FSA.

- The “Welcoming Families of Varying Family Composition Task Team” has as members Karen Reese, Amanda Williams and Jean Wright. They plan to hold their first meeting shortly.
- We are still looking for members for the “Welcoming Young People Task Team.” All volunteers gratefully received.

Of course our whole congregation is a Welcoming Committee. Why not try to make a point of saying hello to someone next Sunday with whom you have never spoken before. Then in your own way you are contributing to the fellowship and welcoming community of FSA. †

PEEL PRODUCTIONS

Transfer your old family films and tapes to DVD
Also... DVD/CD Duplication

Telephone: 519.658.7120 Email: info@peelvideo.com www.peelvideo.com

HARRIS
FUNERAL HOME LTD

Traditional Services ❖ Cremation Alternatives

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

Family-owned & operated since 1962

NOTEWORTHY

Gavin McGregor reports: On a recent bitterly cold day with a wind-chill temperature close to where Celsius and Fahrenheit shake hands, I started to clear the snowplough-packed snow that blocked the end of my driveway. Suddenly I was aware of a tall hooded figure silently working alongside me—we worked in unison until there was a clear path.

Daniel, my hooded-helper teenaged

neighbour, bashfully acknowledged my thanks with a shrug and the modest response “**It’s just the right thing to do.**” With shovels over his shoulder he headed off to do battle with another driveway.

Australia’s Neighbour Day carries the message: **The community you want starts at your front door.**™ On that cold day Daniel delivered this hope-filled message. Noteworthy indeed. †

>> Council Report (cont'd. from page 12)

young members of the Search Committee are faithfully meeting weekly to discern the name of the one upon whom GOD is encouraging this congregation to place a brand new call as minister of worship.

In the interim we are weekly blessed by the wonderful cooperation and generous gifting of talents shared between clergy and lay leaders—in the knowledge that the work of the Gospel goes on in season and out of Season, regardless of the waiting times.

Often unseen and unheralded, our FSA staff are working together and with each and all of us to not only ensure the active daily life of this congregation, but to demonstrate that team ministry is a vital and exciting new fruit already gifted to us in these uncertain times.

The dark days of the Season of Lent are also days in which, even as we remember and repent, reconcile and reform, we are also wonderfully

beckoned anew into the wonders of that ever-unfolding new journey of faith in which we never walk alone.

Though we do not know the end of this journey, we do know the One who has promised to accompany us through the darkness into His marvellous Light. This is a Season of renewal—let us not waste it but rather keep awake and alert to its every gift. †

>> Note from Tom (cont'd. from page 3)

It seems to be impossible to have a governing body vote to eliminate itself. I hope you will talk to your Presbytery representatives and encourage them to vote to streamline the structure of the United Church of Canada. Eventually we all will have an opportunity to vote for change, because a remit will need to be passed by all levels of the church before change can take place. There will be difficulties with any new structural change, but we must take some action or be drowned in an extra level of governance. †

**W. RUSSELL
MONTEITH, Q.C.**
Law Office


ESTATE PLANNING
519.642.2500 monteithlaw@bellnet.ca

Brilliant Painting
"Nothing but Brilliant!"

Hamid Yousuf


519-319-3001
brilliantpaintinglondon@gmail.com

LONDON
PAIN & HEADACHE
CLINIC
ENERGY MEDICINE



Jon Traut, D.Ac
Traditional Acupuncture
426 1/2 William St.
London, Ontario N6B 3B3
(519) 868-6171

aqualuxe
BATH SHOWROOM



519.641.7555
WWW.AQUALUXELONDON.COM
1350 FANSHAWE PARK RD. W., LONDON



OUR NEW MEMORIALS BOOK



CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE



FAREWELL TO KATE

**Windows on
First-St. Andrew's**



MARDI GRAS PANCAKE SUPPER



THE BELLS' LENTEN CONCERT



HAGGIS STEW AT THE BURNS' SUPPER

CHURCH STAFF

Minister

The Rev. Tom Hiscock

Minister Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. David McKane

Designated Visitor

Jo Ann Silcox

Director of Music

Paul Merritt

Church Administrator

Brenda McManus

Youth & Young Family Coordinator

Jane Dockrill

Administrative Assistant/Receptionist

Katrina Stolk

Facility & Maintenance Coordinator

Tim Miedema

Atrium Steward

Barry Tiffin

Nursery Supervisors

Amanda Ingrey and Becky Bromall

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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