

# ANNUAL REPORT-2017

*First-St Andrew's*  
UNITED CHURCH

Where liberal theology meets the best of tradition



Prepared for  
the Annual Congregational Meeting  
Spring, 2018

We are an inclusive Christian family encouraging growth  
through worship, friendship, learning and action

350 Queens Avenue, London, Ontario, N6B 1X6  
519-679-8182 [www.fsaunited.com](http://www.fsaunited.com) [mail@fsaunited.com](mailto:mail@fsaunited.com)

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# STAFF REPORTS

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## MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF WORSHIP AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

**E**zra is a little book tucked in the middle of the Old Testament that doesn't usually get a lot of attention or study. However, one of my favorite lines of scripture "I started the work weeping, I finished it rejoicing!" can be found in Ezra, written by the priest and scribe of the same name.

The stories told to us in Ezra are set in and around Jerusalem, at a time when the exiles return from captivity and begin to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. Dr. Derek W.H. Thomas tells us that "the book of Ezra provides an account of the Jews' regathering; of their struggle to survive; and to rebuild what had been destroyed. Through his narrative, Ezra declared that they were still God's people and that God had not forgotten them.

In the book of Ezra we witness the rebuilding of the new temple, and the unification of the returning tribes as they shared common struggles and were invited and challenged to work together in partnerships with one another. Later, after the original remnant had stopped work on the city walls and spiritual apathy ruled, Ezra arrived with another two thousand people and sparked a spiritual revival. By the end of the book, Israel had renewed its covenant with God and had begun acting in obedience to God. Ezra's leadership proved crucial to the Jews' spiritual advancement."

This was a group of people, a family of faith, that were journeying together, and found spiritual maturity when they renewed their covenant with God. When they declared that they were still God's people, and they moved forward to rebuild the temple of faith within them, and around them.

I believe that this reflects what is happening within both the United Church of Canada, and First-St. Andrew's right now. The temple of faith is being rebuilt. The United Church is becoming more agile to be able to adapt to the changing environment, with changes to both its governance models, and how things operate within those courts systems. Here at FSA we too are embracing ways to do things that best fit our volunteer base, and our staff capaci-

ties. Discerning with our Short-Term + Long-Term Planning Team; dreaming with our Meditation Garden group; learning with the Self-Compassion group; and praying about a new way to provide leadership in a Mission model; are all ways that we too can recite the words of Ezra that we too are still God's people.

Scripture tells us that as the new temple was being rebuilt, and the foundation laid that shouts of joy and praises to God were lifted up. "But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple wept aloud ... while many others shouted for joy." Change brings about a variety of responses. Some cheer, others weep. But my favorite passage that comes from this Ezra story is that: "A Babylonian cornerstone reads: "I started the work weeping, I finished it rejoicing!" Ezra 3:13; Psalm 126:5-6

In the end, it was indistinguishable what were cries of distress and what were cries of Joy. We are being called in this Holy Season to work through the things that make us weep. The loss, the disappointment, the envy ... so that our hearts can receive the things that allow us to rejoice. Grace, Acceptance, Faith, Spiritual Maturity.

As a community, filled with Faith, Service and the Arts, we are moving forward in hope, knowing that as God's People, when we listen to God and follow God's leadership, guidance and direction, we cannot get lost. Even when we are weeping, we are working towards rejoicing.

As we honour and celebrate all that has been within the last year, we look forward to where God is leading us. I cannot give enough gratitude to the incredible staff of FSA. We are a team that cares about one another, and for one another. The success of FSA is everyone's success, because we are all working together, toward a common and faithful goal.

As we remember the many, many highlights of 2017, we anticipate all the Glory and Grace that is before us for 2018.

In Faithful Service;  
Rev. Michelle P. Down

## MESSAGE FROM THE VISITATION MINISTER

**P**astoral Care is a ministry of presence, a ministry of remembering those who have moved to the fringe of the community because of age, ill-health or physical infirmity. It is a ministry shared by Membership and Nurture, Caring Callers and Care For The Caregivers. As many of you know I took over visitation when Tom Hiscock

retired. I work 12 hours a week visiting FSA members in 16 Retirement homes and Care facilities in addition to many in their own homes as well as those in hospital or coping with illness. It is never enough time in an aging congregation such as ours but I thoroughly enjoy the work and hope my presence brings a sense of FSA and a connection to a faith community to those once active now unable to attend.

Peace, David

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

**M**y first full year as music director here at First-St. Andrew's has certainly been a rewarding, albeit busy one. As I reflect on 2017, I realize just how busy the music program has been, and it leaves me with a feeling of sincere gratitude. I cannot thank the members of the Music Committee enough, especially Merran Neville, as chair, as support for the musical activities in this past anniversary year has been tremendous.

Thanks are sincerely expressed to all who help out by offering their talents and gifts, whether by singing, ringing bells, playing stringed and wind instruments at various services, or looking after the music libraries—vocal and handbell. Special thanks are also expressed to the staff for their support in helping the musical activities run smoothly—both on Sunday mornings and for special events. Thanks to Heather and Kathryn for their financial and administrative help, Tim and George for assistance with set-ups, Paul and Ron for helping with custodial duties from time to time, and of course Reverend Michelle Down for her support and collaborative spirit in planning our weekly worship services. I am listing here the groups currently running, and thanks are expressed to all of those in their various roles:

- The Junior Joyfuls: .....  
Jocelyn Hoevenaars, director; Allyson Watson, Jane Dockrill, assistants
- The Joyful Singers: .....  
Terry Head, director
- The Laudamus Bells: .....  
Terry Head, director

- Senior Choir Soloists: .....  
Sonja Gustafson, Francesca Ranalli, Chris Wood, Alastair Smyth
- Eberhard Vocal Scholar: .....  
Vacant
- First-St. Andrew's Strings: .....  
Bruce Richardson, conductor
- Music Committee .....  
Merran Neville, chair
- Concert Series: .....  
Communications and Marketing (publicity), Friends of Music donors

This past September, we had the pleasure of welcoming our new bass soloist, Alastair Smyth, and we look forward to hearing more of him in the future.

The highlights from this past year include our Lenten and Advent noon concerts. The lunches that are offered after each of these concerts are served by a terrific group of volunteers. First-St. Andrew's not only celebrated its 185th anniversary, but Canada celebrated its 150th, and as part of that celebration, the FSA Senior Choir and FSA Strings teamed up to present a concert of music by Canadian composers, including our own Jean Anderson. This concert was varied and contained compositions with connections from coast to coast to coast.

The children and youth from both the Sunday School and *Sing For Your Supper* programs worked together to put on a wonderful musical called, *In the Image*, bringing their winter/spring session to a close. In the late summer, the Joyful Singers joined with me for a fun session of bowling and pizza. In December, all the children and youth put together another musical titled *A Play in a Manger*.

In late May, the Laudamus Bells went to the Ontario

Guild of English Handbell Ringer' Festival held at McMaster University in Hamilton. Three days of ringing, learning and fun were all enjoyed by our ringers. As part of our ongoing ringer development, FSA hosted the OGEHR fall workshop in early November—a full day of workshops for the ringers from the London area and beyond.

Chorally, the fall concert season began with our Hymn Festival featuring almost 100 singers from five other congregations teaming up and singing together, with brass accompaniment and Paul Merritt back at the organ bench. Net proceeds from this concert in the amount of \$500.00, are ear-marked for the El Sistema music education program here in the city.

In November we collaborated with the Faculty of Music at Western to host the Canadian Brass concert. The day after the concert, over 500 elementary school children attended the church to hear the Canadian Brass perform. This was certainly an example of reaching out to the community and opening the church doors.

Special music was offered throughout our anniversary month of November, including Sonja Gustafson and three friends providing jazz music for one service.

The music-making continued through December with not only the Advent series, but also three performances of the one-act opera, *The Gift of the Magi*. Sonja Gustafson, Francesca Ranalli, Todd Wiczorek and Chad Louwerse offered wonderful performances. As the featured choir, our senior choir participated, once again, with

the Salvation Army Band for their annual Festival of Carols at Centennial Hall. Several choir members also participated in the Royal Canadian College of Organists' service of Lessons and Carols. The FSA Strings rounded out the year with their participation in the Christmas Eve service, as well as offering a great concert in the fall and joining in the World-Wide Communion and Music Awareness Sunday services.

As I look forward to the coming year, work has earnestly begun bringing both the FSA Senior Choir and London Pro Musica choirs together for our spring concert. On April 21st, we will be performing Mendelssohn's glorious oratorio, *Elijah*, with soloists, Sonja Gustafson, Francesca Ranalli, Darryl Edwards and Chad Louwerse, accompanied by London Symphonia. This year, FSA is hosting the combined Good Friday service and, musically, we will be offering John Rutter's ethereal Requiem, with a small ensemble of flute, oboe, cello, harp, percussion, and organ. It is my hope that the move of the chapel organ into the sanctuary is complete by this time so that we can use this lovely instrument in that service.

Again, thanks are expressed to everyone who makes music at FSA, and to those who help make that music-making possible. I look forward to the busy year ahead, and to all the joys that come with sharing the gift of music in worship and concert for our congregation and community.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Terry Head  
Director of Music, FSA

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## MESSAGE FROM THE YOUTH AND YOUNG FAMILIES COORDINATOR

**H**ere we are. What a busy year and once again, it has flown by. You know what they say, time flies when you are having fun! Here is what I have been up to:

I was especially busy balancing time at the reception desk and my position of Youth and Young Families coordinator last year. It was a fun challenge but a little too busy for

me. I chose to focus on one role and in July, I resumed full duties to YYFC position which gave me more time to focus on summer camps at FSA and Peace Camp, Pride Day activities, and planning for the fall.

- Sunday School, since Dec. 2017 has focused primarily on stories of Joseph and His brothers, Seven Sacred Teachings – First Nation Learning, The Sower, Christmas Stories and Pageant, David and Goliath and the Disciples. This year we will also focus on 1 Corinthians 13, Holy Week and The Easter Story, The Prodigal Son and Mary and Martha. We continue to use the Rotation Model, several week on each story.

- Continued support to Confirmation Class and Youth groups. To culminate the energy and passion of the Youth's trip to Nicaragua in Sept 2016, an inspirational service shared with the congregation explained how the youth were moved, enlightened and engaged by their exposure to a new culture. A new confirmation class began in October 2017. It is my goal to offer confirmation class every other year and an exposure/mission trip in the in between years. 2016/17 confirmation class of 4 was wrapped up with a meaningful confirmation service April 30, 2017. Participants and Mentor's used the "Making Disciples" program as well as other resources like "Bullseye." The group met monthly or more often to support mentors and participants.
- Sing For Your Supper program. This program continues to grow strong. A more focused approach to getting to know all of the participants and families and in providing leadership to the Jr. Joyful team (Gabby, now Jocelyn and Terry) has been beneficial. Most SFYS children joined us at VBS in the summer (for which we had 40 participants in 2017). The choirs collaborated with Sunday School children and youth groups for Spring and Christmas Musical Pageants.
- Collaboration and team work between council committees through joint projects is something I really enjoy. Once again, young families and youth were involved in church activities and projects such as a apple pie baking supporting the UCW, Fall BBQ Fundraiser supporting outreach and the electronic sign, a Pancake supper in collaboration with the Brown Bag Lunch group, supporting Camp Kee-Mo-Kee Heritage Camp, a very focused Lenten project for all of the congregation, children's spring musical presented on Sunday morning in church, Family camp and congregational service presented by youth at Kee-Mo-Kee, Vacation Bible camp with community outreach (6 children from Southdale Chaplaincy) and another six new children from our local community through word of mouth.

The start of a new school year, Sept 2017 What's coming up:

- A new group has started for the younger youth (Grade 5-8). They meet on Sunday mornings with dedicated teachers . (Rowina Pine, Kes Sebborn, Allyson Watson) With a strong attendance in this age group the CD committee and myself recognize the need to engage

these younger "teens in transition" with programs that are meaningful, fun and keep their engagement strong. This group (since Sept 2017) has their own unique curriculum with a focus on outreach and compassion. This group has also been invited to a week-night program twice a month which will also focus on outreach and compassion (and fun of course) and will be culminated in a trip or mission experience through the GO Project in August of 2018. The Go Project will take our campers (grade 4-8) out into the community daily to work, observe and serve. A great view of the city's needs and how they might be a part of the success and/or solutions of the future. Karol Boyd, who never missed a youth group, also helps me with this new group.

- Continue to support High School Youth in ways that are meaningful to them. Having lost several youth from this group in Sept 2017 (to post-secondary education streams), the remaining teens are currently in transition with a variety of individual schedules and needs. A challenge, for sure. We are working together, getting involved activities and opportunities that they can manage with their busy, high-school, work and social schedules. Eg. Reading scripture, Bazaar support in the French Cafe, Apple Pie baking to support UCW, The Swell Youth service at Christmastime (Izzy, Isaac, Mason and Ana served communion) , Worshiplude in Feb.
- The Youth and I have embarked on a huge mission goal this year to engage and learn about first Nations and how we can be a part of reconciliation. All of the teens attend high school with a number of First Nations Youth and we hope to bridge some of the gaps with our learning and understanding of the challenges.
- Currently, we plan to take a cross cultural learning trip to Manitoba. We will take some time to live in nature as we canoe and portage the Magnetawan Rivers, then drive together to the Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Center where we will spend 3-4 days with an elder from the community, sharing experiences and learning the history of First nations in Canada. We will visit the Human Rights Museum and participate in local spiritual practices. We will spend a night in Thunder Bay on the way there and on the way home at St Paul's United Church. We love sleeping in church basements all over Ontario. (that's what we do when we go to Ottawa Worshiplude too!) Watch for more details.
- As 2018 unfolds, we can all look forward to lots of singing from the Joyfuls and Jr. Joyful choirs, exciting

Eastertime learning downstairs in the Fireside Room, both youth groups growing in energy and spirit as we head towards a busy spring. Plan to join us at Camp Kee-Mo-Kee for youth and family camp followed by a great congregational service and picnic lunch on Sunday, June 3.

- Our summer programs are full with two summer camps for young children (July 23-27 and Aug 13-17) the GO Project for the grade's 4-8 (Aug 13-17) and a mission trip for the youth (Aug 20-29).
- Many, many thanks to the ongoing support of teachers, moms and dads, granny's and grandpa's throughout the year. Pam Salmoni has been a terrific support to me and to Sunday worship as she searches out candle lighters for each Sunday - Thanks Pam! Our teachers are busy people and yet they come with smiles and energy to share God's love with the kid's every Sunday. Many thanks to Ann Macphail, Kathryn and Jake Skelly, Chris Silcox, Kes Sebborn, Allyson Wat-

son, Rowina Pine. You are all Awesome!

- Karol Boyd helps with both Youth Groups and also an "After Hours" (20-30's group) once a month. Over Christmas they baked and shared cookies with the men's mission!

That's all it takes. It's not as hard as you might think. Share God's love and warm up the world. That's our goal! The work (and play) that happens with the young people of our community could not be done without the tremendous support from the CD Committee, the staff as a whole and the congregation. Here's to another blessed year of learning and growing together.

Respectfully Submitted

Jane Dockrill

Youth and Young Families Coordinator

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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### COUNCIL

**A**s I write the report I find myself reflecting on this past year and the trust you have placed in me as your chair of Council. The Council of First St Andrews is an extraordinary group of dedicated volunteers who give their time and talents to serve the work of God through this church. I feel blessed to work with these individuals as we continue to live the vision of FSA.

Each of your committees of Council has worked tirelessly in their respective areas to take care of First St Andrews so that each of us benefits from all that is offered. Finance and Trustees continue to work hand in hand to ensure our long term health and viability. Property maintains and improves our building and infrastructure. M&P facilitates strong working relationships with our staff. Mission and Outreach assist us with our commitment to the

United Church M&S fund as well as multiple other charities both local and worldwide. Membership and Nurture builds our community from within. Worship and Christian Development enhance the worship experience for all age groups. Music promotes and develops our strong musical traditions. Communications and Marketing promote our events and programs. The UCW actively engages the women of FSA in multiple areas and maintains our reputation as a caring community. These are but a few examples of the leadership provided at the committee level on your behalf. I have included the names of all Committee chairs at the end of this report. Please thank them when you get a chance.

In addition to the regular work of each committee, Council is engaged in and endorses new opportunities. The work of our Long term/Short term planning committee is exploring those opportunities and providing leadership and visioning which will take us into the future. Their

work will help to build a blueprint for how we might grow, develop, and change. First St Andrews is an historic congregation at the heart of FSA and historically it has been our ability to adapt that has kept us strong. We must now embrace new ideas and chart our way forward. With that in mind a Council Retreat was held in the fall of 2017 including all staff in a joint exploration of our strengths and our visions for where we might go. From that event we are starting to look at our current governance model with a focus how we might better serve this organization.

On behalf of the congregation I would like to express my sincere thanks to all members of council and their respective committee members for the work they do. I also wish to thank those who are stepping down after many years of service. First St Andrews relies heavily on its volunteers and you have played a significant part in the life of our church.

On behalf of Council and the congregation I would like to acknowledge the dedicated work of our staff for the outstanding work they do each day. Michelle, David, Terry, Jane, Heather, Kathryn, and Tim we value your efforts and we thank you.

In closing let me say that I appreciate your ongoing support of council and your confidence in our leadership. However we are nothing without you. Thanks for your commitment to First-St. Andrew's United Church.

#### **2017 Council:**

Katherine Wonfor – Secretary  
Jo Ann Silcox – Nominating  
Kerry Stover – Finance (interim)  
Steve Elson – Long Term/Short term Planning  
Audrey Coulthard – Membership and Nurture  
Bruce Moor – Ministry and Personnel  
Pat Pettit, Barb Dalrymple – Mission and Outreach  
Merran Neville – Music  
George Jolink – Property  
John Eberhard, David Manness – Trustees  
Jane Westmorland – Worship  
Doug Gonder – Communications and Marketing  
Bill & Jean Knowles, Linda Badke  
– Presbytery Representatives  
Laurel Kenny – UCW  
Michelle Down – Minister Congregational Life  
Terry Head – Director of Music  
Heather Vouvalidis – Church Administrator

Respectfully Submitted  
George Jolink  
Chair

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## **CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT**

**T**he Christian Development Committee is responsible for the care and feeding of the development of Christianity for three demographics within FSA: Children, Youth and Adults. This group is very broad and we have offered many exciting programs again this year. Hopefully, you were able to participate in program offered this year. Here are the things we have done in 2017:

Our youngest children were cared for in the nursery by Kendra Shouldice.

Children- JK – Grade 8 - enjoyed church school on

Sundays (under the leadership of Jane Dockrill, Kathryn Skelly, Chris Silcox, Kes Seeborn, Ann MacPhail, Allyson Watson, Heather Lake), vacation bible camp, Peace Camp, the Christmas Pageant with the youth, Sing For Your Supper, Joyful and Junior Joyful singers, Pancake Supper, Big Circle Breakfast, and Spirit Games. The families also donated Christmas stockings to Merrymount Overnight Program.

Grade 5 -8 youth group- This group has just started in the fall of 2017. They have met for some social time and are starting to work on some opportunities for outreach.

High School Youth- participated in Worshiplude (Jane Dockrill), bi-weekly youth group (Jane Dockrill, Karol



Boyd), youth Sunday School ( Jacob Tufts and Jane Dockrill), helpers at the bazaar, the Christmas Pageant, several retreats including the Camp Kee Mo Kee weekend. 4 youth were confirmed in April 2017.

Adult:

In 2017, the FSA Film Series completed its fifth year as a committee of volunteers from the congregation. Under the auspices of the Christian Development Committee, the purpose of this self-sustaining series is to provide adult Christian development around issues of social justice. From September to April each year, six films are shown and discussed on themes such as race, disability, sexual orientation, aging, moral and ethical dilemmas. After each film is shown, it is put in the church library for members of the congregation to check out and view at home. The following films were shown in 2017: *The Queen of Katwe* (Black History Month), *Me Before You* (disability), *He Named Me Malala* (women's rights), *A Man Called Ove* (aging), *Maudie* (disability), *Collateral Beauty* (grief). The members of the Film Committee are: Anne Cummings, Michael Feeney, David and Deanne Pederson, Debbie Schram, and Glenda Robinson.

Adults had the opportunity to attend bible study on Thursday and Sunday mornings (Jo Ann Silcox, Tom Hiscock, David McKane, Michelle Down), book club, Lenten Reflective Journey was created to focus on increasing our awareness of indigenous culture and supported the Heritage Week camp at Camp Kee Mo Kee. In addition, the

Brown Bag Lunch group hosted Mining the Mystery Series II. Karol Boyd has been leading a young adult group called After Hours, which meets biweekly.

For all ages: We hosted our 4th annual Camp Kee Mo Kee weekend. We had 45 people spend the night and then were joined by the congregation on Sunday morning in a service led by Michelle Down and Jane Dockrill. CD and the rest of council hosted a potluck lunch following the service. Turkey Pot Pies were made to support the sign (\$1500) and UCW Boutique Bazaar.

The Jean Brown Fund helps support the youth and children's activities at the church. In 2017, funds from Jean Brown helped to support: Sing For Your Supper, choirs for children, youth at Worshiplude, Youth Forum and camp subsidies, nursery staff, Peace Camp, supplies for youth group event, Camp Kee Mo Kee weekend, bus to Kee Mo Kee service, snacks and support for SWEL service, spring Children's musical and Christmas Pageant, the salary of the Youth and Young Families Coordinator .

Thank you to all the people that made 2017 programs possible, especially to those members of CD (Katie Graves, Michael Feeney, Heather Lake, Susan McKane, Jo Ann Silcox and Jane Dockrill) We are looking forward to another exciting year.

Respectfully submitted  
Allyson Watson  
Chair

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## COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

**D**o you keep hearing the thrum of printing presses, computers, telephones and smart phones? Don't be alarmed! It's just the symphony of output created by the Communications and Marketing Committee. The elves once again have been busy scurrying around doing their job in 2017. Here is a rundown of what we had a hand in during 2017.

Working with the Music committee to promote the Music at First-St. Andrew's concerts has been a cordial

and satisfying partnership. We helped get the word out on *A Winter Interlude of Art Music*, *Shakespeare Sings*, the *Lenten Friday Noon Hour Recital Series*, *From Sea to Sea to Sea*, *The Fall Hymn Festival*, *Gift of the Magi*, *Autumn Strings Concert*, and the *Advent Friday Noon Recital Series*, with posters, flyers, floor banners, program inserts, news releases and carefully placed announcements in the local media. Attendance at all these events was excellent, a tribute to the quality of the productions and, we would like to think, to our efforts to spread the word. We also worked with the Music Committee to produce updates of their Choir and Bells brochures and to create what we hope will be a distinctive template for their annual productions

brochure. One new wrinkle worked out with their talented folks was the ability to buy tickets for their events online, thanks to our new relationship with the folks at Eventbrite.

We partnered with MOE to promote a special concert on April 1st called *Then Sings My Soul*, a musical featuring musicians from the Victoria Playhouse in Petrolia. We also worked extensively with MOE to promote the White Squirrel Golf Tournament in June, producing posters, score cards, auction materials, registration forms and evening programs as well as a web page devoted to their event.

In September, for the second year in a row, we arranged to have FSA included in the Doors Open weekend. Over 150 folks came out on Saturday, September 16th, to peek inside the church and hear the music from Terry and Amabile. Heather and Pat deserve kudos for all their work on this.

We joined forces with other church committees as well. With the UCW we helped promote the rummage sale, their 50th Anniversary Celebrations in May and their Boutique Bazaar in November. With Christian Development and the Men's Brown Bag we brought the *Mining Mystery: Season II* program to the attention of all. For the first time, the sessions were videoed, and we put these presentations up on our website via the FSA YouTube channel so that folks who couldn't attend might see and hear the presentations at their leisure. (Did you know we had our own YouTube Channel? Well now you do!) We also collaborated with CD to promote Films at FSA and the Book Club Series. With the Planning Committee we developed a web page to house their updates and plans for the future.

With the church office we helped with numerous projects, including updates for the church's funeral and wedding brochures and development of updated Baptismal certificates, business cards and note cards. Did you know that C & M provides the online bookings platform that the church office uses to book all your space requirements? Special thanks to Kathryn for keeping that up to date. For the first time in 2017, C & M took over the layout tasks for the Annual Report. We then handed it over to the Church Office for printing.

With Worship, and church staff we ensure that an audio record of our Worship services is produced each week and then edited for broadcast on the web. We also

co-produce and show the slide show of the church service during the summer months in Proudfoot Hall.

As always, we continued to provide regular information to the FSA family and beyond, via our media platforms, the email blast, *This Week at FSA*, the Bulletin Insert, the Sunday Slide Show and the Web site. (Few may realize that C & M at FSA has been supporting ELUCO for the last three years via the development and maintenance of their website as well.) Our new Facebook page replaced the old FSA group page at the beginning of 2017 and has proven valuable for getting the word about events out well beyond the limitations of regular church publications. We urge folks to check it out and "like" the promotions they find there. Our thanks to Doug, the "Facebook guru" of the committee. Special tribute goes to Tim Miedema who braved all kinds of weather to change the message from FSA to the world on our outdoor sign.

Tidings remains the "jewel" of our media enterprises. Thanks to editor, Pat McGregor and her team of faithful writers and proofers and to ad guy, Bob Peele. We continue to produce, what we feel, is a magazine that FSA can truly be proud of. It has become an official record of what FSA stands for.

As 2017 drew to a close, we introduced a form for "clients" to fill out when they required our services to promote an event outside the church. It gives all the information up front and in a timely manner so that we can do our best job for you. We also sought and received authority from Council to vet the proposed dates for big events for which we are pitching to audiences outside the church. Our aim is to ensure that events are not competing with one another because they are booked too closely.

Committee Members for 2017 were:

- Doug Gonder, Chair
- Jim Silcox, Secretary
- Pat Tripp, media relations
- Nancy Johnson
- Heather Locking-Cusolito
- Bob Slater

Respectfully submitted  
Jim Silcox  
Secretary

## MEMBERSHIP AND NURTURE

### Committee members

Audrey Coulthard (Chair)  
Worship - Jo Ann Silcox  
Pastoral care/Visitation - Rev David McKane, Jo Ann Silcox  
Archives - Barbara Williamson  
Affirm Committee - Anne Cummings  
Staff rep - Rev Tom Hiscock to May and May to Dec. Rev Michelle Down  
Care for Caregivers - Jo Ann Silcox  
Caring Callers - Annabelle Logan  
Congregational Visiting Team - Audrey Coulthard  
Welcoming new Members - Heather Locking-Cusolito  
Coffee/Conversation - Deanne Pederson, Heather Locking-Cusolito  
Youth Liaison- Mason Robichaud  
Other official members - Glenna Hall, Jan Hendry, Karen Reeve, Barry Tiffin.

### Subcommittee reports

**Affirm Committee** - (see separate report following)  
**Coffee/Conversation** - Deanne Pederson has worked diligently to streamline the recruiting process to ensure coffee is prepared and served each Sunday. Heather Locking-Cusolito purchases the supplies as required. Thank you to the individuals and committees for their volunteer support to this important time of fellowship. Paper cups were implemented on a trial basis-being evaluated. Voluntary donations collected were transferred to the lawn sign project and more recently to the General Account. Gratitude is expressed to Mason Robichaud for his assistance with clean up and dishwasher duty.  
**New members** - Heather Locking Cusolito assembles a welcoming package with the support of Rev. Michelle and staff. The committee hosts a reception following the service on New Members Sunday. A reception was held in September to acknowledge appreciation for our volunteers.  
**Congregational Visiting Team** - Working under the direction of Rev. David McKane and Dr. Jo Ann Silcox, several

people visit regularly with confined members who are no longer able to participate in church activities. The UCW provides resources which allows us to remember them with a small gift at Christmas no Easter.Thank you to the UCW on behalf of those who appreciate this connection.  
**Caring Callers** - Annabelle Logan continues to coordinate a team that maintains phone contact those unable to get out to or ship.  
**Care for the Caregivers** - Jo Ann continues to lead this monthly support group.  
**Photo Directory** - planning deferred until 2018 to prepare a new directory.

### Congregational statistics - to end of 2017

**Active members/adherents**-382  
**Transfers**-0  
**Marriages**-6  
**Baptisms** -1  
**New members**-6  
Sarai Fonseca and Staci Fonseca Sheldrick  
Confirmands-Mason Robichaud, Hanna Patterson Bullick, Claire Jones Fright, Jade Mahabir.

### In Memoriam:

Sharon Young,	Lu McLean
Isabel Nelson,	Lillian Pederson
Pat McFarlane,	Jacqueline Caldwell
Dr Tom McLarty,	Lorna Getliffe
Margaret Ann Hill,	McKay McMurdo
Thelma Pleiter,	Stan Hill

I offer sincere thanks to committee members, Council and members of this faith community for the support over the years. As I vacate the Chair, Heather Locking-Cusolito has graciously accepted the responsibility as of February.

Respectfully submitted  
Audrey Coulthard  
Chair

See sub-committee reports on next page

## Affirm Subcommittee

**W**ith the help of the congregation, the Affirm Sub-committee organized FSA's third annual Pride Parade Party on our church lawn on Sunday, July 30, after the morning service with Kerry Stover as preacher. With our dedicated volunteers, we fed about 200 people and distributed over 900 cups of water to the marchers which was greatly appreciated on that hot day. The SOUP Ukulele group, with FSA's Christine Cavers, created a festive atmosphere with their upbeat music. We are grateful to the Membership and Nurture Committee who gave generous support to pay for the hotdogs and freezies. The freewill offering of \$300 was given to the Regional HIV/AIDS Connection.

The Committee continues to be a resource to other churches in the area who are going through the Affirming process. In January, we presented the Affirm Certificate to Trinity United Church at their Celebration Service after they completed the requirements to become an Affirming congregation. We also consulted with a member from Wesley-Knox United Church about our Affirm process and shared our resources with them.

During Black History Month in February, we profiled Black Canadians in the weekly email blast, This Week at FSA. They were Viola Desmond, who legally challenged segregation laws in Nova Scotia, Elijah McCoy, who invented a lubricator to oil machinery in motion, and William Bell, who received a Victoria Cross for bravery in the

## Reception Team

**T**here were seven funeral receptions held at First-St. Andrew's during 2017. Three of those receptions were catered by outside caterers.

Of the four receptions catered by our team, we had income of \$5,250.00 (at \$10.00 per person), incurred expenses of \$2,186.25 and realized a profit of \$3,063.75.

Crimean War.

In September, we organized a transgender presentation: Embracing our Diversities, Celebrating Our Transgender Friends. We were privileged to have as presenters, Rev. Marilyn Townsend-Smith, minister at Sarnia's London Road United Church and her partner, Paula Smith who transitioned from male to female within their marriage. This was a very informative, intimate sharing of their difficult journey together that occurred on a foundation of deep love. It was a privilege for all who attended to share in this incredible experience.

Once again, we partnered with the Knit Wits and the Regional HIV/AIDS Connection on their public awareness campaign with the Red Scarf Project. For the third year, Rev. Michelle Down blessed our 98 red scarves on the November 19 service at the beginning of AIDS Awareness week and then presented them to the coordinator of the Red Scarf Project, Martin McIntosh of RHAC. We also pinned red ribbons on every bulletin for the congregation to wear in the following week for AIDS Awareness. This simple, yet moving ceremony, expressed the loving kindness that our congregation hopes to transmit to people who are dealing with HIV/AIDS.

Members of the Affirm Sub-committee include: Anne Cummings, Joyce Payne, Jo Ann Silcox, Kerry Stover, Amanda Williams, and Jean Wright

Respectfully submitted  
Anne Cummings  
Sub-committee Chair

It was our honour to reach out to 525 guests during these four events and are humbled by the gracious comments received by those attending.

Thanks to all those who come to help prepare, serve and clean up for these ministry outreach opportunities.

With humble gratitude  
Joyce Payne  
Reception Coordinator

## **MISSION OUTREACH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (MOE)**

**T**he MOE committee and friends continue to be an active part of FSA, London, Canada and 22 countries across the world with our commitments. George Henry, a former chief and band councilor of the Chippewa of the Thames was our Mission Sunday speaker in February. Sadly, he passed away in January 2018. During Lent we supported the Christian Development committee in promoting a Heritage Week at Kee Mo Kee for indigenous and non-indigenous children with input from indigenous Elders. Jessica Justrabo, Bridges Out of Poverty Circles Coordinator spoke at the service July 9. We hosted the annual Canadian Foodgrains Bank corn, ham and bean luncheon in September. In October our members attended the Middlesex Presbytery Division of the Mission and Outreach Truth and Reconciliation Workshop at the Chippewa of the Thames Community Centre to promote further understanding with our indigenous brothers and sisters. We helped celebrate FSA's 185th by providing a Sundaie Sunday during November. In December we sold gift cards for Christmas share and hats, mittens, scarves and socks were donated to our Mitten Tree for distribution to those in need. The Christmas Eve loose offering of \$347.00 was given to St. Paul's Daily Bread and Outreach.

### **Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada**

We continue to educate the congregation on the work done by the M&S Fund through weekly M&S Snippets, Tidings, Mandate magazine, bulletin boards, and M & S Messages. We urge FSA members to continue to designate givings to the M&S Fund through PAR and their envelope givings. The United Church has 92 global partners in 21 countries around the world. We also issued an Emergency Response Appeal for Hurricane Irma.

### **East London United Church Outreach (ELUCO)**

ELUCO is a focal point for our church with Anne McPhail and Janice Elliott serving on the Board. Linda Badke has retired from the Board after 25 years of selfless commitment. Nancy Howard continues to do an outstanding job as a community worker in the Marconi area of East London. FSA members participated in the annual September Walkathon. During Advent, gift cards worth \$2600

were purchased for ELUCO families to use for their Christmas gift buying.

### **Canadian Foodgrains Bank**

The CFGB is supported by our Grow-a-Row campaign. This year approximately \$5600 was raised, matched 4:1 by the Canadian Government through Global Affairs Canada. This included proceeds from our annual Corn Fest September luncheon. Bill and Jean Knowles show true dedication to this project.

### **Amnesty International**

In March the committee hosted the Write for Rights campaign and soup lunch. In December the congregation was encouraged to sign messages of hope to be sent to political prisoners.

### **St. Paul's-- Daily Bread Foodbank**

Each Sunday, FSA collects nonperishable food and money for the St. Paul's Foodbank. Jean Knowles is a member of the St. Paul's Board of Directors. She and Bill continue to volunteer weekly at the Foodbank and to deliver donated running shoes to the London InterCommunity Health Centre. In April FSA hosted Then Sings My Soul concert as a joint fundraising event for St. Paul's and FSA. Many of our members attended the annual Soup and Sandwich fundraiser.

### **Bridges Out of Poverty/Circles**

Katherine Wonfor and Joanne Girvan are the coordinators of the Bridges out of Poverty program. FSA provides three Monday evening dinners per month throughout the year for 25 Leaders (i.e., participants with their children) and their Allies (i.e., mentors). The program is available to adults who are part of the Ontario Works program.

The dinner is followed by a meeting which includes educational material such as awareness of community activities and library resources. A speaker is often present. Leaders can remain in the program as long as they continue to benefit from it even after finding a job. Some of the members have found jobs and others have returned to school. The bridges program is supported by Goodwill Industries and the City of London. Due to the identified success of the venture, ongoing funding has now been secured.

In addition to the Bridges out of Poverty/Circles dinner commitment, FSA also provided, in 2017, two 6-week sessions involving a lunch twice per week for about ten people in a Getting Ahead group. All participants in

Bridges out of Poverty must first complete a Getting Ahead session which involves a textbook learning format. There is a formal graduation ceremony for those who attend regularly and successfully complete the material. The most recent Getting Ahead group targeted people in their early 20s. These graduates are forming the 4th Bridges out of Poverty group in London.

In December, Joanne Girvan, Katherine Wonfor, Barry Tiffin, Barb Dalrymple and Pat Pettit attended a Christmas celebratory dinner at Goodwill Industries with participants and staff involved in the Bridges out of Poverty program.

### **White Squirrel Golf Tournament**

Diane Knoppert and Margo Christodoulou organized another very successful golf tournament in June. There were 44 golfers, and 87 people registered for the dinner. David and Winnie Wake led a Nature Walk for about 12 people. Most of the 30 hole sponsors were linked to the FSA website. A pizza lunch in May at FSA, the hole sponsorships, the silent, live and secret auctions, a 50/50 draw and a putting contest generated a profit of \$11, 215.

St. Paul's Daily Bread and the East London United Church Outreach program (ELUCO) were each given a donation of over \$4000. The Los Quinchos school for child

street vendors in Managua, Nicaragua received \$2000 for teachers' professional development; \$1000 was donated to the United Church of Canada Extreme Hunger Fund for several African countries.

The Mission Outreach committee extends its sincere gratitude to Diane and Margo for the enormous effort they, along with their Golf Committee, expended over the past several years to make this event a success. We are also very thankful to Allyson Watson and Kerry Stover who volunteered to co-chair the Golf Tournament Committee for 2018.

### **Mission Outreach Committee Members**

Linda Badke, Marilyn Beach, Janice Elliott, Liz Galbraith, Jan Hendry, Laurel Kenney, Bill and Jean Knowles

Co-Chairs, Barb Dalrymple and Pat Pettit would like to thank the hardworking committee members and friends for their tireless work, commitment and support. We welcome others who are interested in social justice to join our committee.

Respectfully Submitted  
Barb Dalrymple and Pat Pettit  
Co-chairs

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## **MUSIC COMMITTEE**

*"If only the whole world could feel the power of harmony."*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

**A** full year has rolled by and Terry Head, our Director of Music, has been at the helm for sixteen months. It has been a busy and hugely productive year with many musical delights. Throughout the year, all the music groups have performed either in concert or in church services. Their contributions to the worship and outreach of First-St. Andrew's adds so much to the life of our church and the community.

Concerts have included the senior choir and soloists as well as guest artists and the FSA Strings. A Winter Interlude was the first concert of the year with performers Sonja Gustafson, Francesca Ranalli, Jordan Baldwin, Chad Louwerse and Terry at the piano; Shakespeare Sings, with performers Sonja Gustafson, Andrea Nunez, Francesca Ranalli, Matthew Dalen, and pianists Mia Bach and Holly Kroeker, and Prof. Darryl Edwards, narrator; From Sea to Sea to Sea, celebrating Canada's 150th anniversary and the Fall Hymn Festival, celebrating First-St. Andrew's 185th birthday; the Canadian Brass and finally the opera The Gift of the Magi featuring Sonja Gustafson, Francesca Ranalli, Todd Wiczorek and Chad Louwerse. The FSA Strings performed at the 150th anniversary concert and included a work composed by Jean Anderson-Wuensch, an FSA member. As well, there were the Friday Lenten Noon Recitals and the Friday Advent Noon Recitals. The Laudamus Bells

performed at both. Other performers at these recitals included Terry Head, organ; The Twelve, a choir from the Pearson School for the Arts; Ken Baldwin, trumpet, Jordan Baldwin, violin, and Terry on piano; and the Catholic Central Chamber Choir with their director, Don Sills.

The Junior choirs and Sunday school children, with assistance from the teens gave wonderful performances of their spring musical *In the Image* and the Christmas musical *A Play in a Manger*. These presentations and singing in church services by the Junior Joyfuls and Joyful Singers were enjoyed tremendously by all. It is clear how much work goes into the preparations by Jane Dockrill, Terry, Allyson Watson, Gabriela Ocadiz, Jocelyn Hoevenaars, and others who assist.

The FSA Strings, under the baton of Bruce Richardson, have continued to enrich special services at Easter and Christmas. As well as playing in the 150th anniversary concert, they gave a concert on November 22 performing some of their favourite repertoire. We are indeed fortunate to have this group of musicians who give generously of their time and talents.

This year, a new Terms of Reference for the Friends of Music Fund has been prepared and approved by Council, and is posted on the FSA website at [http://www.fsaunited.com/PDFs/Miscellaneous/FoM\\_TermsOfReference.pdf](http://www.fsaunited.com/PDFs/Miscellaneous/FoM_TermsOfReference.pdf)

None of this would have been possible without the stellar leadership of Terry and the support of the Music Committee and many other volunteers. All deserve a great big THANK YOU!

Members of the Music Committee: Glenda Baldwin, Jordan Baldwin, Paul Cooper, Anne Cummings, Terry Head, Ardath Finnbogason-Hill, Ann MacPhail, Merran Neville (Chair), Jane Smith and Margaret Wardlaw.

Respectfully submitted by  
Merran Neville  
Chair, Music Committee

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## Senior Choir

The year 2017 marked our first full calendar year under the excellent leadership of Terry Head. Terry continues the strong tradition of fine music at FSA while introducing us to new musical ideas and new composers. Under Terry's direction, the senior choir maintains its important role of providing musical leadership in worship services.

We also continue our long-standing practice of presenting concerts from time to time.

Of course, 2017 was an important year in our nation's history, as people across the country celebrated the 150th anniversary of Confederation. The Senior Choir was very pleased to present our very own Canada 150 concert in April, *From Sea to Sea to Sea*. In the program, we enjoyed singing a wonderful array of music by Canadian composers.

In October, we helped to celebrate the 185th anniversary of our congregation, with a Fall Hymn Festival. For this concert, we were joined by choirs from other congregations. Instrumental accompaniment for the evening included our Organist Emeritus, Paul Merritt. Three of the hymn arrangements performed that evening were purchased in memory of Jean Comfort, who was a member of the choir for 70 years.

In December, the choir continued its traditional participation in the annual Christmas concert by the London Citadel Band of the Salvation Army, at Centennial Hall. Several choir members joined the massed chorus for the Royal Canadian College of Organists carol service at Metropolitan United Church on December 3.

Our soloists continue their important role in the music program at FSA. In September, we welcomed our new bass soloist, Alistair Smyth. Thanks to Sonja Gustafson (Soprano), Francesca Ranalli (Alto) and Chris Wood (Tenor) who continue to inspire us. Once again the choir extends a very special thank-you to Lynda Kennedy, who is often called upon to accompany the choir both in rehearsals and concerts. We appreciate her skill, sensitivity and good humour.

The choir looks forward to more wonderful musical experiences in 2018. One very special note – as this report is being written, the choir is busy preparing for the spring concert, featuring Mendelssohn's *Elijah*.

Respectfully submitted by  
David Wake  
President

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## Laudamus Bells

As we continue to enjoy the leadership of Terry Head, our bell choir has had a busy year. We do our best to play in church about once a month. In May, we performed in Festival 2017 at McMaster University. This provincial

bell festival is organized by the Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers (OGEHR).

The OGEHR Fall Workshop for Southwestern Ontario on November 4 was hosted by FSA's Laudamus Bells and was a great success. Terry Head was one of the workshop leaders as well as being the coordinator of all the fall workshops, which included ones in Toronto and Ottawa. Ringers from a number of other churches were able to choose four different workshops on handbell techniques from a total of 16 workshops. A delicious lunch and snacks throughout the day were prepared and served by Joyce Payne and Michelle Down. Meeting other ringers and learning from other directors was an enriching experience for all involved.

As usual, we played Lenten and Advent recitals to very appreciative audiences.

Unfortunately we have had to say a temporary "good bye" to Jane Smith, who has found it necessary to

take a leave of absence. We look forward to having her back with us soon. We are always grateful for our substitute ringers, Adam Guthrie, and his wife, Jessie who are always willing to help us out when needed.

We are currently seeking new ringers. We would welcome anyone who reads music and has an interest in ringing bells. The music is uplifting, the techniques of ringing can be learned with little difficulty, and we have a lot of fun. Contact Terry, or any one of us, if you are interested.

Our ringers: KC Cann, Anne Cummings, Michael Fee-ney, Mary Ellen Gustafson, Helen Guthrie, Nancy Howard, Pat McGregor, Merran Neville, Barbara Plante, Jan Richardson, Pat Skidmore, (Jane Smith, on leave), Pat Sole, Margaret Trethewey.

Respectfully submitted  
Barbara Plante  
President

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## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE (MEMBERSHIPS AND NOMINATIONS FOR 2018)**

### **COUNCIL**

Chair(Apr 2017 – Feb 2019): George Jolink  
Past Chair of Council (Feb 2016 – Feb 2018): Bob Swartman  
Chair of Nominating: Bob Swartman  
Secretary (Term of Office, 1 year): Katherine Wonfor

### **COMMITTEES OF THE CONGREGATION:**

#### ***Board of Trustees:***

Co-Chairs

John Eberhard (2007–2012; 2013–2018)

David Manness (2007–2012; 2013–2018)

Members:

Russ Gonder (1995–2000; 2001–2006; 2007–2012; 2013–2016; 2017–2018)

Doug Jones (2018–2019)

June McKay (2009– 2014, 2015–2020)

Russ Monteith (2011–2016; 2017–2020)

Bill Peel (2003–2008; 2009–2014, 2015–2019)

Bob Schram (1995–2001; 2001–2006; 2007–2012; 2013–2016; 2017–2019)



Bob Slater (2009–2014, 2015–2020)  
Katherine Wonfor (2009–2015, 2015–2020)  
Catherine Charlton (2015–2018)  
Staff

### ***Christian Development:***

Chair: Allyson Watson  
Members:  
Michael Feeney  
Susan McKane  
Katie Glaves  
Heather Lake  
Mason Robichaud  
Jane Dockrill (staff)  
Jo Ann Silcox

### ***Jean Brown Permanent Ad Hoc Committee to Council:***

Chair: Allyson Watson (CD)  
Members: Merran Neville (Music)  
David Manness (Trustees)  
Kerry Stover (Finance)  
Ian Wright (Member at Large)  
Christina Lindsay (Member at Large)  
Jane Dockrill (Staff)

### ***Finance:***

Chair: Kerry Hill  
Members: Bill Hall  
Tristin Hill  
Ivana Klouda  
Leslie Pergau  
Donna Travis  
Laura Woods  
Church Administrator (Staff)

### ***Membership and Nurture:***

Chair: Heather Locking-Cusolito  
Members: Glenna Hall  
Annabelle Logan  
Deanne Pederson  
Mason Robichaud  
Jo Ann Silcox

Barb Williamson  
David McKane (Staff)

### ***Ministry and Personnel:***

Chair: Bruce Moor  
Members: Linda Badke  
Stuart Eberhard  
Kathryn Patton  
Barb Plante  
David Wake

### ***Mission and Outreach:***

Chairs: Barb Dalrymple, Pat Pettit  
Members: Linda Badke  
Marilyn Beach  
Barb Dalrymple  
Janice Elliott  
Liz Galbraith  
Jan Hendry  
Laurel Kenney  
Bill Knowles  
Jean Knowles  
(Staff)

### ***Music:***

Chair: Merran Neville  
Members: Jordan Baldwin  
Glenda Baldwin  
Paul Cooper  
Anne Cummings  
Ardath Finnbogason-Hill  
Ann MacPhail  
Margaret Wardlaw  
Jane Archer Smith  
Terry Head (Staff)

### ***Nominating Committee:***

Chair: Bob Swartman  
Members: Katie Glaves  
Bev Lindsay  
(Staff)

## **Property:**

Chairs: George Jolink  
Members: Ron Bradley  
Willis Buckingham  
Bill Guthrie  
Peter Ross  
Bob Swartman  
Tim Miedema (staff)  
Heather Vouvalidis (ex officio)

## **Worship:**

Chair: Jane Westmorland (until AGM)  
Members: Stephen Adams  
Joan Bancroft  
Barbara Cunningham  
David McKane  
David Pederson  
Jim Silcox  
Jo Ann Silcox  
Barry Tiffin  
Jean Wright  
Michelle Down (Staff)  
Terry Head (Staff)

## **Communications and Marketing: (Consulting Committee Only)**

Chair: Doug Gonder  
Members: Jim Silcox  
Pat Tripp  
Bob Slater  
Nancy Johnson  
(Staff)

## **Presbytery Representatives: (Term of Office: 4 years, renewable)**

Linda Badke (2006–2010; 2010–2014) (2014–2018)  
Bill Knowles (2006–2010; 2010–2014) (2014–2018)  
Jean Knowles (2006–2010; 2010–2014) (2014–2018)  
Jo Ann Silcox: Member at large

Respectfully submitted  
Jo Ann Silcox  
Chair

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## **PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

**F**irst-St Andrew's United Church is an historic structure which requires regular care to ensure its viability for generations to come. The Property Committee meets monthly on the third Monday in an effort to address ongoing maintenance issues, Avis Report deficiencies and unexpected occurrences. The committee is dedicated to both maintenance of, and improvements to our church home. This year we addressed a number of issues requiring attention. Namely:

- Farquhar House Repairs: Much needed exterior work was completed over the summer months. Roof replacement on the back portion of the house as well as complete exterior painting have improved the curb appeal and life span of this important facility.
- East and West Narthex Entrance Repairs: Both entrances have had a complete makeover to correct

water damage and bring them up to current fire code standards.

- Insurance Requirements: Balcony railing, sump pump, back up power supply, updated inventory
- Parking Lot Catch basin: In the summer due to heavy rainfall the large catch basin in the parking lot was collapsing which resulted in a sink hole at the surface. This was repaired and hopefully will provide extended life before complete replacement is necessary.
- Boiler: Maintaining our current heating system has become a priority in order to defer a very costly conversion to an HVAC system. Once again repairs are undertaken as required. We are still investigating the possibility of changing some areas of the building to forced air in order to improve efficiency and comfort levels.
- Building upgrades and repairs: fire monitoring system, east parking lot door, sound system mixer

We are grateful for our hard-working volunteers who join us throughout the 'green' months, particularly David Beach and Audrey Coulthard. Similarly we are grateful to our volunteer, Ron Bradley, who completed interior painting in the sunroom over the course of the summer.

## RENTALS

Rental income continues to be an important source of revenue to support operating costs. Over \$87 000 was generated in 2017 and we expect similar results for 2018. A significant portion of that comes from our long term tenants - Meals On Wheels, Deborah Carter, Deva Tree and Pro Musica. In addition FSA is a sought after facility for community groups particularly for musical events. Although this means we have to share our church home and

plan very carefully we must continue to open our doors to the community. This helps us financially and raises our visibility.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

George Jolink (Chair); Heather Vouvalidis, Bill Guthrie (Secretary), Willis Buckingham, Donna Travis, Peter Ross, Bob Swartman, Ron Bradley Tim Miedema (Facilities and Maintenance Coordinator).

Respectfully submitted,  
George Jolink  
Chair

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## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

*"Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through Music."*

Martin Luther King

The year 2017 was a very busy year for the Worship Committee, as it was the 185th Anniversary of First-St. Andrew's. The committee decided to mark the year by giving thanks for the FSA spiritual legacy and exploring how we can move forward and use our gifts for good in two theme areas: overcoming poverty and learning about and responding to issues facing First Nations People. We aimed to engage speakers throughout the year to focus on these themes.

We partnered with the CD committee and the MOE committee for the First Nations theme. The CD Lenten project addressed issues facing First Nations people and introduced information about their culture, while raising funds to send indigenous youth to Camp Kee Mo Kee. The MOE committee invited George Henry from Chippewa of the Thames, First Nations. Rev. Michelle preached on the seven sacred teachings for Lent, and gave an acknowledgment to the traditional territories at the beginning of each

service during the year.

In the summer, to address our theme of overcoming poverty, we invited Jessica Justrabo to give a presentation on Bridges Out of Poverty.

The month of November was devoted to celebrating our Anniversary by looking back on our spiritual foundations as well as looking forward. On Remembrance Day, the Rev. Ann Beattie-Stokes spoke of her grandfather's faith during a time of war. The Rev. Dr. David Mckane, Minister Emeritus, and the Rev. Dr. Kate Crawford, former minister, were invited to speak. The Rev. Dr. Gary Paterson, former Moderator of the United Church, presented a riveting Proudfoot Lecture.

There were many other noteworthy services throughout the year: Black History, Camp Kee Mo Kee for Pentecost, Pride Sunday, and three services on Christmas Sunday. A first, was the Blessing of the Animals service, which was held outdoors. Throughout all services, Michelle and Terry worked to ensure that the music and service worked together so the "gift of language combined with the gift of song."

The most challenging task of the year for the Worship Committee was responding to the Worship Feedback. With a few trials and tribulations we came up with an action plan to address the feedback. In response to this plan, we are providing training for Liturgists; changing the role of the Liturgist; making some adjustments to the sound

system; and involving Jane Dockrill in the Children's Story more often.

I am resigning as Chair of Worship this year. I have really enjoyed working with Michelle and Terry who are an incredibly dedicated and talented team. I have also

enjoyed working with the Worship Committee who bring a wealth of gifts to the table.

Respectfully submitted  
Jane Westmorland  
Chair

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## U.C.W.

### U.C.W. Purpose

*To unite women of the congregation for the total mission of the church and to provide a medium through which we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian WITNESS, STUDY, FELLOWSHIP, and SERVICE.*

**F**irst-St. Andrew's U.C.W. meets as one unit, usually monthly, for worship, fellowship, and interesting and informative programs. All women in the congregation are warmly welcomed.

### Services provided to the congregation by the U.C.W.

- Corresponding secretary has sent many cards and letters to bereaved families, persons in hospital or ill at home, and to church members and individuals outside the church who have made a special contribution to the church or our community.
- Funding for supplies for the Isabelle Getliffe Sewing Group which meets weekly from April through November to sew items for sale at the annual Bazaar.
- Financial contribution to the Knit Wits group who knit prayer shawls and items to be sold at the Bazaar.
- Funding provided to send 2 children from ELUCO to Camp Kee-Mo-Kee.
- Financial contribution to the operating budget of the church.

### Money Raising Projects

- Spring Rummage Sale convened by Jan and Jim Hendry.
- Fall Boutique Bazaar convened by Glenda Robinson.
- Phantom Tea envelopes containing a poem written by Millie Bates inviting donations from the congregation.
- Provision of Green Envelopes available to all members of the congregation for personal donations.

### Meetings:

- January 22nd, 2017: UCW 55th Anniversary Service with guest speaker, Nancy Sutherland, National President of U.C.W. Kevin White, composer of the "Bread not Stones" song attended and led the singing of the song. A luncheon for the congregation followed the service after which all charter members of the UCW (members for 55 years) were presented with a rose in honour of their long service.
- February 15th: U.C.W Meeting: Susan McKane presented "World Tailors" – a London company teaching immigrant women to sew aprons and tote bags for sale, providing employment, English language learning skills, and socializing opportunities.
- March 15th: U.C.W. Meeting featuring guest speaker, Rev. Pam Cullen, the new chaplain of the London Community Chaplaincy (formerly Limberlost and Southdale Chaplaincies).
- April 22nd: Rummage Sale.
- May 6th: "Remember : a Sentimental Journey" concert presented by Nancy Quinn, Jordan Baldwin, and Norman Abbott as the U.C.W.'s contribution to the celebration of the 185th anniversary of First-St. Andrew's. U.C.W. provided a variety of desserts enjoyed by the attendees after the concert.
- June 4th: U.C.W. members attended the annual church service at Camp Ke-Mo-Kee. U.C.W brought salads for the luncheon. There was also a Presbyterial Camp Kee Mo Kee day.

- July 22nd: Annual U.C.W. Summer Event at Siloam United Church the speakers, Dr. Donna Kerrigan and Glen Pearson.
- September 23rd: Lunch at the Wayside Inn in Talbotville followed by a gathering at the home of Leah Morise and Mike Bourgeault in Fingal (formerly Fingal United Church) during which Leah and Mike provided musical entertainment and refreshments.
- October 11th: Annual potluck luncheon hosted by Anabelle Logan in her home.
- November 13th: Annual U.C.W. Budget Meeting.
- November 18th: Boutique Bazaar convened by Glenda Robinson featuring sewing, baking, knitting, children's toy shop, Christmas items, jewellery, handmade cards and glass items, Treasures table, Café Noel along with a silent auction of art works and the wares of 28 local artists and artisans.
- December 5th: Annual U.C.W. Christmas potluck luncheon to which members of Metropolitan U.C.W. were invited. Life memberships were presented to Debbie Schram and Glenda Robinson. Entertainment provided by Alastair Smyth, the new bass-baritone soloist at FSA.

### **Bread not Stones**

On behalf of the national U.C.W. child-poverty reduction advocacy initiative, "Bread not Stones," Laurel Kenney and Linda Woods visited London City Hall, were interviewed on the Rogers TV talk show, "Dish with Donald," did a presentation at the National U.C.W. meeting in Mississauga, spoke in the Ontario Legislature in Toronto, and Canadian Parliament in Ottawa, and presented handmade,

rag dolls to each politician as a symbol of the need to act to alleviate child poverty across Canada.

Also important are the U.C.W. Presbyterial events, World Day of Prayer, the 55th U.C.W. Anniversary of the National United Church Women, "Celebrating the Spirit" held in July in Vancouver – attended by Laurel.

Middlesex Presbyterial Mission & Service U.C.W. givings for 2017: approximately \$50,000.

First-St. Andrew's U.C.W. Mission & Service givings for 2017: \$15,000.

Sincere thanks to the executive of the FSA U.C.W. and to all the women and men of the congregation who have contributed to the work and mission of United Church Women.

### **FSA U.C.W. Executive:**

President: Laurel Kenney  
 Secretary: Helen Guthrie  
 Treasurer: Donna Fraleigh  
 Tidings Representative: Nancy Quinn  
 Correspondence Secretary: Jeane Stewardson  
 Archivist: Millie Bates  
 Program Convenor: Louise Slater

Respectfully submitted  
 Helen Guthrie  
 Secretary

### **U.C.W. Budget for 2017**

#### **Revenue**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Budgeted Amount (\$)</b>
Green envelopes	2,000
Flowers	1,000
Phantom Tea	1,500
Prayer Shawls/Comfort Quilts	600
Miscellaneous Donations	100
Boutique Bazaar	15,000

Rummage Sale	2,000
Investments	500
Bank Interest	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	22,700

## **Expenses**

### ***Outreach Expenditures***

East London United Church Outreach (ELUCO)	2,000
London Community Chaplaincy	2,000
Rotholme Women's & Family Centre	1,000
My Sister's Place	1,000
Feed the Children (Bread Not Stones)	2,000
L'arche	500
Daily Bread	1,000
Beth Emmanuel Church	100
Women's Community Centre	500
Global Health (Medical Electives)	400
M & S United Church of Canada	15,000
Prayer Shawls/Comfort Quilts	600
Camp Kee-Mo-Kee (ELUCO children)	700
Christmas Shut-ins	500
<b>Total Outreach</b>	27,300

### ***Miscellaneous Expenditures***

Bazaar	2,500
Rummage Sale	150
Flowers	1,000
Middlesex Presbyterial	320
Workshops & Seminars	600
Subscriptions & Journals	200
Life Memberships	240
Speakers' Honouria	300
<b>Total Miscellaneous</b>	5,310

### ***General & Administrative Expenditures***

Administrative F.S.A.	1,500
F.S.A. Congregational	5,000
Miscellaneous	1,000

Total General and Administrative	7,500
<b>Total General &amp; Admin</b>	<b>40,110</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>-17,410</b>

### **Actual Revenue**

Boutique Bazaar	14,245
Rummage Sale	3,301
Phantom Tea	1,260
“A Sentimental Journey” Event	390 (Sent to Middlesex Presbyterial for <i>Bread not Stones</i> )

## **AD HOC PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**A**s Chair of the Ad Hoc Planning Committee, I would like to begin by acknowledging the hard work and dedication of fellow committee members; namely: Rev. Michelle Down, Barrie Evans, Kerry Hill, Nancy Johnson, Don Jones, Kathryn Patton, Bob Slater and Bob Swartman. In addition, thanks go out to Michael Mandich who left the committee when he moved to Vancouver in 2017. Special thanks to Terry Head and Merran Neville who joined the committee to help plan our Music and the Arts Community Round Table in October. They are both continuing to participate in a task group that is taking action as a follow-up to the Round Table.

These people have met on a regular basis and have been instrumental in bringing direction and leadership to the work of the Committee and to FSA’s future.

2017 was a busy year. We informed the congregation on the need to anticipate the future and adapt to changing conditions through a series of open meetings. A series of information items were posted to the FSA web site and highlighted in the weekly bulletin (14 were posted in total).

We invited the congregation to participate with us in defining future priorities through surveys and meetings. This resulted in an “emerging consensus” statement being produced and endorsed by Council. It reads as follows:

*In the future FSA will be known and recognized as being a church and community meeting place that*

*reaches out by offering a wide range of programs and services that attract different groups and members of the community – through programs offered both inside and outside the church facility – in partnership with other groups and organizations, as appropriate.*

*These programs and services individually and collectively will be designed to:*

- *Nurture spiritual growth and development through worship [Faith];*
- *Work in service to others and build community through social action and partnerships [Service]; and,*
- *Celebrate life through music and the arts [Arts].*

This statement is being used by the Committee to guide and inform its planning work and is a foundational statement that will be referenced on an on-going basis.

As a follow-up to the Community Round Table on Music and the Arts, two initiatives are being actively explored: the opportunity to host art shows at FSA that would feature specific artistic works – textiles for example; and, the opportunity to host informal gatherings of the arts community at FSA to encourage networking and collaboration. These will be planned with the leadership of Terry Head, Nancy Johnson, Kathryn Patton, Glenda Robinson, Marion Johnson and Merran Neville.

In addition, with leadership by Barrie Evans, in the fall of 2017 we had the opportunity to submit a proposal for an outdoor garden to the City of London as part of its neighbourhood decision-making initiative. FSA, along with

a number of other projects were successful and as a result we have received funds to design and implement the project (\$30,000). We will be working with the City of London and the Environmental Design and Planning program at Fanshawe College to bring this project to fruition in 2018. The project team that will be working on this project includes: Barrie Evans, Bob Swartman, Kerry Hill, Tim Miedema, Rev. Michelle Down, George Jolink, Stewart Bailey and Carolyn Burke (from Deva Tree yoga at FSA). Professor Andrew Wilson, head of the Environmental Design and Planning program will serve as consultant to the project team. For the purpose of this project, the team will report to the Property Committee of FSA.

The next avenue to be explored by the Planning Committee is “Nurture spiritual growth and development through worship [Faith]” and Rev. Michelle Down is taking the lead in engaging nearby United Churches in looking at opportunities for collaboration and sharing.

In addition to exploring new partnerships and avenues, we want to take steps to ensure that what we are

already doing, and the partnerships and collaborations we already have, are acknowledged and recognized as part of our future.

With the on-going support of and engagement with the congregation of FSA we are convinced that not only is change inevitable and possible but it can open up new and rich opportunities that will enable our future to be dynamic and nurturing for all.

We do need to do things differently and to do different things – exploring new ways to bring people to FSA who have not been here before as well as reaching out to others. Like life in general we need a two way street to be successful.

These are exciting times and by working together we can realize a future that builds on our strengths in terms of Faith, Service and the Arts.

Respectfully submitted  
Steve Elson

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees met officially five times in 2017. A number of Trustee committee meetings and other meetings of the co-chairs took place more frequently during the year. Presentations by members were also made at the Annual Congregational Meeting, Council, Council Executive and Congregational meetings.

Trustees include: John Eberhard (Co-Chair), David Manness (Co-Chair and Investment Committee Chair), Catherine Charlton, Russ Gonder, June McKay (Memorials Committee Co-Chair), Russ Monteith, Bill Peel (Chair, Insurance Committee), Bob Schram, Bob Slater (Memorials Committee Co-Chair), Katherine Wonfor (Secretary). Rev. Michelle Down is also a member of the Board of Trustees.

Also attending Trustee meetings during 2017, by invitation, have been: Bob Swartman (Chair of Council), Heather Vouvalidis (Church Administrator), Dale Pettit (Chair of

Finance) and George Jolink (Chair of Property & Chair of Council).

The Board of Trustees holds and administers all property owned by the Church for the benefit and use of the First-St. Andrew’s United Church Congregation as part of The United Church of Canada under the provisions of the Trusts of Model Deed of the United Church Manual. The Board holds the freehold title to the lands upon which the church sits. The Board of Trustees has four sub-committees accountable to it. At least one member of the Board serves on each committee. The committees are Investment, Insurance, Long-term Giving and Memorials.

The Board ended 2017 with assets under management evaluated at \$x,xxx,xxx.xx. These net assets consisted of the Proudfoot Legacy Funds \$x,xxx,xxx (Proudfoot Legacy Restricted Fund \$2,500,000: Proudfoot Legacy Unrestricted Fund \$xxx,xxx) and the other Restricted Funds (\$xxx,xxx). The other Restricted Funds managed by the Board are made up of the Wilson Music Fund; the Clark Fund; the Eberhard Memorial Music Scholarship Fund; the Bass Fund;



and the Wm. & J. Brown Fund.

.....  
In 2017, at the direction of the Congregation and Council, your Board of Trustees transferred \$100,000 from the Proudfoot Legacy Fund to Council for operations. In addition, Trust Funds (\$45,017) were used for these capital projects: fixing the balcony railing, repainting the exterior of Farquhar House, fixing the roof on Farquhar house, and re-plastering the narthex entrances. The sum of \$xx,xxx.xx was paid from the Jean Brown Fund (including \$25,000 to support the Youth and Young Family Coordinator position and the balance for Jean Brown committee expenses for youth). The total support from the Trust Funds for the church in 2017 for operational and capital purposes was \$xxx,xxx.xx.

.....  
Trustees, continue to work closely with the Finance Committee in following the 2015 Eleven Point Plan to tackle the significant challenge of managing to balanced budgets. As a result, better than balanced budgets have been achieved for 2017, and for the prior two years. Well done. (??????DEPENDS ON YEAR END FINANCIALS)

.....  
In 2015, Council approved the replacement of the prior 'CAP' system with the new Proudfoot Legacy Fund made up of two components:

The Proudfoot Legacy Restricted Trust Fund containing a principal amount, currently set at \$2,500,000, expecting to generate a 4% return, which is the 'factory' that generates annual revenues designated for church operations without encroaching on its principal, and

The Proudfoot Legacy Unrestricted Trust Fund which is available to the church designated for capital projects and other purposes as approved by our Church Council.

.....  
.....  
The investment performance of Trust funds for the year 2016 was 6.4%. The 9-year Compound Annual Rate of Return for 2009 to 2017 has been 5.1%. It has been a roller coaster year for investments, with returns strengthening in the latter half of the year. The Canadian market has not

been as strong as the U.S. market. The Board continues to believe in the value of conservative investing and protecting the capital of the accounts, especially given the growing dependence on Trust Fund returns to support the operations of the church. The Investment Policy has allowed for a portfolio made up of equity investments at 40% and fixed income & cash at 60%.

.....  
On the Insurance side, great efforts were undertaken to record the inventory of church assets. Under the direction of Bill Peel and Catherine Charlton, help from Donna Fraleigh, Willis Buckingham and Heather Vouvalidis was greatly appreciated in these efforts. ....

In May 2017, the Memorial committee, under the direction of June McKay and Bob Slater, honored bequests received in the past year and placed leaves on the Proudfoot Legacy Tree in the atrium in the names of Jean and Maurice Comfort, Laura Swartman and Donna and Arnold Spencer. We were pleased to host members of the family in attendance. Families received a plaque and a package of information about First-St. Andrew's as a keepsake.

On the Long Term Giving side, the Board of Trustees approved in June the establishment of the Proudfoot Legacy Gift Policy, which is the code of ethics on the handling of bequests and potential bequests from donors. This area will continue to be a focus as we look to recruit skills to address this area further. An estate planning seminar is being planned for the new year.

Choosing to Leave a Legacy from the heart to our church can ensure special meaning, worth and purpose to a life well lived. Your generosity through your will can ensure that your values and commitment to FSA continue

.....  
.....  
Your Board of Trustees greatly appreciates the efforts of the members of the Board of Trustees. We will be busy in 2018 again looking after our fiduciary responsibilities. We are pleased to include copies of the trust statements (included with the Financial Statements) with this report.

Respectfully submitted by,  
John Eberhard and David Manness  
(Co-Chairs)

## FINANCE

*“Our lives are not determined by what happens to us, but by how we react to what happens; not by what life brings to us, but by the attitude we bring to life. A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events and outcomes. It is a catalyst, a spark that creates extraordinary results.”*

-Anon.

The primary focus of the FSA Finance Committee is a conciliar and an overseer role for the congregation. With great diligence, debate and sometimes disagreement, the committee sets and then reviews budgets, expenses and capital requests for financial funding and then the spending of the revenues received for our congregational work. The committee is entrusted, by the congregation, to take the careful steps of making sure that the givings that have been received, and entrusted to us by the various legacy funds, while working with the Trustees, are for the works of this community to the glory of God. The quote that begins this report I borrowed from our former Treasurer, Harold Jackson. It speaks to the unknown and how we react to it by our attitudes and our faith. A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts. Never has that been so clear than to your committee as we debated and discussed and eventually had to make decisions on your behalf. Starting the year with a projected deficit budget was, to say the least, another difficult task. Deficits are viewed as negative and your committee kept a positive attitude in hoping and through prayer that the projected deficit would change from a negative to a positive. Through careful consideration of each of our committee chairs, the expenses for 2017-2018, were mostly kept under budget. This greatly assisted FSA's financial position at the end of the year. An amazing result occurred when we reviewed the financial statements in early 2018. FSA has been able to achieve a surplus. The congregation heard the finance committee's requests for assistance through the Christmas campaign and with your help we have turned a deficit budget into a surplus that will assist the work of this congregation into the next fiscal year.

A big thank you to everyone for helping with your

assistance to that Christmas campaign and the committee chairs for being prudent on their spending in this past fiscal year. As we congratulate ourselves on a surplus is not without the assistance of the Proudfoot Legacy Trust Fund (\$100,00), the Jean Brown Trust Fund (\$29,334), the Clark Fund (\$3,039), and the generous assistance of the UCW (\$6500). These funds under the carefully and diligent direction of FSA Trustees have generously afforded the work of this congregation not only within our walls but also for the work we do in the greater community. That is the call of discipleship to each of us and to your finance committee.

The capital improvements that were spent this last year, a total of \$45,017 were assisted by the unrestricted Trust Funds. The need for improvements is never ending with our older heritage building and the Property Committee has been doing an excellent job of keeping ahead of any repairs that would cause us major concern if they were not attended to.

When I review the other revenue that has been raised, this year through various fund raising opportunities, I can feel and see our faith community working with love and in keeping with God's grace in our hearts and souls. It is remarkable that this year our gift card sales achieved over \$5000 net revenue for FSA. The spirit is moving each of us to take time to support that cause and we also get a benefit from doing so. Well done and I hope that we can continue that revenue stream as most of us purchase gas for our cars, I believe all of us purchase groceries and we all have other retail outlets where we spend our monies. The gift cards and the return to the congregation, of those purchases, is something we should never overlook as it is an easy and a wonderful way to support FSA.

I would be remiss at the end of my report not to thank the hard work of the 2017-2018 Finance committee. I have had the privilege to work on this committee with Donna Fraleigh, Bill Hall, and Lesley Pergau. In the fall Kerry Hill, Ivana Klouda, and Laura Wood joined the committee and we are pleased they have made the commitment to bring their expertise in finance to the committee. We unfortunately accepted the resignations of our co-chairs Mike Bancroft and Dale Pettit in early summer and we thank them for their service to this committee and to FSA. My thanks, especially, to both of these men, as mentors and friends, as I have talked to them about various financial matters as the year progressed and even during our budget talks for 2018-2019.

Our new church administrator has been a blessing to work with as well. Heather Vouvalidis has been our right hand in helping the committee understand where the expenses have been spent and she works without a look of stress or worry as she supports the needs of the committee and the congregation. Thanks to Heather for being the calm in the storm in so many ways.

ministry of word, sacrament and pastoral care. The ministry of your finance committee is foundational for the ongoing work that this faith community has been called by God to do; to love and serve others.

*“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.” Psalm 19:14 (NRSV)*

.....  
As I close out my short term as the Chair of Finance and Treasurer, I have been humbled and honoured to serve in this capacity and I will remember the adventure, the joy and the peace. My calling, as you know, is to the ordered

Peace,  
Kerry Stover  
Chair of Finance/Treasurer



# CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

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## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2017

PROUDFOOT HALL, 6:30 PM

**1.0 Invocation:** The Rev. Michelle Down opened the meeting with prayer.

### **2.0 Election of Chair and Secretary of Congregational Meeting**

MOTION: That Bob Swartman be appointed Chair and Katherine Wonfor be appointed Secretary of the 2017 Annual Meeting.

MOVED: By Allyson Watson, seconded by David Manness. MOTION CARRIED.

### **Declaration of Voting Rights of Those Present**

MOTION: To extend the right to vote to adherents and youth at the 2017 Annual Congregational Meeting, according to the provisions of the United Church of Canada

Manual and the Policy and Procedures Manual of First-St. Andrew's United Church. MOVED: By June McKay, seconded by Barbara Plante. MOTION CARRIED.

### **3.0 Welcome**

Bob Swartman, Chair of Council, welcomed the congregation to the Annual Meeting.

Bob highlighted some of accomplishments and challenges faced over the past year.

- A renewal process is being led by the Planning Committee and a steady stream of reports and questionnaires emanating from committees are engaging the congregation.
- FSA welcomed Terry Head our new Director of Music.
- Brenda McManus resigned as Church Administrator. Thanks to Dale Pettit who stepped in to keep our financial house in order. Heather Vouvalidis was hired as the Church Administrator in January.
- Bob thanked the many volunteers who share their gifts to serve FSA and our community.
- Appreciation was expressed to the staff who provide support and spiritual leadership to a dynamic congregation.
- Bob encouraged FSA to continue our outreach and extend a welcome to our neighbouring Christian churches and people of other faiths.

### **4.0 Approval of Minutes of 2016 Annual Congregational Meeting**

MOTION: That the minutes of the 2016 Annual Congregational Meeting be approved. MOVED: By Allyson Watson, seconded by Pat Pettit. MOTION CARRIED.

## Approval of Agenda

MOTION: To approve the Agenda of the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Congregation. MOVED: By Mike Bancroft, seconded by Allyson Watson. MOTION CARRIED.

### 5.0 Ad Hoc Planning Committee

Steve Elson, Chair of the Ad Hoc Planning Committee, addressed the meeting. The Ad Hoc Planning Committee has undertaken an engagement process with the congregation of FSA to help define what the future could be in light of important and deep changes taking place within and outside the church. Five different future scenarios were developed by the committee and members of the congregation were invited in several different ways to provide their comments. Steve thanked all who have contributed to the planning process and expressed their hopes and concerns for FSA. Defining the future of FSA needs to include a vision of what FSA could become. People need to see themselves and others as part of a future that is dynamic and vibrant. FSA has a rich history but its future has yet to be written.

Based on the feedback received the Committee thinks there is an emerging consensus regarding the future of FSA:

*In the future FSA could evolve to become recognized as being a church and community meeting place that reaches out to offer a wide range of programs and services that attract different groups and members of the community – programs offered both inside and outside the church facility in collaboration with other groups and organizations. These programs and services could be designed to: work in service to others and build community through social action and partnerships; nurture spiritual growth and development; and, celebrate life through music and the arts.*

The intent of the Ad Hoc Planning Committee is to determine whether the emerging vision as described is widely supported. If it is then the Committee will be in a position to continue its work by organizing the implementation planning phase of this process.

The congregation expressed their appreciation to the members of the Ad Hoc Planning Committee.

### 6.0 Committee Reports

#### 6.1 Finance

Dale Pettit, Co-Chair of the Finance Committee, reported to the meeting.

Dale welcomed Heather Vouvalidis in her new role of Church Administrator and thanked Jim and Jo Ann Silcox for the support they have provided to the Finance Committee.

Financial results for 2016 were presented. A surplus of \$3,289 at December 31, 2016 was reported.

MOTION: To accept the Financial Statements of First-St. Andrew's United Church as at December 31, 2016 as presented, including the Review Engagement Report appended thereto signed by Mark A. Wales, Chartered Accountant.

MOVED: By Dale Pettit, seconded by Allyson Watson. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION: To appoint Mark A. Wales, Chartered Accountant as the Firm of Record for the Review Engagement Report of First-St. Andrew's United Church for 2017.

MOVED: By Dale Pettit, seconded by Barb Dalrymple.

DISCUSSION: FSA changed accountants in 2017 due to the retirement of Gary Mason. Mark Wales has taken over the firm.

MOTION CARRIED.

Dale presented the budget for 2017. It was reported that givings have been decreasing and trust fund assistance to balance the budget is increasing.

MOTION: To accept the 2017 Budget for First-St. Andrew's United Church as presented, which results in a deficit of \$156,383 before assistance from Trust Funds and UCW (a net deficit of \$6,483 after the assistance of \$149,900 from the Trust Funds and UCW).

MOVED: By Dale Pettit, seconded by Doug Jones.

DISCUSSION: The budget includes funding for the position of Visitation Minister to the end of August 2017. Council continues to discuss the future of this position.

MOTION CARRIED.

The congregation discussed the position of Visitation Minister.

- Members of the congregation requested an opportunity have input on the future of the position.
- More information about the position of Visitation Minister was requested, including: the duties of the position, its function in the staff team, its role in fulfilling the mission of FSA, and the cost of the position.
- Discussion has taken place at Council and Council Executive regarding the position. At a meeting on May 29, 2017 Council Executive resolved that a three month study be undertaken to determine what pastoral care and visitation is currently being done. Council Executive will meet to discuss the results of the study.

MOTION: That after Council Executive meets the congregation be included in the decision making process regarding pastoral care.

MOVED: By Barb Dalrymple, seconded by Joan Bancroft.

MOTION CARRIED WITH OPPOSITION.

MOTION: That the time frame for the congregation to have information before the end of August 2017.

MOVED: By Doug Jones, seconded by Barbara Plante.

DISCUSSION: Council has the discretion to amend the budget and continue to fund the position past August 2017.

MOTION CARRIED.

## **6.2 Board of Trustees**

David Manness, Co-Chair, Board of Trustees, reported to the Annual Meeting.

WHEREAS the United Church of Canada requires that if a Trustee resigns during the course of his or her term, the resignation is not effective nor does he or she avoid the fiduciary responsibilities of membership on the Board until the congregation of the pastoral charge accepts the resignation.

MOTION: To accept the resignation of Beth Bailey from membership on the Board of Trustees.

MOVED: By David Manness, seconded by Steve Elson. MOTION CARRIED.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, David thanked Beth Bailey for her contributions.

WHEREAS the United Church of Canada, through London Conference and Middlesex Presbytery, recommends that local congregations annually approve a resolution pertaining to the protection and release of the Board of Trustees in respect of the insurance amounts;

WHEREAS the Congregation of First-St. Andrew's United Church approves a resolution in respect of this matter at the Annual General Meeting to be held on May 31st, 2017 that:

- directs the Board to carry the insurance in Ecclesiastical Insurance Co. comprehensive policy #0102687F insuring the buildings, contents, stained glass, organ and other property,
- acknowledges that the limits in such insurance policy or policies may be less than the full replacement cost of the buildings insured under the attached policy or policies;
- releases the Trustees of the First-St. Andrew's United Church congregation from any obligation to maintain insurance coverage with higher limits than that provided in the Policy, and agrees to indemnify and save harmless the Trustees of the said congregation for all claims with respect to such obligation.

(The Insurance policy is maintained by the Church Administrator and may be found and reviewed in the Church Office.)

MOVED: By David Manness, seconded by Jane Hill. MOTION CARRIED.

David referred the congregation to the Trustees report published in the Annual Report.

- It was a good year for investments in the Trust Funds growing by 6.1%, thus establishing a 5.0% compound annual growth rate over the past 8 years. Currently, 38 to 40% of our investments are in a balance of Canadian and US equities and are well positioned for future growth in the markets, as that happens.
- For the second year in the Trustees Annual Report, we described the new Proudfoot Legacy Fund that was approved at the November 2015 Council meeting, to replace the prior CAP system. As co-author, along with Finance, David Manness encourages you to read and address any questions to him in person or by email. This Proudfoot Legacy Fund has 2 components: a restricted fund that is the 'factory' used to generate the annual income required for church operations (currently \$2,500,000 based on a 4% annual return) and an unrestricted fund containing the balance, to be used primarily for capital projects as approved by Council. No expenditure of \$100,000 or more however, can be made without congregation approval. This new system of trust fund management will serve us well given today's times of requiring Trust Fund income for operational purposes.
- Finance is dependent on \$143,400 from Trust Fund income for 2017 church operations. That is not all of the money however that Trust Funds provide to the church. There is another \$37,000 for capital expenses to cover the insurance deductible (\$5,000) for the July 1, 2016 break-in and the remainder for a new balcony railing, Farquhar House partial roofing and exterior painting. These are already approved and committed expenses by Trustees, Finance and Council. That totals \$180,000. We are also informed of another potential \$75,000 in expenses for the new electronic sign (\$25,000) and improvements to the Fireside Room (\$50,000) that are yet to be requested approval. If approved, that would total \$255,000.
- We are a very blessed church to be in great financial health. Safeguards, like the Proudfoot Legacy Fund, are thoughtfully in place allowing us to invest, grow and use the legacies that the church has graciously received through bequests. Continue to respect this approach to good financial management and look to your Finance Committee and Board of Trustees to give you good financial guidance for the years ahead.

### **6.3 UCW**

Laurel Kenney reported on behalf of the UCW.

- The UCW is celebrating its 55th anniversary in 2017. At a service on January 22, 2017 charter members of the UCW were honoured and the National UCW President, Nancy Sutherland, was the guest preacher.
- Members of the FSA UCW are offering leadership to Bread Not Stones, a national project to address child poverty.
- Laurel thanked the congregation for their support of UCW initiatives.

The FSA UCW was congratulated on being the top UCW contributor to the Mission and Service Fund in the London Conference.

### **6.4 Nominating Committee**

Jo Ann Silcox, Chair of Nominating, presented the report of the Nominating Committee. Jo Ann thanked the volunteers and the staff who work together for FSA.

A slate of candidates for 2017 committee membership was circulated.

MOTION: That the report of the Nominating Committee be accepted as circulated.

MOVED: By David Manness, seconded by Jim Silcox.

DISCUSSION: Some committees have vacancies, and there are no volunteers for the Stewardship Committee. If you feel you can share your gifts please contact Nominating or the Chair of the Committee you are interested in.

MOTION CARRIED.

### **6.5 Adoption of Committee Reports**

MOTION: That the Committee Reports as published in the 2016 Annual Report be adopted.

MOVED: By David Manness, seconded by Mary Ellen Gustafson. MOTION CARRIED.

### **7.0 Recognition of Volunteers**

FSA pins were presented to committee members who completed their terms in 2016. Jo Ann Silcox thanked all volunteers for their commitment to First-St. Andrew's.

Dale Pettit was recognized for the significant work he undertook during the absence of a Church Administrator and the recruitment of new staff.

### **8.0 Other Business**

Bob Swartman announced that he is stepping down as Chair of Council. The congregation expressed its gratitude to Bob for his contributions to FSA.

### **9.0 Benediction:**

The Rev. Michelle Down closed the meeting with a benediction.



MOTION: That the 2017 Annual Congregational Meeting be adjourned at 7:54 pm. MOVED: By Allyson Watson. MOTION CARRIED.

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## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2017 THE SANCTUARY, 11:28 AM**

A Congregational Meeting was held to receive the report and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee exploring the future of the position of Visitation Minister.

George Jolink, Chair of Council, called the meeting to order at 11:28 am. George introduced Jo Ann Silcox, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Jo Ann Silcox reported that the Ad Hoc Committee met over the summer. The Committee:

- reviewed the visitation needs of the congregation with the current service providers: the Rev. Michelle Down, the Rev. Dr. David McKane, Dr. Jo Ann Silcox, the Congregational Visitors Team, and the Caring Callers team.
- completed a Ministry and Mission Profile including congregational demographics, financial reports, and a position description
- reviewed a Congregational Survey which ranked Pastoral Care as the second most important ministry need at FSA.
- consulted with the Board of Trustees and funding for the position was assured for 1 to 3 years.
- took their recommendations to Council where the report of the Ad Hoc Committee was accepted at its September 19, 2017 meeting.

MOTION: That the work of the Ministry and Mission Profile, completed by Council in the summer of 2017, be accepted for approval.

MOVED: By Jo Ann Silcox, seconded by Deanne Pederson. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION: That the Position Description, constructed by the Ministry and Personnel Committee, be accepted.

MOVED: By Jo Ann Silcox, seconded by Jane Smith. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION: That a one year, time-limited 12-hour a week appointment with the Rev. Dr. David McKane, be approved with a 30-day notice period for all parties to withdraw from the relationship. MOVED: By Jo Ann Silcox, seconded by David Pederson. MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 am.

# CHURCH STAFF

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Minister of Worship and Congregational Life.....	The Rev. Michelle Down
Minister of Pastoral Care & Minister Emeritus.....	The Rev. Dr. David McKane
Designated Pastoral Care Volunteer.....	Jo Ann Silcox
Director of Music.....	Terry Head
Church Administrator.....	Heather Vouvalidis
Youth and Young Family Coordinator.....	Jane Dockrill
Administrative Assistant/Receptionist.....	Kathryn Skelly
Facility & Maintenance Coordinator.....	Tim Miedema
Part Time Custodian.....	George Jolink
Atrium Steward.....	Barry Tiffin
Nursery Care.....	Kendra Shouldice
Organist Emeritus.....	Paul Merritt



Produced by the Communications & Marketing Committee  
Printed at First-St. Andrew's United Church  
with special thanks to Kathryn Skelly, Administrative Assistant  
and Heather Vouvalidis, Church Administrator