

Tidings

First-St Andrew's
UNITED CHURCH



Where liberal theology meets the best of tradition

Vol. 21 - No. 4

Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2011



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MANAGING EDITOR'S MESSAGE

David Flynn

Our theme this issue is "Surprise." In this Advent season we prepare to be surprised by God appearing in human form, revealing our potential when imbued with the spirit of God.

There are other surprises in the content of *Tidings* itself. One complaint of church newsletter editors, I gather, is the difficulty of getting people to write articles. Since I am no longer directly involved in soliciting articles, I am amazed that submissions are, as publishers say, coming over the transom.

We've had several people volunteer on their own to write articles on various people in the congregation—some are in this issue; some are postponed for later. I suspect it is the combination of Jim Silcox's beautiful layout and Pat McGregor's editing skills which have inspired people to want to become writers for us. In particular, the Trustees have asked for space to submit a regular report and, specifically, to highlight Proudfoot bequests, and perhaps in the future, other types of memorial gifts.

Perhaps not so surprising for those who know our members, there are almost half a dozen items for the *Noteworthy* column. These are people who have taken seriously Jesus's command to go into the world to serve others.

In response to my request last issue for more *Vignettes*, items ranging from experiences to travel, we received two—another from Mary McKim for this issue, and one from Bob Swartman for the next—and the possibility of others for later issues. Keep them coming!

In a time of world suffering, it is useful to note that in some ways the world *is* getting better. A recent *Guardian* reviewed several authors—Jesse Richards, Stephen Pinker and Joshua Goldstein—who demonstrate, among other statistics, that life expectancy is rising everywhere, deaths during wars are falling, and more democracies and fewer empires are appearing. We still need to work for more social justice, but perhaps surprisingly, there are some signs of God's kingdom coming now.

A very merry Christmas to all in this time of good *Tidings* of joy. JSA



ERRATA

In the Pentecost/Fall issue of *Tidings*, the article on the Fifth Annual FSA White Squirrel Golf Tournament was erroneously credited to David Wake. The article was in fact written and submitted by David Knoppert. We apologize for this error.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOE REMINDERS

- The 2011 HOPE book, an alternative gift catalogue, is now available on the table in the atrium or outside the chapel or on line at www.londonconference.ca.
- February 19th, 2012—Mission Sunday with the Rev. Matthew Stevens as our speaker.
- March 4th—Amnesty Write for Rights.

UCW ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

UCW Anniversary service, January 29th, 10.30am, featuring Joy in the Harvest Drum Choir.

A TASTE OF BURNS (TENTH ANNUAL)

Saturday, January 21st with pipes, songs, dancer and "Haggis Stew."

COUNCIL REPORT



George Jolink

As you read these pages Advent is upon us with all the excitement and anticipation that this time of the year brings. This is a time when we are thankful for the blessing of family, health and friends. It is a time when we share the richness of what we have with those around us. On behalf of Council I wish to express our sincere thanks for all you have chosen to share at First-St. Andrew's. Perhaps you have given of your time on a committee, or you have shared your talents in the music programme. Perhaps you have generously shared your resources in our Annual Pledge Campaign ... for all these things, we say **thank you**.

Recently I had the occasion to meet with our JNAC as it looks to make a recommendation for staffing at the church. In that conversation I had time to reflect on why I chose to come to FSA. What does FSA mean to me and what do I need from this church community? Each of us has our own reasons and I encourage you to explore what those are for you. Is it the music, the

CHANGES

DEATHS

Madeline Wallace: September 23rd, 2011

Barrie Williams: October 25th, 2011

Stan Harris: November 13th, 2011

MARRIAGES

Amanda Wood and Kevin Farnham: September 10th, 2011

Natalie Cram and Kyle Armstrong: October 1st, 2011

BAPTISMS

September 18th, 2011

Chelsea Marie Lake: daughter of Heather and Arthur John Lake

Elizabeth Erin Skelly: daughter of Kathryn and Jacob Skelly

November 20th, 2011

Brooklynn Aseltine: daughter of Laura and Ian Aseltine

Zoey Faith Fraser: daughter of Lisa-Ann and Alex Fraser

Tammy Cronmiller

theology, the community, the outreach, or the sense of historic place? Whatever it is, each month your Council and its committees serve you in order to provide a better experience at First-St. Andrew's. I thank them, and I thank you for supporting them. The fall has been a busy time with such things as church programmes, concerts, the Proudfoot Lecture, Rummage Sale, and the Holly Bazaar. There is much yet to do as the church year progresses. Your Council is now preparing for our Annual General Meeting in February, and we continue to explore

"On behalf of Council I wish to express our sincere thanks for all you have chosen to share at First-St. Andrew's."

ways to elevate the profile of FSA in the community and to build partnerships. Already we have had opportunities to share worship experiences with our neighbours around the corner and we have shared understanding with our Muslim friends. Our reputation as a progressive, action-oriented faith community is strong. This is in large part due to each of you and your embrace.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere wish that each of you will experience all the wonder and joy of this Advent season. Carry it with you in all that you do.

JS

NOTE FROM KATE



I have now been at First-St. Andrew's for slightly more than a year—where on earth did that time go? My family and I enjoyed a warm FSA welcome when we arrived, which helped us settle into our 'new' lives in London quickly. Thank you for embracing Martha and Norah, and for welcoming them into the many exciting activities going on in this community. I myself have come to appreciate your forthrightness in sharing your opinions! I am never left to wonder whether people are noticing what I am doing—as feedback is generous, thoughtful and perceptive. What a joy it has been for me to work with our outstanding lay liturgists, my staff colleagues, and the strong leaders who serve on the Council and on committees. There is so much talent here! It has

also been a year of sad losses—as many of you know. Pillars of this community have passed away, and it is not clear yet who our new pillars will be. But they are here—somewhere!

As Advent approaches, the days grow cool, the nights grow long and our hearts quicken at the turning of the year. We will gather around the Advent candles in the weeks to come, marking the passing of time until the day we celebrate again the ancient feast of the Incarnation—Christmas. My prayer for us all is that this old birth be a new birth, and that the God who flung the stars in the sky in ancient days will touch your heart and mine in a new way, through that one star, and that one child, when earth drew near to heaven. Peace, joy, hope, love, may these gifts be yours in this season of expectant waiting.

✠



VIEW FROM THE PEW



TIME

Steve Elson

"Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma—which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of other's opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary."

- Steve Jobs

It seems fitting to reflect on this quote from Steve Jobs, not only as a result of his passing but also because it's a statement he made when he learned his life was going to be dramatically shortened. We often talk about living each day to its fullest but perhaps apart from being busy, few of us do.

We know that time, at least the hours, minutes and

seconds part is a human invention. And while time is constant we rarely experience it that way. Sometimes it drags on and on, and at others, hours can pass in what might seem like seconds. So there is a constant gap or tension between the objective and subjective. In the Buddhist tradition practising to live in the present and being fully conscious and aware is seen as a way to not only centre oneself but also to connect one's consciousness with the broader universe.

We all live in our own time with those around us and society at large; each of us has our own unique personal life journey. Like being carried along in a stream, we cannot live in another time or place than we do. So it's how we treat the time we are in, and what we do with it that counts.

As reflected in the quote from Steve Jobs, it's what we do with our time that is the measure of our commitment. Living with a sense of appreciation and awareness that time is a gift can give us a deeper understanding of who we are and what we can do to make a difference.

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



SUE SCORGIE

Jean Wright

Hard to picture Sue Scorgie, businesslike, organized, beautifully groomed—sitting around in her pyjamas until noon. With her characteristic warm laugh, though, that's how she describes her first day of retirement from her job as church administrator at First-St. Andrew's. For eleven years she was the other Sue Scorgie, managing the day-to-day financial affairs.

Raised in the United Church in Toronto and Montreal, she first met Russ during a summer job at Banff, and then reconnected when they were both students at McGill—Sue in education and Russ in architecture. She taught high school in Montreal, and in 1976 they settled in London with first Blair, and then a second son, Craig. They made First-St. Andrew's their church home and Sue helped in the nursery; during the week she looked after the business affairs of Russ's office.

In 2001 when the church advertised for a part-time financial manager, and since Russ's office was

just down the street, she thought it would be an ideal arrangement. Once into the job, however, she describes herself as overwhelmed by the volume of work: accounting and financial recording of all monies; supervision of the administrative assistant and custodian; computer maintenance; preparation of financial statements for council, committees and congregants; administration of payroll and debt; attendance at finance, stewardship, trustee and council meetings; preparation of rental agreements and collection of rent. The job soon was made full-time.

Reflecting on her eleven years, Sue said the challenge was always time management, but that was offset by the people and groups with whom she was involved. Because her job involved interacting with so many people, she said it gave her an opportunity to get to know most of the congregation, and that was the greatest pleasure in the position. She says she

will miss that but she will have more time for the skiing, hiking and travel she and Russ and the boys so enjoy.

Sue Scorgie has held one of the most sensitive jobs in the church, and FSA has been blessed to have had her warmth, intelligence and discretion. *JW*



George Jolink and Sue

REMEMBERING



BARRIE WILLIAMS

Donna Travis

On October 25th, 2011, First-St. Andrew's lost one of its Irish storytelling members. Barrie Williams passed away at Richmond Woods Assisted Living Residence where he had been living since the end of July. Barrie emigrated from Northern Ireland in 1956. He excelled in rugby; he was a former scout and scout leader, a stage actor and joke teller. In Canada he worked for C.I.L. for 30 years. Barrie was the past president of the Kiwanis Seniors' Snooker Club and a member of the Mason Ashlar Masonic Lodge

#610. Barrie loved to debate, especially with me, every Saturday night at dinner, since his wife Evelyn died about eight years ago. We considered ourselves extended family since our children married and we shared grandchildren. Barrie will be missed by the First-St. Andrew's community and especially by his pals in the back pews. Kate honoured him at a lovely service at Forest Lawn Memorial Chapel on October 31st, 2011.



JW

GETTING TO KNOW



KELLY AND HANS, KATE AND SARA PEARL KABAT

David Flynn

Hans and Kelly Kabat arrived from Edmonton in June, 2009 with Kate (now 5½) and Sara Pearl (now 3½).

Within weeks they met FSA member, Cathy Coulthard, who invited them to attend “a liberal church

known for really great music.” Originally from Minneapolis, they have also lived in Thailand through Hans’ role with Cargill. He is currently a managing director overseeing plants in Ontario and Alberta.

They maximize their family time on weekends and evenings enjoying outdoor activities on bike trails, in parks, or visiting nearby beaches and other points of interest. Kelly and the girls keep busy daily doing “kid stuff” like school, dance and gymnastics. They find Southern Ontario beautiful and appreciate that the location allows them to visit their families in Minnesota, Pennsylvania, New York and Michigan.

Both Kelly and Hans like reading when time permits. Besides business journals, Hans enjoys books

encouraging self-reflection—the most recent is Thomas Moore’s *Care of the Soul*. Kelly initiated a book club with FSA’s Allyson Watson—their most recent book was Jonathan Franzen’s *Freedom*. The Kabats also appreciate good food. Kelly loves cooking and they work hard to keep family meals an important part of their daily structure.

Spiritually speaking, the Kabats feel blessed to have

found FSA; Hans was recently a lay liturgist, the girls enjoy singing with the Junior Joyfuls and have attended the monthly family pot-luck dinners; Kelly appreciates the many wonderful women and families within the church. They recall that the intelligent sermons were an instant draw, the music has been amazing, and the children’s programmes were the “icing on the cake.” Both

Kelly and Hans believe

that the wondrous Spirit is most present for them as they conscientiously appreciate the natural world and the beauty of their young daughters.

The Kabats are grateful to FSA for enhancing their family’s lives during their time in London. In turn, we are most fortunate that they chose us as their church family.

DF



PAST EVENTS

ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 20TH



For more of our Past Events [go to Page 9](#)



GRACE MACPHAIL-WAGNER

Nancy Howard

We've had the pleasure of Grace in our midst for her entire life, and couldn't help but fall in love with her. An active participant, she tackles volunteer opportunities with

her bubbly personality and radiant smile, although admittedly her parents might find her less agreeable at home. Grace helps with church school, Joyful Singers, serving coffee, bazaars, reading scripture and ushering. She's even taken on the role of narthex coordinator for December. But we are most blessed with the sharing of her musical talents. Grace has been in Christmas pageants, danced for us, and sang in our choirs. She's the lovely soprano in our frequently requested and raved about new Youth Trio.

Grace keeps busy with vocal lessons, piano lessons, highland dance and ballet. She plays euphonium and sings in the school choir. Creative outlets inspire her artistic expression. Recently she has been designing labels using glitter glue and sequins. Grace loves reading



and especially enjoys *Archie* comics. No contest, her favourite TV show is *Glee*, and she's totally into Damian McGinty (also of the Irish group, Celtic Thunder fame). I'm not allowed to print anything else she shared when talking about this show! A typical teenager, hanging with friends, and connecting on Facebook are high priorities for Grace. Shoes and shopping, mostly buying make-up, produce contagious excitement.

Grace recently graduated from Lord Roberts French Immersion, and had the best time on her grad trip to Quebec. She laughs about how she ended up ordering salmon and salmon salad for a meal. Rather humble, Grace almost forgot to mention having received the music award at her graduation ceremony. She had much more to say about everyone being dressed up, and the shoes were awesome! With her leadership qualities, broad range of interests and talents, you might not expect any insecurity, but Grace admits it was insane how nervous she was going to Banting. Her favourite subject there is English because the teacher is awesome. In the future, she'd like to be an orthodontist ... or a teacher ... or a psychologist. The possibilities are endless for this bright young lady.

VIGNETTES



PUNJABI CHRISTMAS: 1960

Mary McKim

Christmas 1960 found us with four sons (aged eight to eleven months) at the Christian Medical College, Ludhiana. A week before I set out by

rickshaw to find a tree, hoping to buy a small evergreen in a pot, (I'd seen them in gardens). I encountered a German lady I'd met who accompanied me, and, on learning there were no such trees available, said, "Never mind. Come with me and I'll give you some branches from our garden." The "mali" cut several from a cypress, and she added a large bouquet of rosebuds. Arriving home John felt sorry for me, but the children were not disappointed. Tying the branches together, we stood them in a pail of water and sand. A trunk contained pine cones from our London garden, gold paint, tinsel and the treetop star! A neighbour donated coloured balls, Colin painted the cones, and we covered the pail with crêpe paper. Voila, a respectable "tree."

Shopping was done at home as the Kashmiri "walla"

laid out colourful hand-painted papier mâché articles on the living room carpet. We gave the older boys trinket boxes decorated with tigers. We were able to buy a tricycle for Bruce.

Festivities began with dinner for the non-Christian students and college community, hosted by Christian students and staff. These curry dinners were held outdoors in spite of the cold evenings. I understood why the women students were always knitting sweaters. Some were enveloped in large Kashmiri shawls. It was an opportunity to wear mother's lambswool lined, brocade Peking jacket! Carolling with a group around campus, I imagined in the dark that the thick dust we were shuffling through was snow!

We shared dinner with a Canadian family. Turkey was unavailable; chickens were stringy. We cooked a small roast in the portable oven. As our guests were Baptists we did not serve sherry, saved from a bon voyage fruit basket, but produced it later when hosting Anglicans!

Replacing Christmas carols were morning cock crows, night barking "jungly" dogs and continuous loud music from the Gurdwara (Sikh temple).

NOTEWORTHY

Doug Bocking. As the scion of the Bocking family, Doug was featured in the fall 2011 edition of Western's *Alumni Gazette*. The article noted that family members had been "energetic students, faculty, administrators, volunteers and philanthropists" for the past 70 years. Five of Doug's children graduated from Western and also married Western grads. His youngest son, Don, broke the trend, starting at Western but transferring to UBC to graduate. Not to be outdone by her illustrious offspring, Doug's wife, Vivian, earned her degree in 1982, after the children had graduated. For the details of this family story link to <http://www.alumnigazette.ca/issues/fall-2011/multigeneration/westerns-multi-generation.html>



citizen, he is a worthy role model for all of us at FSA who see the need to reach out to local and international communities.

Lucille McClure. At the October 6th Meals on Wheels annual volunteer appreciation luncheon, Lucille McClure was acclaimed as having been a volunteer for 40 years! Obviously the only one as no one else had more than 30 years: she began two years after the establishment of the London MOW service in 1969. Our commendations to Lucille for her commitment and dedication to this worthy cause.



John Eberhard. We congratulate John for winning the 2011 Western Community Service award. Described as a "social entrepreneur" and "a visionary change agent," John's volunteer efforts came about as a result of his long relationship with Rotary International. He created cyber clubs to increase accessibility for members and founded Rotarian action groups to undertake humanitarian programmes relating to water management and prevention of AIDS and malaria. Not only an outstanding



Winnie Wake. On Wednesday, October 19th, Winnie received the Ivey Award for Environmental Excellence from the London Community Foundation. This award is in recognition of her valuable environmental initiatives within the city of London, including establishing the Chimney Swift watch, and her advocacy for local natural areas, including Westminster Ponds.

Ramsay Gunton. At its 25th anniversary dinner on November 21st the Robarts Research Institute honoured Ramsay Gunton as one of its founding members.

THE BUILDING



CELEBRATE

Jim Hutchinson

As we approach 2012 and the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of our head of state, Queen Elizabeth II, we can reflect on an earlier recognition of 60 years of our building in 1930. The highlight of the year must have been the removal of the 60-year-old tin roof on the spire and the installation of a new copper roof. The congregation could enjoy the gradual oxidation to a beautiful green patina, something which didn't happen in 2005 with its replacement, since new processes provided pre-treated plates which were already green.

✍️





THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE - SEPTEMBER 25TH



Bishop Spong Visits - October 23rd



Fall Cleanup - November 19th



Holly Bazaar - November 12th



WORSHIP

Jo Ann Silcox

Gospelling Together!

As we eagerly anticipate the Advent season, the Worship Committee is already celebrating new births in opportunities for shared ministry in the weeks ahead.

On November 26th, Metropolitan United invited us to join them in a day-long workshop to hear Dr. John Dominic Crossan, a noted scholar on the subject of the historical Jesus—author of *God and Empire*.

- On November 27th the Rev. Ann Corbet of Bedford Pastoral Charge was our anniversary speaker, joined by the Salvation Army Band and several new baptisands! And we had an opportunity afterwards to gather over a congregational reception prepared

by Shirley and Tom Wynne.

- On December 13th at 7:00pm we will join Metropolitan for a shared Blue Christmas service honouring those for whom Advent is still a powerful reminder of loss and of adversity.
- On December 25th at 11:00am Metropolitan will host a conjoint Christmas Day service so that our clergy might enjoy a much-needed day of rest.
- On January 1st at 10:30am First-St. Andrew's will host a conjoint New Year's Day service so that Metropolitan's clergy will have a time of rest.
- On Good Friday we again anticipate a shared worship service at Metropolitan with clergy from First-St. Andrew's and possibly Dundas Street Centre United churches participating.

This is indeed an Advent in which we can give thanks for Christian unity. ✠



MUSIC AT FSA

Paul Cooper

September 25th was an enthusiastic kick-off to our busy fall musical season when Darryl Edwards brought The Concert Opera Group to FSA for an afternoon of *The Pirates of*

Penzance.

Jordon Baldwin, a UWO music student, joined the FSA senior choir as our newest vocal scholar.

On 6th November, the senior choir performed *Baroque Fest (1)*—a concert of works by Monteverdi, Purcell, Bach and Amner. Several members of the choir provided wonderful solo work and Paul Merritt gave a fantastic performance of baroque organ pieces.

“*Adonai ro-i, lo ehsar*” means “*The Lord, is my shepherd*”—on Music Appreciation Sunday, the senior choir sang those words in Hebrew, as part of the Chichester Psalms Mvt. II by Leonard Bernstein. Thomas Samson-Williams gave a wonderful performance as the soprano soloist. The prelude and postlude were played by the FSA Strings. The Junior Joyfuls and the Joyful Singers added their music to the service, as did the Laudamus Bells, accompanied by Bob Kennedy, with a stirring rendition of *Just a Closer Walk With Thee*.

On Remembrance Sunday some of our youth—Grace MacPhail-Wagner, Fiona Robson, Jordan Baldwin and Jacob Feeney—gifted us with a wonderful rendition of *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*.

The London Citadel Salvation Army Band was an inspiring addition to our anniversary service on the 20th of November. The senior choir sang the anthem *This Is the Day*, written by John Rutter for the wedding of HRH Prince William and Ms. Catherine Middleton. The music was given to the choir by Shelley Kosteki in memory of her husband, Ted. The senior choir will reciprocate on the 5th of December by singing with the Band at Centennial Hall for their annual Christmas Festival of Carols.

Rounding out the fall season was a concert of the FSA String Orchestra with guests, Brian Joyce, Margaret Trethewey and Allison Graham. They performed works by Handel, von Dittersdorf, Rutter, Cimarosa and Mendelssohn.

Music and Advent go together at FSA. Noontime recitals are occurring on November 25th (Paul Merritt, organ, Margaret Trethewey, flute); December 2nd (FSA Young Performers with Paul Merritt, piano) and December 9th (Laudamus Bells). ✠



MEMBERSHIP AND NURTURE

Donna Travis

The congregation will have noticed a change in November with Coffee and Conversation. The committee is inviting you to serve yourself and to also enjoy the cookies. We will prepare both

regular and decaf. coffee and regular tea. Our hope is that you will find the mugs more comfortable to handle.

Hopefully by the end of November an up-dated data base will be approved and we will have a new in-house directory printed (no pictures). It will be sold at Coffee and Conversation or may be purchased from the office. The price will be based on the paper cost. ✠



CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

Cynthia Simpson

Fall is in full swing with activities for CD! The committee would like to thank Anne Cummings, Kerry Stover and David Wake, who organised the successful 2011 Proudfoot Lecture with Bishop Spong. The Rev. Tom Hiscock conducted a three-part November series on Structures of the Church, and the Bible study groups are going well.



STEWARDSHIP

Judith Walker

Sustaining the Heartbeat, the 2011 Annual Pledge Campaign, has officially run its course. Each Sunday, beginning with Thanksgiving, we set aside five minutes to listen to a message from a member of FSA. Each message was developed to remind us of the work made possible through our financial stewardship and our commitment to sustaining our mission as an inclusive Christian Family encouraging spiritual growth through worship, friendship, learning and action.

Five minutes, over six weeks, can barely do justice to the myriad of programmes and projects that, when asked, members have noted as important to their life of faith at FSA. These include strong theology, spiritual growth, music, service to the community, stewardship of the environment, social justice, mission projects ...



COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Jim Silcox

In September, our Chair, Doug Gonder, and our graphic consultants returned to Council to determine if any changes were needed to the new logo that was adopted earlier this year. A slight modification was recommended which includes small windows in the silhouette of the church steeple and a space between the curved "swoosh" and the spire. You can see how that looks if you take a quick peek at the front cover of *Tidings* or the banner of our website pages. We now have engaged Noble Software Solutions to assist with the development of templates incorporating the logo that will be used for all church documents. Stay tuned for our spring rollout.

We continue to pursue the plan for new dedicated and better positioned bulletin boards in the church. Our

We are continuing to renovate our church school area with new paint and furniture, and also will be replacing furniture in the nursery so we have a safe environment for our youngest church members. The God Squad youth group is hard at work planning the December 11th church service. Our Christmas Eve pageant will be an exciting event for our children, so please plan to attend. We also are thrilled to announce that a labyrinth walk has been scheduled for Friday, March 30th, so mark your calendars for this popular restorative experience. *JS*

and the list goes on. None of these programmes would be possible without your generous support through your talent, your time and your financial support.

It is my pleasure to say THANK YOU! Thank you for listening to those five-minute messages, thank you for your thoughtful response to our request to support both operating and capital and for your positive feedback throughout the pledge campaign.

Our goal for this programme, in addition to raising the funds required to support the operations and designated capital projects for the coming year, was to change how we think about the word stewardship. As 'keepers of the trust' we must, each of us, play our role in keeping FSA a vibrant beacon at the corner of Queens and Waterloo.

If you have questions about the pledge campaign or the variety of methods of financial stewardship available to you, please feel free to contact me or a member of the Stewardship Committee. *JS*

goal is to ensure that messages are easy to find and that the boards are kept up-to-date for both inside and outside events.

Letting the public know where to park when they visit us is turning out to be more complex than it seems at first glance. Working with the Property Committee, we hope to get better signage in our parking lot for those requiring close access to the building for reasons of disability, and to establish clear directional signs close to both the Waterloo and Dufferin driveway entrances so visitors can find our parking lot more easily.

Looking ahead, we are planning a pilot project for the new year where we will work with staff and perhaps a select church committee to promote a yet-to-be-named special event. The thought is that once we get our feet wet with this one project we will gain the "know-how" to work effectively with others in our church family who need this kind of assistance. *JS*

You can get monthly updates on the current projects of the **Property Committee** by going to [our website](http://fsaunited.com/FSAnews/Property.html) then scroll to "FSA Times" and click on "Property" or go directly to <http://fsaunited.com/FSAnews/Property.html>



FINANCE

Harold Jackson

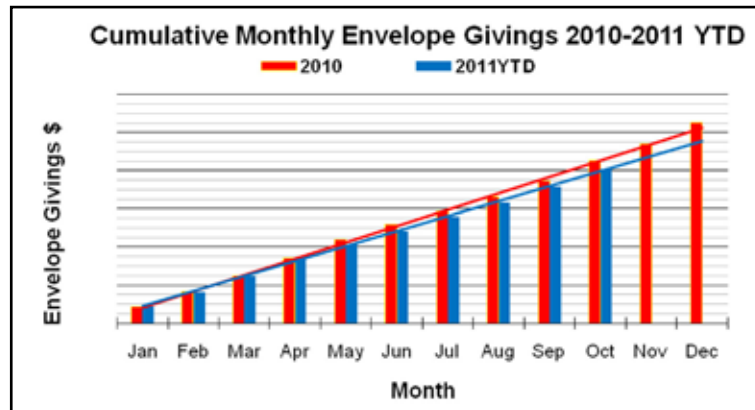
Where are we now?

"There is a wonderful mythical law of nature that the three things we crave most in life—happiness, freedom, and peace of mind—are always attained by giving them to someone else."

(General Peyton C. March)

Capital project activity has been a significant focus in 2011. Your generous support of the Capital Building Campaign over the last two years has put into action specific recommendations from the 2008 Avis Report. Recently completed Phase I work reflects our ongoing promise to keep a strong physical presence

"At the Heart." Capital Reserves have been used to correct parking lot drainage issues, replace the office computer systems server and carry out a rebuild of the



organ peddle board.

Operationally, our major source of financial input, about 80%, comes from your continuing generous contributions through envelope givings. The support of revenue gained from physical asset utilization (rentals), responses to special project and miscellaneous appeals/donations, and the benefit derived from unrestricted trust funds income growth transfer allows for a forecasted balanced operations budget to be a reality. Our plan to be operationally deficit-free this year remains on target. You will have seen that envelope givings support to the end of October is behind our year-to-date forecast

by 8%, and prior year actual by 5%. However, expense reductions due to change unique to this year's activities continue to provide for a modest year-to-date surplus.

Each one of us is an essential piece that when all put together produces the picture that is First-St. Andrew's United Church. Thank you to each of you for

your support to FSA that has allowed us to continue the exciting growth and change in 2011 so necessary to keep this great congregation **At the Heart.**

MEET DEBRA LOW, OUR NEW CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Harold Jackson

Please join me in welcoming Debra Low as our new church administrator. As you know, Debra is the staff person responsible for accounting and financial recording of money collected and dispersed in the name of the church, and acts as supervisor of certain other church staff members. Her attendance at Finance Committee meetings is a support responsibility, and in major part assists us in the discharge of our responsibilities as members of the Finance Committee.

Academically, Debra has achieved the Level 4 CGA designation in Ontario. She is honorably discharged from the Canadian Armed Forces where training in financial management and business administration was received.



As well, certificates in systems analysis/design, network administration and project management from Sheridan College position her well to manage those challenges here.

Debra is a seasoned business professional with over 20 years experience in public, not-for-profit and private sector management positions in finance, accounting, information technology and administrative roles. Accomplishments include establishing accounting and systems best practices. She is skilled with a number of computer applications that embrace MS Office programmes: Simply Accounting, payroll (ADP), network administration and systems analysis and design.

We welcome Debra as she takes on the role of church administrator at First-St. Andrew's United Church.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

John Eberhard

David Manness

Sincere Thanks and an Important and Timely Taxation Tip for you




We are very blessed to have received significant bequests from several estates in 2011, including Ron Logan, Margaret Leonard and Lillian Hodgert. Because of their thoughtfulness and love for First-St. Andrew's United Church, our Trust Funds have grown to within reach of meeting the objective of two times our operating expenses (CAP). These gifts are now invested and growing in our First-St. Andrew's Trust portfolio.

Trustees and Council were therefore pleased to announce a matching grant of up to \$75,000 to the Capital Building Fund. We very much encourage FSA members to donate to the Capital Building Fund in 2012, where every dollar donated will become two dollars to be spent by Property on FSA Capital projects.

There is a recent article in the *Globe and Mail* of

timely importance to you: **Share the wealth: Why it makes sense to donate stocks rather than cash to charity.** To paraphrase, donations of publicly traded securities to the church will cause any capital gains to be eliminated. When considering your philanthropic giving we suggest that you scour your portfolio for any securities that might have appreciated in value. The greater the capital gains on the shares the better those shares are as candidates for donation. Our tax law makes it much more attractive to donate shares to the church than cash.

It is easy to donate securities to the church and we have the experience and expertise in managing this type of donation. Your gift can be directed to Operations, the Capital Building Fund or to the programme of your choice. And this method can also be used when leaving a bequest in your will that increases the value of your estate.

We encourage this form of giving. If you would like more information or advice on how to donate shares or structure your will, you may contact David (519-433-9117), John (519-473-2100) or Russ Monteith (519-642-2500) to understand the benefits to you, in confidence, and the path most suitable for you to follow. 



MISSION OUTREACH AND ENVIRONMENT

Barb Dalrymple

Advent Initiatives: Jewellery in support of Dorcas Widows in Uganda is for sale in the office and at Coffee and Conversation. The Mitten Tree and Amnesty Messages of Hope are in the atrium.

Kairos: Ecumenical Social Justice Organization of which the United Church is a part. We agreed to become a Kairos Community and receive info about their projects and our participation.

Volunteer Mission Trip to Nicaragua: MOE will offer an info session after church on Dec. 4th to assess interest. This is a great opportunity to consolidate our relationship with Los Quinchos, provide volunteer service as well as an educational and spiritual experience for FSA members. If there is enough interest, an evening meeting will be planned to provide additional information.

ELUCO: Look for the new pamphlet and website www.eluco.ca

Comfort Quilts: Thankfully the need for quilts for soldiers wounded in Afghanistan has declined so no more shipments are going overseas. We are

donating them to Project Linus, named for the Peanuts character never seen without his security blanket. This organization provides quilts to children experiencing a traumatic event. The quilts will go to Children's Hospital for patients undergoing treatment like chemotherapy, and to Women's Community House for children uprooted by domestic abuse.

Hospitality Meals: The team leaders for the Hospitality Meals, along with volunteers, have taken the food safety course to ensure that we follow the Health Unit requirements. All teams now have at least one person who has taken the course. Our meals average about 150 guests. Thanks to the volunteers who ensure that we can offer the programme.

Grow-A-Row: We have just concluded our joint project for the 16th year with St. Marys U.C. for our Third World neighbours. Thank you for raising \$6,253.63 + \$3,470.00 from the crop, totalling \$9,723.63. Special thanks to Tom and John McLarty for their kindness and generosity for again providing the land. The corn roast in September highlighted the campaign, providing fellowship for our FSA community.

New Members: There are many new projects we would like to undertake but we require new members like YOU! Contact Janice Elliott, 519-657-7183 or jelliott@uwo.ca



UCW UPDATE

Shelly Pinkard

United Church Women On the MOVE!

Do you know this wonderful group of women, many of whom work behind the scenes here at the church? Do you know what these sisters of the faith have managed to do? They have pulled off two of their main fund-raising events of the year without a hitch again! We get to see these events after all of the planning and hard work. We do the easy parts ... shop, eat, and socialize. These women and volunteers, or family who are volunteered, work at the planning, set-up, and tear-down ... the hard stuff. The events in celebration are the annual fall Rummage Sale and Holly Bazaar.

The fall Rummage Sale was a great success under the expert directorship of Jan and Jim Hendry and many hard-working volunteers. Many thanks to everyone! The Holly Bazaar was well organized with Heather Vosper and Deb Roberts as co-chairs. Everyone enjoyed the offerings of the many areas and the delicious Café

Noel. Sale opportunities were so good, that for the first time there was an encore sale on Sunday after morning worship service.

The success of these events ensures UCW's ability to fulfill their Priority II hopes: monies for Five Oaks Training Centre, Beth Emmanuel Church, Women's Community House, Canadian Bible Society, and the Dr. Jessie Saulteaux Resource Centre. This in addition to the contributions that the organization has already made to ELUCO, Limberlost and Southdale Chaplaincies, Rotholme Women's and Family Shelter, My Sister's Place, Daily Bread, and Mission Services.

You would think after all of this charity that these women would take a break ... no!! There is hospitality to be served! On November 30th at 5:15pm, the UCW will hold its general meeting. They are inviting everyone to come out, take a vacation from cooking, and share their hospitality, enjoying a church prepared chicken supper. The cost will be \$10.00 at the door. This year they will host the Dundas Street Centre women. They are also asking all who attend to bring a gift for a mother or baby items to be presented to the Bethesda Centre for distribution.

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SUPPER CLUB SERVICINGS

June McKay

Our group of 60 to 80 friendly folks meets usually on the last Tuesday of the month, for a sumptuous pot luck supper, a spirited sing-song led by Paul Merritt, and a programme.

October: **Bob Johnstone**, a frequent safari traveller, shared his adventures in several locations in Kenya, with stunning photos and tales of fascinating animal encounters.

November: Our MOE Committee and guest **Nina Davis** led us in a stimulating inter-active discussion on a new model for **urban living** (E-Cove Living), helping us to see how we can all do our part to ensure a **sustainable future**.

2012 plans include:

January 31st: **Michelle Gatt**, from Seniors' Access,

London, will explain what programmes and services are available for London seniors, and for those who are caring for elderly loved ones ... also some tips about making the decision to scale down.

February 28th: **Barb Vanrassal** from LHSC Transplant Unit will share with us her work with the "Gift of Life" programme. The Multi- Organ Transplant Unit celebrated its 20th anniversary in August, 2011.

March 27th: "Avoiding Taxes Honestly," with guest FSA member **Russ Monteith Q.C.**

April 24th: **Eric Coates**, artistic director of the Blyth Festival, will be our guest. Eric has worked in a variety of disciplines since 1995 as an actor and director, including four seasons at the Stratford Festival Theatre.

May 29th: Volunteering With Friends of Honduran Children, **Libby Dalrymple**.

Guests are always welcome. Come along and see what we are all about!! June McKay 519-471-5668

✂

FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S MINISTRY

Minister of Worship and Administration

The Rev. Dr. Kate Crawford

Supply Minister

The Rev. Tom Hiscock

Director of Music

Paul Merritt

Church Administrator

Debra Low

Administrative Assistant/Receptionist

Maureen Scarborough

Custodians

Geoff Bottomley, Valerie DeJong Richard

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