

Tidings

First-St Andrew's
UNITED CHURCH

Where liberal theology meets the best of tradition



Vol. 22 - No. 3
Pentecost/Fall



A Place for Good Times

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Tidings

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EDITORIAL

David Flynn (pdflynn@rogers.com)

And now begins the reactivation of many FSA activities. Some, of course, did not stop, such as the UCW sewing group and the Brown Bag Lunch (BBL), but many of our programmes take a needed summer rest.

Once again Pat McGregor and Jim Silcox have put together a revised Programme Guide (PG) for 2012–2013 which will be available separately the same Sunday *Tidings* comes out. Pat's editorial in the PG is especially apt this time of year, with her suggestion to find the programme(s) which "ping" your interest. Her comment ties in with Donna Travis' and Judith Walker's reminders in this issue of *Tidings* that part of the Fall Stewardship campaign is encouraging us to volunteer for an FSA activity.

In my case, the BBL has become a communal way to explore my beliefs in the light of the Sunday sermon as well as my reading, plus sports events—not to mention happenings in London and elsewhere. I mention this not so much as a pitch for the BBL on Wednesdays at noon—although it is that—but to emphasize that no matter what we are doing at FSA, we are practising our faith. For me, and for many of us, in spite of our questions about the future of FSA—and Christianity in general—this is a place where ethical beliefs, love and generosity join within a community to provide a sense of meaning and a life of purpose.

So, browse through the PG to see what piques and pings your interest, and read this *Tidings* to find what other people here are doing.

Jo Ann Silcox's Worship Committee report is especially hopeful, announcing our participation in an interdenominational celebration of Creation. In one of the last books by the late theologian, Gordon Kaufman, called, *In the Beginning...Creation*, the author defines God as "serendipitous creativity." Being open to creativity encourages us to relinquish our natural inertia not to create, not to change.

I sense that this may be the year FSA finds a renewed sense of creation. I am excited to be part of that and I hope you are also.

✍️



ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM MOE

- September 9th, after church—Grow-a-Row Ham, Corn and Bean Lunch, Proudfoot Hall

FROM MUSIC

- October 20th, 7pm—FSA's Got Talent, Proudfoot Hall ([Get registration forms from the web](#))
- September 23rd, 3pm—[The Mikado](#), Sanctuary
- November 4th, 2:20pm—Baroque Fest III, Sanctuary
- November 30th—Advent Noon Concerts, Sanctuary, FSA Young Performers

FROM THE UCW

- November 24th, 9am-12pm—Holly Bazaar, Proudfoot Hall, Fireside Room, Atrium

FROM CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

- September 28th and November 30th, 7pm—Labyrinth Walks, Proudfoot Hall
- September 26th, 7pm—Film Night, Chapel, *Monsieur Lazhar* and October 23rd, 7pm—*My Name is Khan*. Watch the bulletin for details

FROM WORSHIP

- November 18th, Sermon—[Jesus at the Theatre: Calendar Girls](#)

CHANGES

MARRIAGES

June 9 th , 2012, Valerie Rimmer and Daniel Ziegler
June 23 rd , 2012, Laura McLachlan and Kevin Murphy
July 8 th , 2012, Erin Donahue and Jeffrey Doupe
July 21 st , 2012, John McDonald and Jerry Austin
August 18 th , 2012, Paul Mooney and Gerry Bailey
August 21 st , 2012, Lindsay Ellis and Dustin Ordway

DEATHS

August 5 th , 2012, Robertson, Raymond ("Rusty")
August 5 th , 2012, Andrews, Donna-Jeanne



COUNCIL REPORT



George Jolink

Oh the glory days of summer. I write these words after having time to relax, rejuvenate and reflect during a cross-Canada train excursion. What a wonderful way to see our country and to feel inspired as I reflected on the things that are important in my life. First-St. Andrew's United Church is significant among those things.

As I mentally prepared myself for the upcoming fall session of Council and the return to regular church activities, I couldn't help but think about the rich legacy of FSA and those who went before us in this great place.

I thought about our history during the short time I have been here, and as I read more about our distant history it occurred to me that we have been blessed over the years. Blessed with individuals in our congregation who I believe were pillars, people who were leaders, and

"We draw from our past and we prepare for our future."

who gave freely of their gifts to ensure that the work of FSA continued in the heart of London. Each of us could identify people who we feel are the pillars of First-St. Andrew's, both past and present. Although our lists might be different, each of us has been gifted by those people and the legacy they built.

It also occurred to me that we are the current caretakers of this legacy. It is ours to borrow and it is ours to continue. We draw from our past and we prepare for our future. Your Council is working hard on your behalf to do just that. As we move forward in our visioning process we are keenly aware of our transition. We are excited about what the future holds and the place we have in it. I hope each of you will consider your place at First-St. Andrew's and pledge your gifts, whatever they may be, so that we too may become pillars. I believe that each of us will be on someone's list in the future as they reflect on the rich tapestry of our church home.

I also believe we are all on God's list.

JS

NOTES FROM KATE

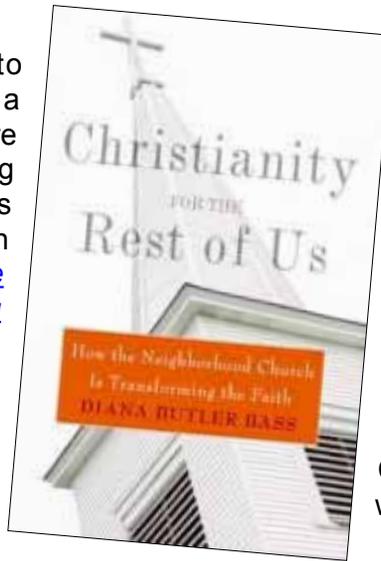


The Rev. Dr. Kate Crawford

Welcome to fall! How can the summer be behind us already?

As we look forward to gathering again as a community, I want to share an exciting initiative of your Council. During the course of this year, Council members have committed to reading through [*Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighbourhood Church is Transforming Faith*](#), by Diana Butler-Bass. There are chapters on Discernment, Healing, Contemplation, Testimony, Diversity, Justice, Worship, Reflection and Beauty. The one we read through the summer, and will discuss at our September meeting, is Hospitality.

The members of Council not only chair the committees



of our church, but they are also the “Vision Keepers” for us all. Through Council, our priorities are set. Our values are expressed through our budget process, and future directions are charted. This common-reading experience is one way the Council members have chosen to have a careful conversation about where FSA is heading.

The mainline church is under significant stress right now, and congregations that choose to do the same old thing in the same old way ... will likely continue to experience decline. Congratulations to your Council members for asking the best questions: how is God calling us forward into the future? How can we follow Jesus Christ most authentically right now? What will bring us to fullness of life?

I am so proud to be working with these Vision Keepers! ✂

VIEW FROM THE PEW



WORSHIP

Hans Kabat

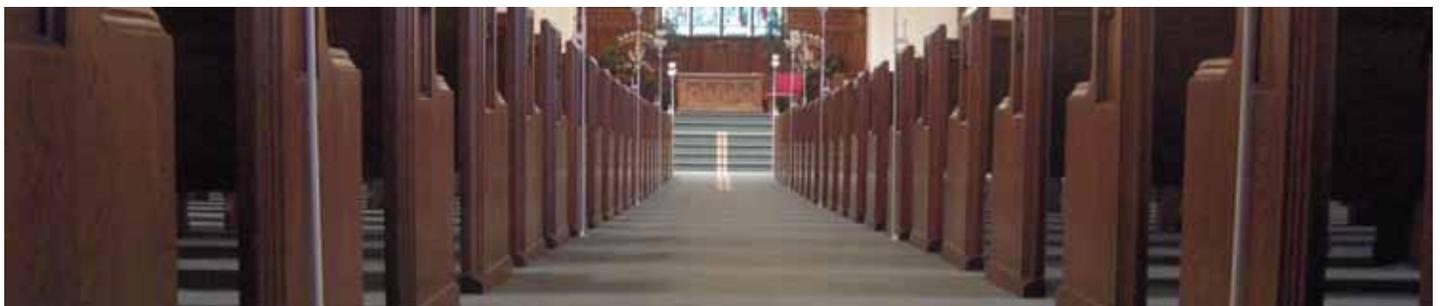
I've been thinking about Reverend Kate's sermon on her five-day silent retreat since she gave it. She offered a window into how difficult it is to calm our thoughts and souls for a few minutes. She also spoke powerfully about the beauty and need of surrender in prayer wherever we are.

Our house is not at all silent. As I write this, our four-year-old daughter is standing behind me on the chair. She wants to show me her newest creation for making her dolls more comfortable. Our family moves quickly through the days; we often have too many things to do. In addition, Kelly and I have “smart” phones that know where we are and sometimes insist on attention. In the midst of this flow of activities, silence and prayer can

feel far away.

Then, suddenly, we get spiritual instruction. Our six-year-old asks matter-of-factly where God is. I explain that God is everywhere and in everyone. She seems to absorb this easily and somehow that makes me feel more confident about my answer. A few days later, our four-year-old explains that she is pretending to be older and that someone in her family is “dead.” She also quickly says that they are in heaven and God is there. Death is simply the end of life and the transition to something more ... nothing to worry about.

I'm learning to let these moments of simple faith from our children mean something. They point the way towards recognizing the reality beyond our many-layered plans and busyness. From the pew, I'm learning that surrender to a child-like heart is more of an approach than a one-time act. We're glad to be surrounded by our church community as we learn from each other. ✂



GETTING TO KNOW



JOHN MCDONALD

David Flynn

John was born in West Germany but his parents and one brother have all lived in London since 1973.

John and his husband—as of July 21st—Jerry Austin, first saw the beauty of FSA at the wedding of their good friends Paul Cooper and David Hiebert in 2006. It was not until two years later, however, that they found their spiritual home within the family of FSA. Although he admires our building, it is the people of our congregation who are “making a difference daily in the lives of so many” which attracted him most.

For relaxation, he enjoys what he calls “guitar, campfire style,” as well as their two dogs, Lyra and Finnegan, Cardigan Welsh Corgis. Both he and Jerry love to cook, eat and share food with friends. They prefer Mediterranean, especially Italian, food for its simplicity and freshness. His current reading is *A Family of Six at Sea* by Werner Gysi, the



true story of the author’s sailing trip along the Eastern seaboard and across the Atlantic to Europe.

John has become one of the lay liturgists for our Sunday service, where he helps the rest of us on our own spiritual journey. He hopes to expand his involvement in FSA programmes once he makes the transition from the IT company he owned for 20 years to a position as director of sales for a local software company.

In 2009 he walked across Spain on the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage. This 800km trek took him through ancient towns, along Roman roads and through beautiful countryside. Thirty-one days after he started, and while sitting in the cathedral in the city of Santiago de Compostella, he reviewed all the wondrous things that he had seen. He realized that it wasn’t the places where he had been but the people he had met that he remembered the most.

A people person then, and we are pleased that he and Jerry chose to be part of our congregation. Please continue to welcome them into our community. *JS*

TRIBUTE



MONIQUE AND CHRIS SILCOX

Allyson Watson

On June 3rd Monique and Chris Silcox were recognized for all their dedication, enthusiasm and hard work leading Sunday School for the past nine years. Michael Feeney did a terrific

job thanking them and here is an excerpt:

“I get *Time* magazine, and every week they have a section called “By the numbers.” This is where they list big numbers, and then show what they correspond to. It’s very clever and effective in that, by showing the numbers first, then explaining what they mean, you can really feel the impact of world events, often things that are difficult to grasp.

“Here’s some, to give you an example:

- 1.6 million: the number of people awarded bachelor’s degrees in 2010. That’s also the number of people who filed for personal bankruptcy in 2010;
- 1.8%: the average amount of their income Americans spend on alcohol and tobacco;
- 10.8: the average vehicle age;
- 58: the number of buttons on the back of Kate Middleton’s wedding dress.



“And some statistics closer to home:

- 9: approx. number of years Chris and Monique have run the Sunday School;
- 468 (approx.): that’s how many Sundays that is;
- 0: how many kids they had when they started;
- 4: how many kids they have now;
- 100%: how much they give of themselves each week to organize not only Big Circle, but to arrange all three Sunday School classes.”

At the end of June, Chris and Monique stepped down from their roles of running the Sunday School. They will still be around the church, of course—in fact you will see Monique in action if you participate in the labyrinth walks. They have also been involved before that: did you know that it was Chris who came up with the term “TNT” or “Teens in Transit” when he was working with the pre-teen group?

It is difficult, even using numbers, to express the commitment and contribution they have made to this church and the young people in it, or the immense gratitude we feel to them both.

THANK YOU Monique and Chris!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

JS

REMEMBERING



ALEX FARQUHAR

Bob Vosper

I first met Alex Farquhar in September of 1964. The introduction was made by Dr. Stan Bland, a wonderful retired army chaplain who had joined the staff of FSA in the Angus MacQueen years. Dr.

Bland told me that I would have in Alex a friend for life—how true that was. With the arrival of the Farquhars, the manse was once more home to a young family filling the rooms of what is now lovingly referred to as Farquhar House.

Soon after Alex's arrival I faced a potentially life-threatening illness. He was a tremendous support in those days. Our friendship flourished and a mutual interest in baseball and hockey further cemented the relationship.

The Farquhar years at FSA were, for me, very much the Camelot years. A masterful preacher, Alex was a voracious reader and his sermons were insightful and stimulating—some I can remember to this day.



Judge Jack Seneshen, a member of the congregation, was troubled by young women who came before him while he was on the bench. He struggled between the decisions of his heart as a Christian and his job to incarcerate. His dream was to develop a home for women in conflict with the law. Alex became the spiritual support and catalyst for this venture and, together with a group of FSA members, we were able to put our faith into action. Proudfoot House opened its doors in 1980. For Alex this represented the pinnacle of his time at FSA.

A thoughtful and caring individual, Alex faithfully followed his parishioners. Long after he had left FSA, on visits to Montreal, Liverpool and Halifax, there were always the questions about those whose lives he had touched for those 16 years in London.

Sadly, in March 2008, I lost my good friend Alex, and as I stood at the graveside on that cold and windy day, listening to the piper play, my thoughts went to the words of *Blessed be the ties that bind....*

A brilliant preacher, a devoted husband and father, a man of integrity, a friend for life. js

PROFILE



LAUREL KENNEY

Shelly Pinkard

There aren't many people who impress me simply by their presence, but Mrs. Kenney is one of them. She stole my admiration when I saw her in action at the UCW annual meeting in January. She has mastered the art of being kind, yet being firm and taking care of the business at hand. She doesn't allow meetings to be bogged down by digression. One wonders if she ever tires. The answer is perhaps, but you will NEVER know it. Don't be fooled by the fact that she has retired after many years teaching music in various school systems. Not only is she still teaching a few select students, but she is also very active serving God. When asked how long she has been working in FSA her response was "as long as I have been here." You see Mrs. Kenney is not a local Londoner. She is a life member



and president of the UCW here at FSA; a member of the choir and of Council. She enjoys working at her cottage, entertaining and travelling in her free time, (I couldn't believe she used that term). She smiled and said that yes, she works extremely hard, but that she also has learned how to ensure there is balance in her life. She

is the mother of two sons, both of whom are married, and have blessed her with grandchildren. She is very proud of her kids and the choices they have made in life. When asked how much credit she takes for their success, in her modest way she says that she was just their mother: she raised them, disciplined when required, but mostly loved them. When she speaks of her family there is a glow that comes to her face. You know as she shares anecdotes about the kids that she enjoys being a mother. I could have talked to her for hours. She has an interesting life, and a cheerful outlook on all things. If you can catch up to her, have a chat; you will be rewarded. js

THE BUILDING



Jim Hutchinson

Having spent another summer with our sanctuary closed to worship services brings to mind other years when such closures were necessary, albeit for a different reason. In 1954 the ceiling was stencilled during a re-decoration. St. Andrew's Hall was also gutted to create the chapel and its adjacent uniquely shaped room. During the upheaval the congregation worshipped in the auditorium of Central Collegiate until it was safe to return.

In the late 1960s the sanctuary was closed again, due to falling plaster, which necessitated covering the ceiling with dry wall and simply painting it blue. In the late 1990s services were held in the chapel while the ceiling was re-stencilled by a local artist using computer imaging from pictures of the original.



VIGNETTES



EL SALVADOR

Jean and Jim Young

We visited El Salvador in January 2010 and March 2011. El Salvador is the smallest country in Central America.



There are about 6.7 million Salvadorans, making it the most densely populated country in Central America. It shares borders with Guatemala to the north, and Honduras to the south and east. It is the only Central American country that doesn't have a Caribbean coastline.

El Salvador is subject to severe weather conditions including heavy rain and severe drought. In 2001, a major drought destroyed 80% of the country's crops and in 2005, flooding and landslides killed over 50 people. Since the country is situated along the "ring of fire," it is also subject to earthquakes. We saw examples of the damage caused by recent quakes.

There are 26 volcanos in the country, with smoke erupting almost every half hour from the active ones. The countryside is lush and beautiful and we enjoyed viewing spectacular sunsets over the Pacific Ocean each evening.

We visited three small towns in the mountains. Although we were accompanied by tourist police, we were free to wander. We bought local handicrafts and talked to the vendors. On another outing to fishing villages, we had the unique experience of a tsunami warning being issued, following the Japanese tsunami. We witnessed the calling-in of the fishing fleet and

the closing of the village pier to allow the boats to be brought ashore. The two pictures show how the boats were brought in. For those with money to pay, the boat



was winched up on the pier; otherwise, 20 plus friends and relatives pushed the boat up on shore.

If their government remains stable, the country should improve economically. The excellent quality of their coffee beans has resulted in major contracts with big coffee producers such as Starbucks. El Salvador is a huge exporter of shrimp. However, the biggest thrust is to create a tourist industry. When leaving, the resort staff thanked us very sincerely for coming to their country and encouraged us to come back with our friends. We wish them well.



COMMUNION

Jim Silcox

As Communion Coordinator for the Worship Committee, it's my job to see that the sacrament runs smoothly on six occasions annually. Over the past few years there have been quite a few changes. Perhaps the most noteworthy came when we switched from the traditional service by elders to the congregation sitting in the pews, to our current practice of "intinction." This transition occurred about the same time as our church governance switched from a Session and Board of Stewards to our current Council, which meant that there was no longer a cadre of elders who "automatically" arrived on communion morning ready to serve. Instead, volunteers have to be recruited from the congregation each time and "full service" is no longer practical.

Consequently, I start making 'phone calls to find servers three weeks before each scheduled communion. To be eligible one need not be a member of FSA (although most servers are) but at least an adherent.

Except for Christmas Eve and Easter, when we have six stations and ten servers, we normally have three stations and six servers. The move of the communion table to the nave level came about recently in order to accommodate willing volunteers who could not comfortably navigate the steps to the chancel. This has made my recruiting much easier.

We now offer wafers instead of bread to reduce handling, and also to try to get round the somewhat unsettling experience of having the Host drop inadvertently into the chalice. Ken Wright has kindly donated dental forceps for the servers to use to place the wafers into the hands of the recipients. The wafers come from the [Sisters of the Precious Blood Monastery](#) in London, and I enjoy making the pilgrimage to their door periodically to get our supply. For the wheat-flour sensitive, they also provide us with gluten-free wafers imported from Poland.

If you'd like to serve communion, don't be shy, get in touch with me. I would be happy to have you participate and will provide you with clear instructions for the occasion. It can be a very rewarding experience. ☩



SUSAN SHELSTAD'S LEGACY—THE LABYRINTH

Nancy Howard

For many, "labyrinth" conjures up images of mazes with high hedge walls, so you don't know what to expect. Enhanced by a stormy winter evening, Susan's first impression of walking the purple labyrinth image on white canvas, was that it was magical. It remains one of the most marvellous events of her life.

Knowing FSA would embrace this, Susan committed to share the opportunity. Ted Kostecki located the rented canvas for our first labyrinth walk hosted in 2001, attracting 200 participants. Feedback from this event was incredible! People shared having had many different kinds of wonderful, deep spiritual experiences. "We knew we had hit the mother lode." Our growth continued and things fell into place as UCW purchased our own Chartres labyrinth. Mary Hamilton heard about FSA's labyrinth and that snowballed into co-hosting a walk and workshop with the renowned Lauren Artress. Powerfully overwhelmed, both Susan and Monique Silcox were called to do Lauren's Veriditas facilitator training course at Five Oaks.



Susan Shelstad

Smaller groups are optimal both for the walk itself and for discussion. Youth groups, UCW, committees, Laudamus Bells and Wellspring benefited from walking the path together. Perhaps we will echo Susan's vision to provide more thematic walks, for people experiencing loss, mothers with teenaged daughters, couples separating or marrying. Ministry possibilities abound. Wherever the Spirit leads, there's a core group of

seekers at FSA who refuse to let our labyrinth hide away in a closet. Part way through her training, Monique will offer leadership to our upcoming labyrinth walks in Proudfoot Hall.

This walking meditation is an archetype, a mystical ritual found in all religious traditions. It draws you in and holds you forever because you simply cannot unpack it. It's big like Grace. It's big like God.

It's big like Spirit. You can't keep holding it back. Every time you walk it's an entirely different experience. The image of going in, kneeling, coming out is resonating with whatever is going on in your life, in the world, in the church, in the community, so it allows you to have the experience you need to have. ☩

(Nancy wishes to thank Deanne Pederson for her background work, and for conducting the interviews. Ed.)

NOTEWORTHY



A FOLLOW-UP

Amanda Williams

On May 28th Thomas Samson-Williams flew to Istanbul to represent Canada in the 10th Turkish Olympiad. He was one of 1500 competitors from 135 countries. His time

was mostly spent in Istanbul where he had to complete a compulsory written test and song competition. It was clear from early on that he excelled in his song performances but struggled with the difficult written language test, which landed him out of the final competition. This freed him, however, for many other amazing opportunities, such as filming for a children's television programme, performing at two grade eight graduation ceremonies, one of which was on a seven-hour boat cruise up to the Black Sea. He also did a little sightseeing in Istanbul, including a visit to the Blue Mosque, Spice Bazaar, Grand Bazaar and Basilica, and travelled to the capital city of Ankara for the first language song contest. One of the most memorable times for him was the three-day-long Cultural Festival where each of the 135



participating countries had a booth set up with displays showing history and culture from their home country. There were an astonishing one million visitors to the festival each day, adding to the 1500 competitors and their chaperone groups. The Canada booth proved very popular and put Thomas' Turkish knowledge to the test as he talked with people of all ages, gave radio interviews and was photographed by many. Thomas

received overwhelming applause after every performance, which included singing on stage while being filmed and broadcast live to 60 million TV viewers! He was also one of the faces chosen to be on the posters for next year's festival.

This was an experience of a lifetime for Thomas. He met so many wonderful young people from all over the world where diversity and differences were embraced and friendships were forged through the common language of music, with

kindness and respect for all.

He wishes to thank all the FSA members who encouraged and supported him through this adventure, and would be happy to share more stories with you or show you some of the 1400 photos he took!!! *PS*

PAST EVENTS



SIXTH ANNUAL FSA WHITE SQUIRREL GOLF TOURNAMENT – JUNE 9TH

Diane Knoppert

Over \$7,000 was raised at this event and Hot Dog Day. This money will be used by the Mission Outreach and Environment Committee for their activities, including FSA Hospitality Meals, St. Paul's Daily Bread, and East London United Church Outreach.

Over 70 people participated in the activities on June 9th. The tournament was held at the beautiful Ironwood Golf Course in Exeter. Ivana Klouda, David Manness, John Eberhard and Bob Kennedy defended their title! This is the fifth time David and Ivana have been on the winning team. Helen and Bill Guthrie led a nature walk along the Ausable River. Many came just for dinner and the silent and live auctions. This year everyone was invited to participate in a putting contest. Jean and Ken Wright were the MCs and David Knoppert was the auctioneer.

This year we had 18 hole sponsors in addition to our corporate sponsor, Sterling Marking Products Inc., (who produced the signs). Our hole sponsors this year were: Arc Financial Planning Group Ltd.; Peter McCallum—BMO Nesbitt Burns Inc.; Brainworks; Michael McDonald—CIBC Wood Gundy; Adrian Plante—Fanshawe Motors Ltd.; Las Chicas Del Café; Remark Fresh Markets; Ken Somerville—RBC Dominion Securities; Ian Wright and Wendy Thompson; Solcan—We Harness the Sun!; State Farm Insurance—Jane Hill, Agent; Jerry Lamport—Swish Maintenance Ltd.; Zavitz Insurance Inc.; Tricar; Hans and Kelly Kabat; Christopher Liddiard, CFP—Investors Group; Sandra Black-Evans—www.AbacoWaterfrontProperties.com Abaco, Bahamas; Kevin S. Thomas—CIBC Wood Gundy, Investment Advisor.

THANK YOU to everyone who supported the White Squirrel Golf Tournament this year—golfers, walkers, diners and those who donated time, money or items.

Mark your calendar now! Next year's event—golf tournament, nature walk, dinner and silent and live auctions will be held on **Saturday, June 8th, 2013.** *PS*



June 3rd, Church Picnic



June 9th, White Squirrel Golf Tournament



June 3rd-24th, Spirit Games

COMMITTEE REPORTS



WORSHIP

Jo Ann Silcox

"We know that the whole creation groans and travails in pain ... waiting for redemption of the body" (Romans 8:22-23)

This fall, for the first time, the United Church of Canada, together with sister communions within the World Council of Churches—will interrupt the Season After Pentecost to celebrate in October the liturgical Season of Creation. As we pause to consider God's wondrous acts in Creation of the universe and our roles as stewards in that undertaking, it seems appropriate that we take the time to do a personal as well as collective inventory of our efforts as a denomination to honour not only the created order but its creatures large and small.

In Worship as in all aspects of our congregational



MUSIC

Paul Cooper

Welcome back to everyone from a wonderful summer. The members of the Music Committee have enjoyed their break and are eager to begin our fall season.

On Sunday, 23rd September at 3:00pm—Mr. Darryl Edwards, no stranger to Londoners involved in the music scene over the years, will be bringing The Concert Opera Group, of which he is artistic director, back to First-St. Andrew's for a performance of *The Mikado* by Gilbert and Sullivan. This event proved to be a most enjoyable concert last year and we are very pleased that Darryl has offered to return this year with his soloists and provide fantastic music, as well as audience participation through sing-along choruses. Be sure to mark this fun-filled musical afternoon in your calendars.

On Sunday, 4th November at 2:20pm the Senior Choir will be doing Baroque Fest III under Paul Merritt's



CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

Allyson Watson

As we head into the fall we have lots of exciting plans. We will continue to have adult bible studies and some evening programmes. There are two [Labyrinth Walks](#) planned for the fall, September 28th and November 30th. We will need your support in the Sunday School as we transition to new staff. If you are interested in leading Big Circle,

life this fall, it will be our joy to focus our intentions on preserving, recreating and welcoming new life in all of its forms, as together we share in the marvellous journey to which we are called in the Spirit to be fruitful and multiply and to replenish the earth.

May our praise be fulsome, our preaching be heartfelt, our stewardship be self-emptying and our awareness of the needs of all of the earth and its people be central in our planning and in our actions, so that wherever we are and whatever we are doing there the Spirit of God may also be richly experienced.

The liturgical colour will be orange—the colour of flame and fire and passion and joy. May the flame of the Spirit be so evident in our searchings and our servings that we lose ourselves in the power of that which only the fruits of that same Spirit—hope, love, joy, peace, kindness, patience, long-suffering, compassion—promise to accomplish in this people as a community wholly committed to the One whose name is Love. ✠

direction, with choir, soloists and string orchestra. This is an excellent opportunity to invite friends and neighbours to experience the highly accomplished music programme at First-St. Andrew's.

I know it is only September, but it is never too early to be updating your calendars for the Friday Advent Noon Recitals which will be occurring on the dates listed below. Lunch is available for \$6.00 (catered by Thames Culinary School).

November 30th—FSA Young Performers

December 7th—The Laudamus Bells

December 14th—Paul Merritt, organ

If you wish to support the First-St. Andrew's concert programming you can do so by making a donation to the Friends of Music. Donations can be mailed to the church or placed on the offering plate. The amount of the donation and the fact that it is for Friends of Music should be marked clearly on the envelope.

We look forward to your attendance at the up-coming concerts. ✠

teaching one Sunday or multiple Sundays in the grades 1–3 or 4–6 classes, please call me at 519-913-1025 or allysonwats@gmail.com. You are invited to attend a wine and cheese evening at Katie Graves' house, 281 Cathcart St., on Friday, September 21st from 6:00–8:00pm if you are interested in helping with church school, want to reconnect after the summer, or just want to have fun (kids are welcome). We look forward to seeing everyone involved in many of our FSA programmes!! ✠



MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL

Dave Wake

The Ministry and Personnel Committee (M&P) provides a confidential setting for consultation, support and assessment of staff at FSA. One responsibility of M&P is the review and approval of requests for funding from the Robert Clark Education Fund.

Established in 1864, the fund is managed by the Trustees. Income from the fund may be used to support continuing education for staff (ministerial and lay), as well as members and adherents of the congregation. Requests will be considered from applicants wishing to attend a conference or a course, or to participate in other educational activities which would relate to or enhance the ministry of First-St. Andrew's United Church.

Application forms and guidelines for applicants are [available on the church website](#), or from the office. Applications must be provided to the Chair of M&P no

later than one month in advance of the proposed event. Currently, the M&P Committee has two co-chairs, Jane Hill and Jeanette Morgan. Applications are considered confidential until they are approved.

In reviewing applications, M&P will consider the financial commitment of the applicant, reasonability of costs, relevance to the ministry of First-St. Andrew's, and appeal to the broader community. Those who receive funds are expected to report back to the committee on the event which they attended. Depending on the nature of the event, the M&P Committee may ask the individual to report to the congregation, or other committees.

A recent project of the M&P Committee has been the development of an [Employee Handbook](#). The handbook documents basic policies and guidelines for employees of First-St. Andrew's, and is a valuable reference document for staff and for the M&P Committee. Thanks to Jeanette Morgan and Bruce Moor for their efforts in the preparation of this comprehensive document. ✂



MISSION, OUTREACH, ENVIRONMENT

Janice Elliott

Thank you for making the 2012 White Squirrel Golf Tournament, our biggest fundraising event each year, a financial and social success! We all had a wonderful time and were able to raise over \$7000.00! This will be donated mainly to the East London United Church Outreach (ELUCO) and St. Paul's Daily Bread Food Bank. We would like to thank Debra Low, church administrator, for her excellent contribution in helping us to keep track of these funds!

Our next big event is the Corn Roast after church on September 9th, wrapping up the Grow-a-Row campaign, which raises money for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. The Canadian Foodgrains Bank is a partnership of 15 Canadian churches and church-based agencies working together to end global hunger by:

- Supporting international programmes to meet immediate food needs, reduce malnutrition, and achieve sustainable food security;
- Influencing improvements in national and international policies that contribute to ending global hunger;

- Increasing and deepening the engagement of Canadians in efforts to end global hunger.

There is still time to donate!

Excitement is mounting for our volunteer/educational/exposure trip to Nicaragua in July 2013! We have eight committed participants and more are welcome! Watch for trip related events coming this fall! Contact Janice Elliott (519-657-7183 or jelliott@uwo.ca) and look at www.companeros.ca for more information.

Coffee consumption worldwide is estimated to be around 12,000 cups per second. But for many of the world's 25 million coffee farmers, coffee is a labour intensive crop that frequently yields little financial return. Fair Trade is changing that, providing a guaranteed minimum price, social and economic premiums, and much more. Help these coffee farmers achieve a better life by purchasing Fair Trade organic coffee from Nicaragua at Coffee and Conversation each week.

"It Matters to Us," a recent educational event supported by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission reminded us to educate ourselves on the past and present experiences of Aboriginal people in Canada, lobby our government representatives to make changes in their treatment and encourage the media to report on these issues. The MOE Committee looks forward to supporting our congregation with this journey. ✂

the church more welcoming, we can re-assign all remaining bulletin boards and "freshen" them up a bit. Thanks to Bob Swartman for shepherding this project for us. ✂

COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Jim Silcox

The new UCW bulletin board has been installed outside the parlour. We hope that, after some direction from Council this fall in regard to making



STEWARDSHIP

Judith Walker

As I write this article, in the midst of our prolonged summer heat, I find myself thinking with great affection of the autumn days to come.

September has always seemed to me the real beginning of a new year; perhaps because it is so clearly defined by the end of one season and the beginning of another. We leave behind the exuberance of summer and squarely face a powerful season that commands us to prepare for the winter months ahead.

For those of us who volunteer our time in the work of stewardship we are, indeed, thinking of the season ahead and particularly the Annual Pledge Campaign.

Throughout the year we attempt to remind ourselves and others that stewardship in the larger picture is not about this specific project, but about who we are as stewards in God's ever-changing world. Yet, clearly, without financial resources we would cease to exist as

a part of the solution to many of the challenges that life presents to us as a congregation and to our extended community who turn to us for assistance.

It has always seemed appropriate to me that we consider our financial stewardship in the autumn. This is a time of harvest; of gathering together and being thankful for the goodness that has been granted to us; a time to celebrate the bounty of the harvest and the bounty of our lives; a time to examine our faith and determine how we want to put our beliefs into a plan of action.

Autumn is a time of important decision-making at FSA, including financial decisions, in keeping with our faith and our values.

The 2012 Pledge Campaign will officially launch on Sunday, October 14th. I would ask that in the coming weeks you earnestly think about what it is that you wish to do as a member of our church family. Perhaps you might ask yourself the very large question: what is it that God is calling our FSA family to do and what is the role that I/we can play in making that happen? *JW*



FINANCE COMMITTEE

Taking the Pulse

Harold Jackson

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

— John Wesley

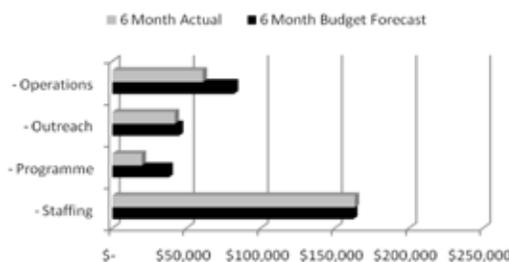
Financial support and participation in the many opportunities for ministry from which we can choose are "At the Heart" of "Sustaining the Heartbeat" of this vibrant congregation we call First-St. Andrew's United Church (FSA). Have you visited www.fsaunited.com lately? We can boast one of the finest websites dedicated to church e-communication. If you have, you will notice a significant change. All those interested in supporting the work of FSA now have the option of online support. If you are not a regular visitor take a look, and take advantage of its vital role.

Taking a pulse is one measure of human vital signs. Let's examine the financial pulse of FSA for the first six months of 2012. As of June 30th our stewardship resources, when trust fund revenue transfers (\$19,260) are factored, continue to exceed our expenses. However, envelope revenue, our single most significant source of income, is 6.3% (\$15,650) behind the original 2012 budget forecast and 2.8% behind the previous year-to-date actual. This places support from local church resources at a deficit of \$6,613.

2012 First Half Stewardship Inputs



2012 First Half Stewardship Outputs



Stewardship expenses to date are positively impacted by under-spending in operations (26%) and programme (48%) areas. Defined outreach commitments are behind budget as a result of reduced envelope givings, but other outreach activity is augmented by \$21,000 raised through various MOE 2012 fundraising efforts of the congregation.

Remember, you are an essential piece necessary to maintaining a strong financial pulse. Together we "Sustain the Heartbeat." Your support and generosity will continue to help this great congregation sustain its promise to be "At the Heart." You see, it's really up to you. *JW*



UCW REBOUNDS!!!

Shelly Pinkard

Okay, the title is really in the spirit of the Olympics; however as I think of the roller skates that our own Silver Foxes are about to put on I think it is fitting. The summer has come and gone. Some of these ladies have taken some much-needed time to enjoy this extreme summer, filled with heat and drought. In the spirit of a never-ending work ethic, they have travelled to cottages and entertained, as well as spent well-deserved breaks catching up with families. However, they have not been resting on their laurels. Yes, some of them went away for holidays, but

others remained to oversee the Camp Kee Mo Kee Day on June 18th, the Conference Summer Event July 21st, and the National UCW Celebration that took place the week of July 23rd. In addition, others have been behind the scenes getting things ready for the ever-busy fall and holiday seasons. Just in case you are wondering, as of September 1st there will be 84 days until the Holly Bazaar. I know that most of you are looking forward to this. As you plan to attend and do some of your Christmas shopping, remember there is always room for helping hands. And guess what—these ladies are such experts at running the Bazaar that they will make sure you have time to enjoy the festivities as well as the work.

✍️



Receiving their UCW Life Memberships in May: (L to R) Helen McLeod, Jeane Stewardson and Sally Smith

THE LAST WORD

VOLUNTEERS

Donna Travis

Volunteering can be a very rewarding experience. Sharing your time and talents as part of the First-St. Andrew's community is an important aspect of stewardship (see [Judith Walker's article](#)). During the Stewardship Campaign you will be notified of volunteer opportunities and invited to participate. Thank you in advance for considering this important aspect of stewardship.

✍️

MARATHON BRIDGE

The marathon bridge group ended the year with an evening of dessert and bridge on June 6th. The winners were: 1st—Susan Wark and Bruce Moor; 2nd—Paul and Lesley Pergau; 3rd—Deanne Pederson and Donna Travis.

✍️

JESUS AT THE THEATRE

Let's have some fun with preaching! In partnership with The Grand Theatre, FSA is hosting a sermon series based on the plays being staged this season just around the corner. This is your chance to 'do theology' with a friend. Catch the play, read the scripture partnered with it, and chat together about 'how we learn about God' by drawing connections between the two. Kate will preach on the plays on the dates shown.

- *Calendar Girls* and Mark 13:1-8—Nov. 18th
- *Miracle on 34th Street* and Luke 3:7-18—Dec. 16th
- *Kim's Convenience* and Luke 4:21-30—Feb. 3rd
- *Yankee Tavern* and Luke 13:1-9—March 3rd
- *Mom's the Word* and John 20:19-31—April 7th
- *Dance Legends* and Acts 2:1-21—May 19th

✍️

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4.78kW solar photovoltaic system on the home of FSA's John and Fran Eberhard. System has fed 4,630 kWh of electricity into the grid, offsetting over 6,400 lbs of CO2 equivalent to 82 trees, in the past nine months.

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Libby & Barbara Dalrymple at Supper Club



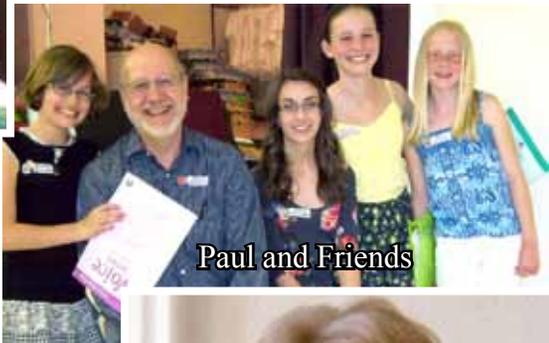
Pat McGregor & Bev Lindsay at the Woodfield Street Fair



FSA walks with Pride on July 29th



New Members: Wayne & Norma McLachlan



Paul and Friends



The children thank Chris & Monique



Confirmands-2012: (L to R) Robin Feeny, Grace MacPhail-Wagner, Fiona Robson



Ethan & Avery Bancroft



Thanks to June McKay from the Supper Club



Story Time with Tom



Marion Wilson and Bruce Richardson

FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S MINISTRY

Minister of Worship and Administration

The Rev. Dr. Kate Crawford

Part-time Supply Minister

The Rev. Tom Hiscock

Director of Music

Paul Merritt

Church Administrator

Debra Low

Administrative Assistant/Receptionist

Maureen Scarborough

Custodians

Geoff Bottomley and Lisa Smith

