



# Tidings

Vol 26, No 3 – Pentecost/Fall 2016

**MAKING THE  
CASE FOR CHANGE**  
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# Tidings

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**Published by:**  
 The Communications & Marketing Committee  
 First-St. Andrew's United Church  
 350 Queens Avenue  
 London, Ontario N6B 1X6  
 Tel: 519-679-8182  
[mail@fsaunited.com](mailto:mail@fsaunited.com)  
[www.fsaunited.com](http://www.fsaunited.com)

**Printed by:**  
 Sterling Marking Products

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



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## GUEST EDITORIAL

Nancy Quinn



This editorial is a continuing response to Rev. Paul Ross's keynote address, "Encounters with God Along the Way," for the UCW Westminster Week-end. How do we live out our experience of the Holy (life affirming wholeness), as Progressive Christians? I suggest five questions to use as Faith-building, and assessment tools, along with some thoughts.

1. *How do we experience our Spirituality, collectively and individually?*

Many of the stories of our Faith tradition are rich in symbolic meaning and feeling for us. God can be seen as a mixture of Life Force and as a mirror of our own collective and individual soul's condition. Our humanity grows with Bible readings, favourite verses, beloved hymns, and anthems. We also connect to the Divine in silence, in dreams, through works of art ... We enrich our Christian philosophy with education in the sciences and social justice.

2. *How does our Faith help us to connect with our greater purpose in life, our young people, and our communities?*

At FSA we strive to make a difference. Our rituals help us to mark the Seasons and Events of Life. Many people find delight, challenge, community, as well as a deepened understanding of life, even to the point of quiet ecstasy.

3. *Is our Faith interwoven in our life, in a way that strengthens our experience of life?*

Our Faith shapes our values. There is a Holy Presence we call on to help us. We feel called to make discerning sacrifices, thereby deepening our Faith. We experience our Faith in many different ways: Jesus walks with us, some have a feeling of peace.

4. *How do other people experience our living out of our Faith journey?*

Our Faith is a civilizing force in our lives, seeding beauty and life, inviting conversation and inclusivity.

5. *Does our Faith allow for questions and for mistakes?*

The skeptic can point the way to where we need to tear down and rebuild. The call "to forgive seventy times seven" gives a place for human frailties to be acknowledged and reworked.

In this *Tidings* fall issue, hear the challenge as: Jim calls us to compassionate forgiveness of our Canada Day vandal; Steve contemplates dynamic change; Barb presents our new music director; Dave tells an exciting story about environmental stewardship. As you enter this edition of *Tidings*, find a record of our life together as a community and find an ongoing testament of our engagement with the Divine. †



**OLD DOG NEW TRICKS**

*Rev. Tom Hiscock*

This spring, grandson Levi and I drove to Michigan to pick up a woodworking lathe from my father. Dad at 97 decided he was finished with it and was passing it on to me. He had been given the lathe by the South Bend public school system because the bearings in the headstock were worn out. True to my dad's nature he rebuilt the bearings and has enjoyed the lathe for 30 years. This lathe is an old-timer, but it was a good piece of equipment and is still stronger than some of the new lathes sold today.

This summer I have been teaching myself how to turn wooden bowls. The last bowl I turned was in a grade 9 shop class and much of that experience has slipped away in the mist of time. It has been a thrilling summer and the bowls are beginning to pile up in the shop. Some of the early examples will eventually become firewood but others are rather good.

In July I became the longest-serving member of the staff team at FSA. It is fair to say that we have had a lot of change during my time here. This fall we will add two or three new faces to the staff team and the change continues. It is possible to teach an old dog new tricks and the old dog may even enjoy the experience. The world is changing and we in the church need to change with it. †



**CHANGE**

*Steve Elson*

Thinking about change in general, but also with an underlying thought about our church and the challenges we are facing as a congregation, I think it's fair to say that everyone welcomes change so long as it's happening somewhere else, and to someone else. When change hits close to home, especially the uninvited kind, our feeling about it can vary widely. We might welcome it but we might feel uneasy, fearful, angry, etc., and then our resistance starts to build.

Change can be complicated, and as one change leader has been quoted as saying, "Never underestimate the power of the status quo." We get comfortable and feel secure with what we know, what's familiar, and that's natural. At the same time we also often know, in our heads if not our hearts, that change is needed—in fact some suggest change is the only constant we have in our lives. From an organizational perspective, change initiatives that are poorly thought out, poorly implemented, lack a clear, coherent vision and sound leadership, can easily fail—and recovery time can be long and painful.

Making the case for change is a fundamental engagement tool—for without it few will pay attention or participate. The case for change is founded on having a coherent vision of the future and what it could or should look like. While this might sound reasonable and easy, it's not. The vision of the future cannot be so general and ill-defined that people cannot imagine moving from here to there. It needs to contain enough specificity that people can see themselves in it, and relate to the principles that will guide the change process. Defining the vision of the future is in itself an important engagement process.

None of this happens, of course, without leadership, most likely a team of people who can engage others and thereby create a vision of the future that is challenging, exciting, probably a bit scary—but overall, true to the founding and sacred mission of the organization—in our case, our church. Change leadership requires many skills and talents, and a leadership team that has a shared commitment of trust and faith in one another.

Change provides the opportunity for us to stretch our spiritual comfort zone. After all, as church members any change is part and parcel of our spiritual journey.

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



**TERRY HEAD**  
*Barb Plante*

Meet Terry Head, our enthusiastic and talented new director of music. Terry begins his music ministry with us on Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>; please welcome him on his first Sunday, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>.

Terry was born in Bowmanville, a small Ontario town east of Oshawa, and spent his teenage years in nearby Newcastle. They lived in his mother's familial home, after his grandfather passed away. He has one sister, and he is looking forward to helping his par-

congregational hymn singing.

Terry grew up in the United Church and it is dear to his heart. He is proud of our denomination for many reasons: for decisions made, and for stands it has taken during the past years.

Terry has 22 years' experience in church music ministry. Our music heritage is well known to him and he is excited about joining us. He has already had at least one conversation with Paul, and has commented that he hopes that "with everyone's help the music ministry of FSA will continue to be strong and build on the rich heritage that has been so carefully established.

When Terry isn't working he enjoys cooking and baking for others. He is also a quilter and he loves sewing. Look out Terry, the UCW will be very interested! Spiritual enrichment is found in listening to beautiful music, beautifully performed, as well as bringing wonderful music to life. The world of nature holds fascination for him as well, and he is fed spiritually by the natural world both at home and in his travels.

Terry's partner, Ken Whatman, is a former Salvation Army officer and minister within the Church of the Nazarene. Ken has lived all over the country, often, but not always, as an administrator for nursing homes run by the SA. Recently, he has been engaged in the process to become a lay minister. However, the United Church is unwilling to allow him to transfer from the Bay of Quinte Conference to London Conference. So the future for Ken is a little up in the air right now. However, that means he will be able to come to London in early September, and we will be able to get to know him too. They will both be in church on Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>.

Terry is a hard worker and loves what he does. This enthusiasm came through strongly in both his interviews and his audition. He anticipates that questions will arise as he gets used to us, and I know we will all be happy to answer them, and help him settle here at FSA.

We are fortunate to have found Terry, a wonderfully enthusiastic music director, who can't wait to help us continue our tradition of making beautiful music for our congregation and our community.

Welcome Terry.



ents celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in 2017.

Terry attended Western University (then UWO). He did not initially see music ministry as his career of choice, but he now views it as a calling. He is passionate about sacred music and its role in worship, and enjoys being able to support others as they participate in bringing excellent music to life—whether it is through presentations by the choir or through



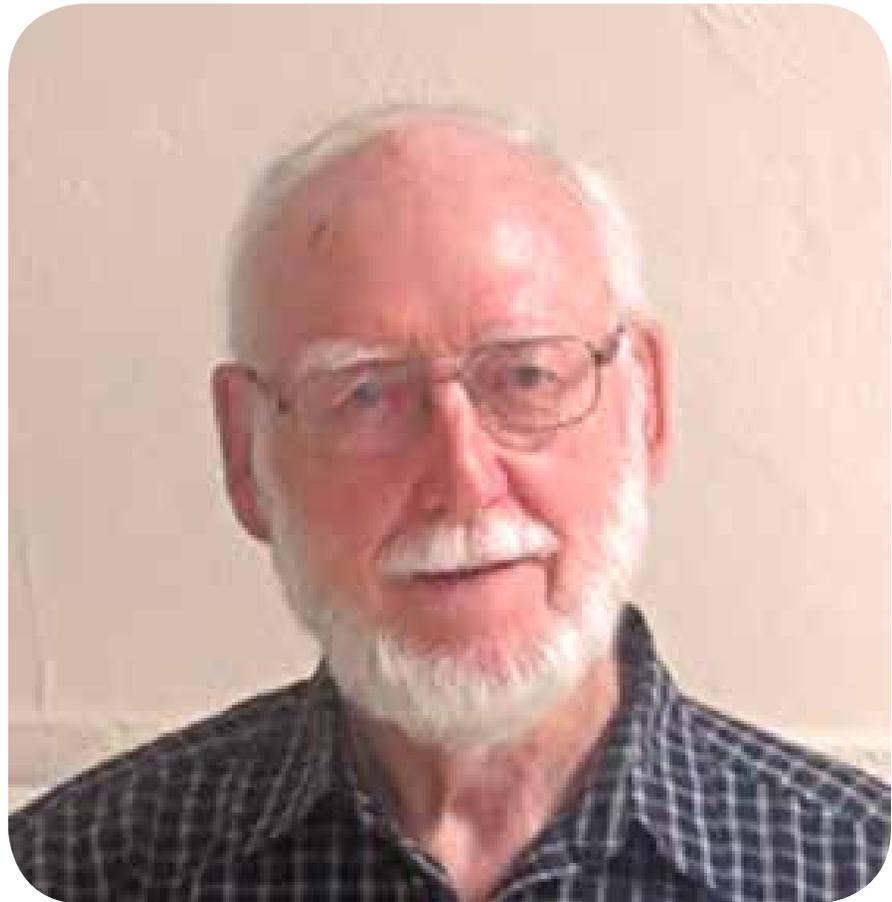
**BOB SWARTMAN,  
COUNCIL CHAIR**

*David McKane*

Scouter, teenage pilot, engineer, university professor and entrepreneur, Bob Swartman is the current Chair of Council. Born in North Toronto, he attended Bedford Park Public School before the family, with Bob's younger sister Nan, moved to Madoc and then to Parry Sound, where he completed elementary school and high school. Bob began flying as an air cadet and obtained his pilot's licence at age 17. One of his teachers was in the militia and eventually joined the Canadian Forces and was killed in action during WW2. After graduation from high school Bob attended Esquimalt Royal Roads Naval College for two years before completing his studies in mechanical engineering at The Royal Military College in Kingston. He obtained his engineering degree from Queen's University. While in Kingston a young nurse, Laura, captured his attention. They were married in Chalmers United Church in September of 1952.

Posted to Trenton by the Air Force the family moved to CFB Bagotville, Quebec, and then to Baden, Germany. Bob was the engineering officer in charge of aircraft maintenance. Son Jim was born in Chichoutami the day they left for Germany and Christine and Tom were born in Germany. Returning to Ottawa and then Kingston Bob taught at RMC for the next seven years, and Janet and Peter joined the family. In 1964 Bob moved to the University of Western Ontario and taught for 18 years before leaving academic life to run his own business, Solcan, a solar power company currently run by his grand-daughter.

When the family moved to London they attended Oakridge Presbyterian Church and then New St. James, but Sunday school was held at a separate time than worship and with five kids moving in different directions this proved challenging. Close neighbours, the Watsons and the Archers, attended FSA and invited the Swartmans to join them. Laura joined the UCW and Bob became active with the Scouts Group Committee, the Marketing Committee, the former Supper Club, the



M&P Committee and the Brown Bag men's group. As Council Chair he hopes to build on FSA strengths, attract younger members and heighten awareness of local outreach.✚

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## THAMES TALBOT LAND TRUST— CARING FOR CREATION

David Wake

In the United Church of Canada, when we recite the *New Creed*, we commit to “Live with respect in Creation.” In *A Song of Faith*, we find these words: “we participate in God’s work of healing and mending creation.” There are many ways we can take action to protect, sustain, and heal our planet. In this article, I profile a local organization dedicated to the preservation of lands of ecological significance. The Thames

pressured by urbanization and agriculture.

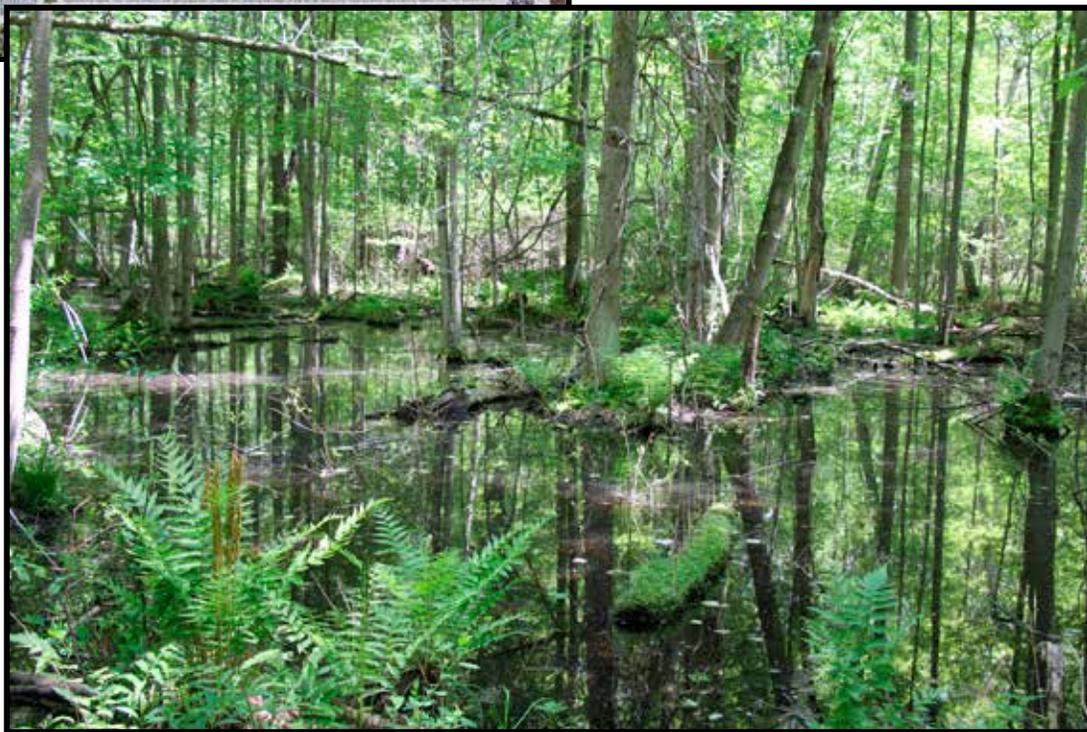
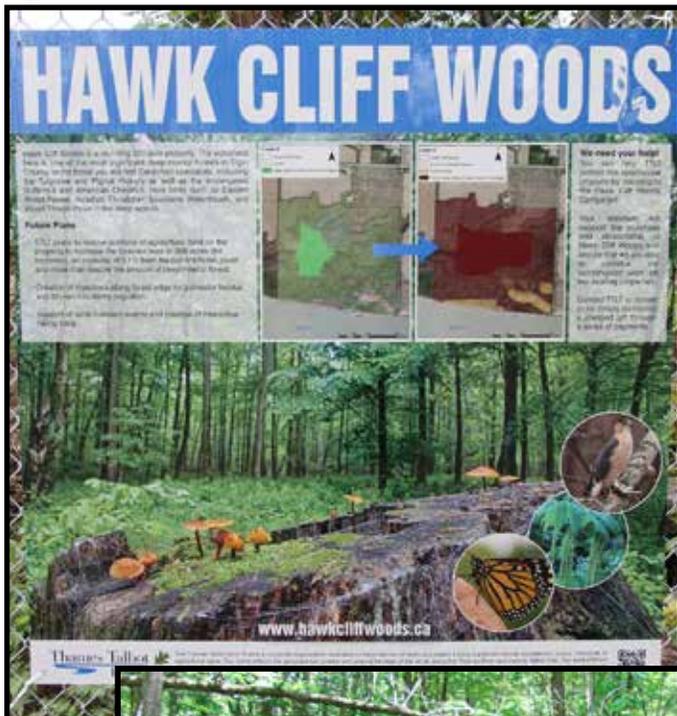
Like other land trusts in Ontario, TTLT is a registered charity, run by a volunteer board. TTLT strives to protect lands considered high in natural values. Some properties are purchased while others are donated. Still others are protected through conservation easements. Land trusts provide an opportunity for private individuals to directly support conservation through both financial support and hands-on property management.

From its humble beginnings, TTLT has grown to be a respected organization, currently owning 14 parcels totalling more than 1200 acres. Properties are located in the counties of Middlesex, Elgin, and Perth. One is in the City of London. The most recent acquisition is Hawk Cliff Woods, a 230-acre parcel of woodland east of Port Stanley. This property was the focus of a \$1.6 million fundraising campaign over the past year. At time of writing, 96% of this target had been achieved.

TTLT seeks high quality woodlands and wetlands for protection. These places include diverse plant communities and habitat for species at risk. Management of properties emphasizes protection and enhancement of the natural features. This may require removal of invasive plants such as buckthorn, garlic mustard, and Phragmites, and re-introduction of appropriate native species.

Much of the work of the land trust is undertaken by volunteers. TTLT has a small and efficient staff, supplemented by additional contract

employees as funding permits. TTLT and its supporters are working to leave a legacy of healthy landscapes. To learn more visit [www.thamestalbotlandtrust.ca](http://www.thamestalbotlandtrust.ca)



Talbot Land Trust (TTLT) is based here in London. TTLT was formed in 2000, by a small group of people who realized that a new entity was needed to help protect regionally significant natural habitats, which are increasingly



**ELUCO YOUTH MISSION TEAM TO HAITI**

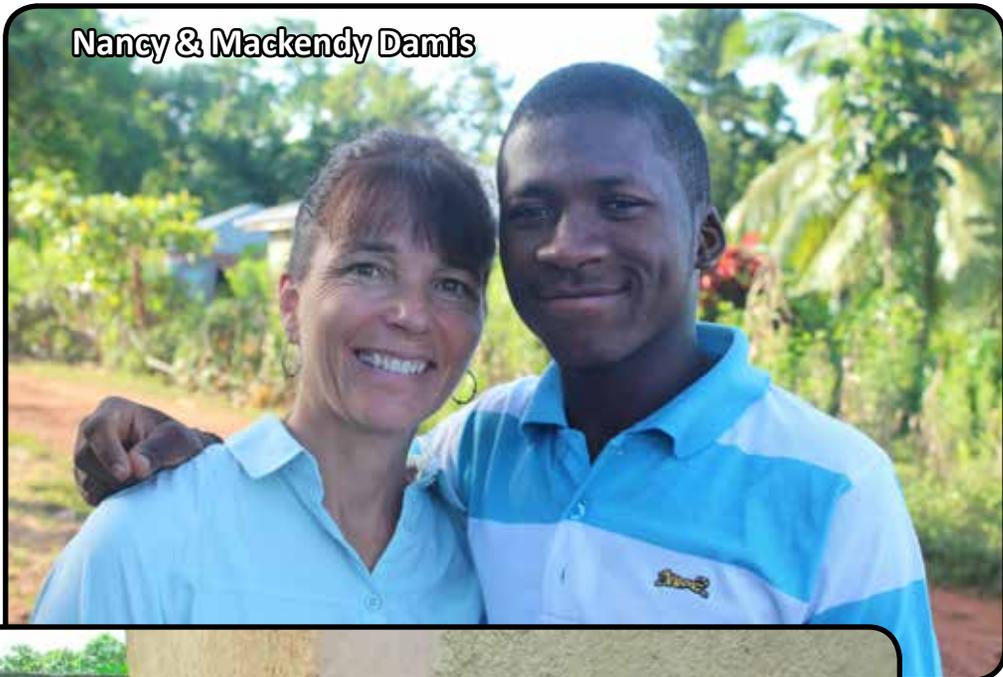
*Nancy Howard*

**W**e dreamed about this for a long time. We actually started planning our Education/Exposure trip in March 2016, with our partners Friends of Haiti, HAPI, and the Methodist Church in Haiti. It was a whirlwind of activity in a short period of time. If anything could go wrong with documentation, it did! There were tears of joy as our last passport was approved and printed an hour before we left London, nervous and excited for our ten days in Mizak, Haiti.

As ELUCO Community Worker, I was the co-leader and mother figure for our group, supposedly working but feeling like I was on the vacation of my lifetime! Our team leader, Don Langford, exuded confidence with his continued relationship and project experience with our partners since the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. Rev. Cheryl Bolton and Nikki Langford, our youth mentor, shared their previous experiences. Our youth team of seven, ranging in age from 14-19, was selected from the community ELUCO serves. What an eye-opening experience to witness a whole other level of poverty, and how resilient and strong the Haitians are at facing their challenges. You'll never meet a more hard-working, loving, generous, or happier people, living in community. "They would see us working and just come over to help." "Everyone would smile and say 'Bonjour'; you don't get that in London." "They don't have anything and they are so happy. My friends have so much and none of them are happy."

It was a lot of memorable firsts: the first

time outside of our small Marconi community, away from family, leaving Canada, staying in a motel, flying in an airplane, going to a beach, swimming in the ocean, jumping off a rock cliff, experiencing another culture, speaking a new language, volunteering to do work projects, being part of a team. It was a life-changing experience that will filter to our community at home.



**Nancy & Mackendy Damis**



We provided employment for the guest house staff, drivers and welders. Working alongside Haitian youth we prepared vegetable gardens for families with a member having a disability, painted the pavilion, gates

**(Cont'd. on page 19)**



### FSA—A HOTSPOT FOR CHIMNEY SWIFTS

Winifred Wake

Chimney Swifts were once common summer residents of towns and cities across southwestern Ontario. Alas, in the past 50 years, a 95% decline landed swifts on Canada's endangered species list.

Each spring, swifts return from the Amazon

patience and sharp eyes.

Two FSA chimneys—the large square chimney venting the furnace, and the rectangular chimney above the fireplace—are long known to harbour swifts. It was assumed that swifts could not get inside three slimmer structures topped by black metal covers. The chance observation of swifts entering one such shaft led to the discovery that all three were occupied. In 2016, FSA chimneys provided homes for five swift families, making the church the most significant swift-nesting site in the city.

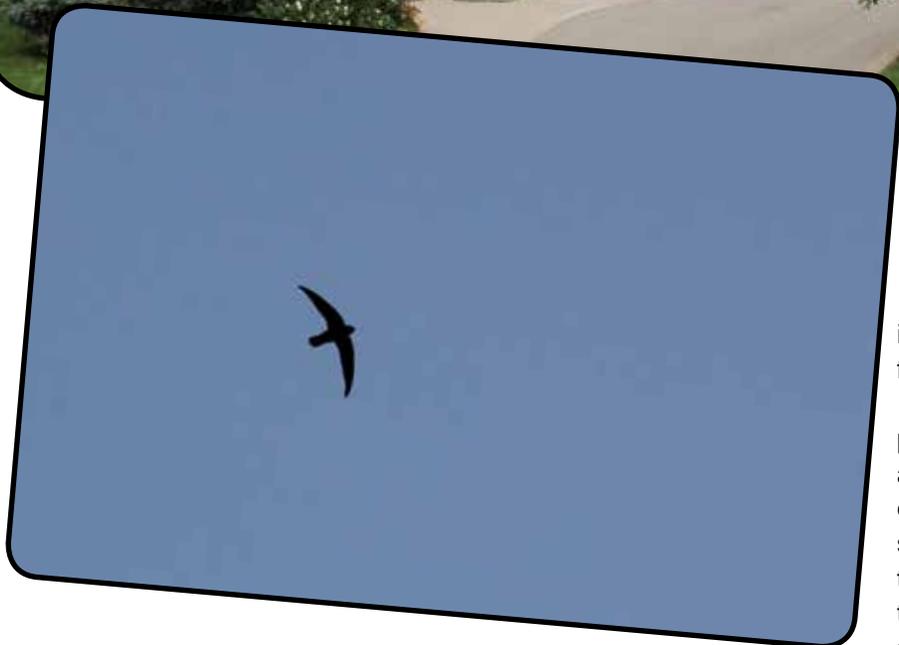
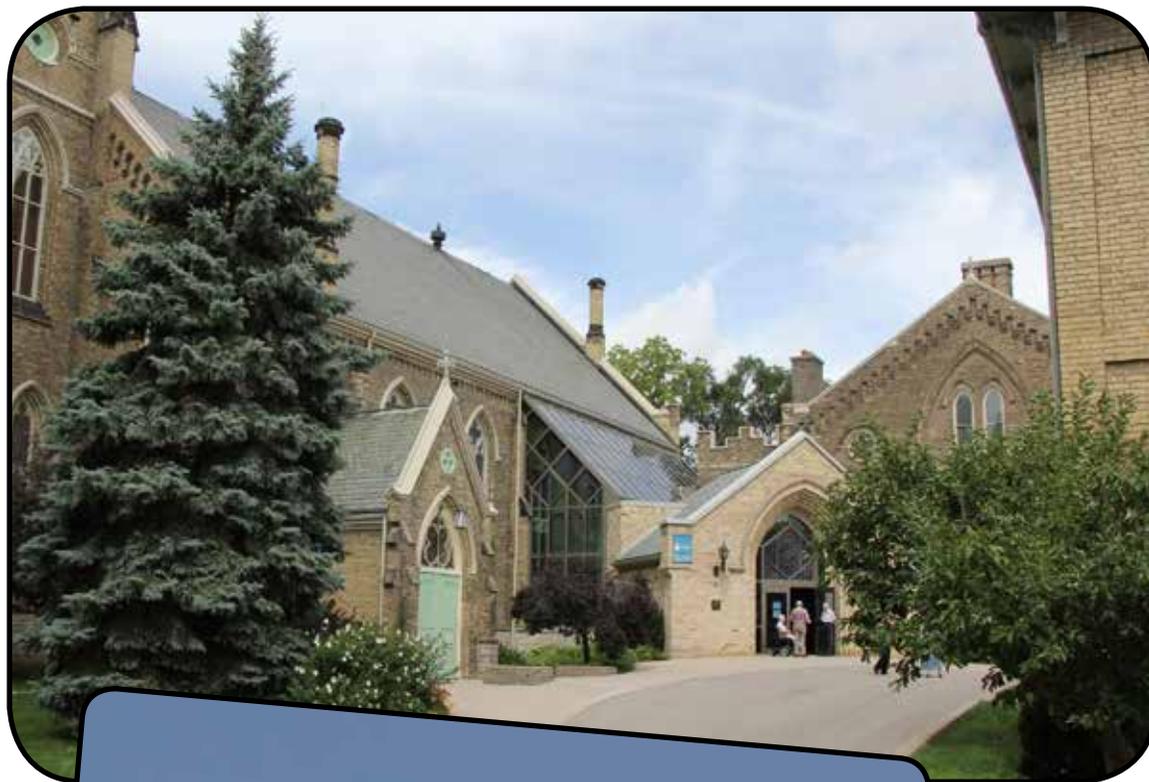
That might seem like great news, but, as always, the devil is in the details. Most years during June and July, swifts can be seen and heard throughout the day, twittering and circling above FSA and the neighbourhood, as they catch and deliver insects to babies inside the church's chimneys. This year the daytime presence of swifts ceased by the second week of July—too early for young to have fledged.

FSA's chimneys continued to be occupied at night into August, but it is doubtful that many young swifts survived.

What might have gone wrong? An unusually dry spring and early summer resulted in a scarcity of flying insects. For parent swifts desperately trying to capture the thousands of insects a day required by growing youngsters, it may have meant there simply wasn't enough food available to do the job.

Drought made 2016 a bad year for insect production but, for decades, humanity has also waged relentless war on insects, and this campaign is paying off. Numbers of flying insects are declining, to the detriment of species that rely on such food. If swifts are to continue to return annually to London chimneys, the issue of food supply must be addressed, more and healthier natural habitats being part of the solution.

to nest in traditional shafts—one family per chimney. The tiny birds come and go so discretely that confirming occupancy requires





**A CANADA DAY TO REMEMBER**

*Jim Silcox*

**D**o you remember what you were doing on Canada Day? I do, because in the early evening Rev. Tom called

me to report a break-in at the church, and to ask me to come first thing in the morning to take pictures for insurance purposes.

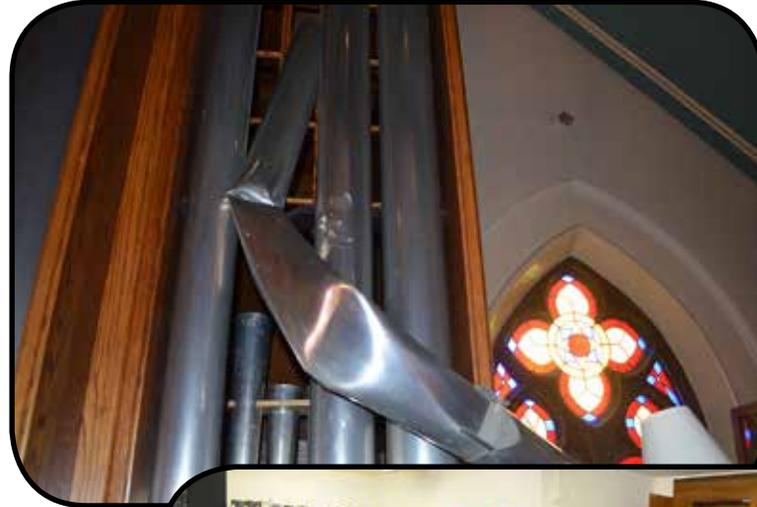
Early the next morning Tom, Kerry Stover, our acting administrator, and I made the "grand tour," me with camera in tow. The intruder's entry was apparently through an old coal chute door off the back laneway. Tracing a path of wreckage and mayhem from the Boiler Room, it appeared to us as if the perpetrator had proceeded down the back hall to the Fireside Room, breaking the locks on all the doors en route and ransacking many rooms and cupboards. In Proudfoot Hall we found the piano lid lying on the floor and the bronze table cross tilting at an alarming angle. In the main kitchen, one of the big work islands was knocked over, refrigerators opened and pots and pans strewn everywhere. In the music director's office, we encountered overturned desks and furniture, with computers, printers, paper, etc., scattered in a mess on the floor.

Up in the Banner Room all the banners had been pulled down from their storage rods and lay in a mangled heap on the floor. The two Christmas banners were slightly damaged but, luckily, the rest were merely soiled. A support beam for the upper level of this room had been pulled out and apparently used as a ram to punch a hole in the wall. Wooden steps here were totally demolished.

In the Sanctuary, we found the back of the Communion table smashed in and the lid of the grand piano lying on the carpet. A continuo, a portable baroque pipe organ, which was temporarily stored in the nave, was also damaged. The stained glass of the locked door to the balcony had been smashed and, in the loft, we found one organ pipe pulled from its moorings and the adjacent pipes slightly damaged. Many

chairs and the remains of two electric fans lay helter-skelter on the risers. Fortunately, there was no damage to the organ console.

Thanks to a timely call from one of our vigilant church neighbours, who perceived a prowler, and the prompt action of the police, the suspected culprit has been apprehend-



**Music Director's Office**



ed. Michelle is currently attempting to see if we, as a congregation, might reach out and help this poor soul in some way which would be meaningful for him.

So it was that on Canada Day our church suffered some distressing physical wounds but they are only wounds. Our spiritual life and mission go on. †



**OUR AMAZING MUSIC MAN AND AN UNSUNG HERO**

*Jim Silcox*

**Paul Merritt**

The National Council of the Royal College of Canadian Organists regularly awards its Distinguished Service Award to those who have given exemplary service to a centre. The award reflects the sort of service that “leaves a particular mark on the centre’s history and which, for its vision and breadth, provides a model worth imitating to centres nationwide.” This year saw six awards given out and one was bestowed on our own Paul Merritt for his more than 32 years as director of music at FSA. After listing his distinguished contributions to music both at the church and in London, the citation closed with these laudatory words: “His excellence as a musician, performer and teacher, and his reputation as

an understanding and caring human being are among the many reasons that Paul Merritt should receive the Distinguished Service



Award.” We also add our words of appreciation to Paul for having shared his great talent and his illustrious career with us.

**Willis Buckingham**

Many may not know of the continuing work done by members of the church Archives Committee. They toil away for the most part in obscurity but that does not mean that they should not be singled out for commendation from time to time. One of the current projects of the group is to convert a significant number of paper documents to digital format. This is necessitated by the fact that there is simply no adequate repository for such materials any more, and much of the material is at risk of physically deteriorating into a state such that it cannot be accessed and used. Willis Buckingham recently submitted what he has completed so far:

- Baptisms: 1902/05/29–1971/12/19—66 pages
- Deaths: 1926/01/16–1926/07/05—123 pages
- Marriages: 1926/12/20–1943/10/16—200 pages
- 1924/08/30–1928/01/30—100 pages;
- 1959/09/05–1967/09/16—200 pages

Willis has ambitions to complete the remaining ledgers by the end of the year. Files will be in either pdf or jpg format for easy access to future historians. Work like this calls for patience, attention to detail and sometimes just plain old grit. Our hats are off to Willis for his diligent work on our behalf! †



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# Passing Parade



Pat Tripp at the Woodfield Street Fair June 18<sup>th</sup>

FSA Strings Concert, June 15<sup>th</sup>



Spirit Games 2016



Paul's last day June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016



Ukulele Player Pride Picnic, July 24<sup>th</sup>



Worship at Kee-Mo-Kee, June 5<sup>th</sup>

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS



### COUNCIL

#### What's Next?

Bob Swartman

By the time this article is published, our new music director, Terry Head, will have joined us; Reverend Michelle will be back from holidays; a new church administrator will have arrived, and the issue of a receptionist will be resolved, possibly dependent on volunteers. The Stewardship Fair on September 25<sup>th</sup> will inspire more involvement by more people in the various committees; we will begin to see how to resolve our financial issues, and will have embarked on a new adventure.

Someone broke into our building on July 1<sup>st</sup> by forcing open the coal chute and dropping down 15ft. He did considerable damage inside the building, tearing the lids off two grand pianos and damaging the organ. A neighbour saw the break-in and called the police who were waiting for the culprit when he left the building. The police reported that he was high on drugs, so I wondered what FSA could do to help in such situations. I resolved to learn more about the *Bridges out of Poverty* project. Co-ordinated by Goodwill it has many partners, including FSA, and is ideal for our participation. This is a cost-effective way to assist those in the community who need help.

Helping people out of poverty is an interesting challenge.



### CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

Allyson Watson

I hope that you have enjoyed your summer and are ready to embrace all that CD has to offer this fall. Make sure you touch base with our youth and leaders who went to Nicaragua. I am sure they will have lots of stories and experiences to share. All of the support that the FSA community gave to this group is absolutely wonderful!

Our vacation bible camp had 31 campers this summer; a huge thank you to Jane Dockrill and the S.A.L.T. team who led the kids all week.

Mark your calendars for Rally Day on September 18<sup>th</sup>. It will be a great day to get back into the swing of FSA. The

In London there are cases of generational poverty, where the same family has been on welfare for many generations, in some cases well over a hundred years. And there are many cases of short-term poverty due to job loss, illness or some misfortune.

FSA's involvement in *Bridges out of Poverty* is to host a group of 12 to 14 people twice a week for three months in an initial assessment called *Getting Ahead* that helps them become better acquainted. The clients are selected by case managers from Ontario Works and are looking to pull themselves out of poverty, usually by training and education. In the next phase, graduates from the initial phase are matched with mentors in *Circles*, and meet at FSA three Monday evenings per month excluding July and August. Meals are served by teams from FSA in a real group effort; the current team leaders are Pat Pettit, Margo Christodoulou, Katherine Wonfor and Joanne Girvan. Kudos to the FSA teams who make *Bridges out of Poverty* a wonderful and useful project!

Thanks to Audrey Coulthard, our dedicated gardener, who comes home from the cottage regularly to tend the gardens. She has David Beach to help and between them and Tim they do a fantastic job. Kudos also to the many other volunteers who do such a great job carrying out our many missions. Thank you everyone. †

following Sunday there will be a SPAGHETTI DINNER (September 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm). Tickets will be on sale for \$10 per adult, \$5 per child and \$40 maximum per family. This will be a kickoff fundraiser for the new sign out front. Watch for the fall freezer meal flyer at the end of September! Sing For Your Supper will begin September 21<sup>st</sup>.

There will be a confirmation class beginning this fall; if you are interested, or know someone who is, contact Jane Dockrill. We hope to put together an adult education programme for the fall so keep your eyes open. If you are wondering whether you can help on Sunday mornings with any of our age groups, the answer is YES, we would love to have you!!! †

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## UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Nancy Quinn

### Retrospective:

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, Eva Archibald and Donna Goulin represented FSA at the London Conference UCW Annual Meeting. FSA's Laurel Kenny, with Linda Woods, of Wesley Knox United, represented Middlesex Presbyterial and gave a presentation on "Bread not Stones." Please, see: <http://www.endchildpoverty.ca/>

Author Diane Keziah Robertson, on May 18<sup>th</sup>, gave a fascinating talk about her novel, *The Lacemaker's Daughter*, illustrated with samples of her own exquisite lacemaking.

We honoured Enid and Paul Merritt, on June 19<sup>th</sup> after church, at a lovely *Strawberry Social*.

This summer we sponsored two wonderful children, through ELUCO, for a week at Camp Kee-Mo-Kee.

Joni Pypka, on July 16<sup>th</sup>, represented FSA at the London Conference UCW Event at Siloam United.

### Upcoming:

- On Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00pm in the Chapel, we will view and discuss the forty-seven minute NFB film *Niigaanibatowaad: FrontRunners*. This meeting, facilitated by Nancy Quinn, is open to everyone in our congregation and you are welcome to bring guests. In 1967, ten outstanding First Nations runners carried the Pan American Games torch 800

kilometers to the Winnipeg Stadium. They were not allowed to enter the stadium, and a non-Aboriginal runner took the torch in. Nine of the runners came from residential schools. This film re-creates the assaults on their souls and bodies which they, with extraordinary resilience, survived.

- Annabelle Logan will host our annual potluck, on Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, at 12 noon. Please stay tuned for more details.
- London Conference Personal Hygiene Collection: October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9:00am to noon, at Lambeth United. Please help by donating items such as: new underwear, stockings, socks, shampoo, toothpaste, and deodorant. Starting Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, items can be left by the mail slots, in the Narthex. If possible, use re-usable gift or cloth bags, labelled for UCW, Attention: Laurel Kenny.
- Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am-2:00p.m. we hold the much anticipated Boutique Bazaar. Glenda Robinson, with twenty convenors and over one hundred volunteers, opens FSA's doors to the London community. Delights include the interactive Children's World, the French Café, home preserves, baking, sewing artistry, jewellery, and other treasures. Don't miss the unique creations of the twenty-one local artists in Artisans' Alley. †



Left: Millie Bates and Laurel Kenney presenting flowers to Paul and Enid at the Strawberry Social, June 19<sup>th</sup>



Right: Paul and Jeane Stewardson at the Strawberry Social presentation



## MUSIC

Merran Neville

For thirty-two years Paul worked with commitment and dedication as the director of music at FSA, with Enid's loyal support. The events held over the May 28/29 weekend, planned by the Retirement Celebration Committee, were a demonstration of the love and esteem in which Paul and Enid are held.

The weekend began with a reunion of returning choir members in the Fireside room. In the evening, Paul led the choir and members of the #WePlayOn orchestra and others in a concert of *Memories*—reprising works the choir had sung previously. On Sunday morning a ministry of music was celebrated with Paul and Enid, when the senior choir—swelled in number to seventy-three with returning members—the FSA Strings and the Laudamus Bells performed, and favourite hymns were sung. Rev. Michelle was at her eloquent best, and Paul thrilled us once more with a performance of Widor's *Toccata* from *Symphonie V*.

The celebration luncheon, which followed at the Lamp-

lighter Inn, was a credit to Anne Cummings and the Retirement Celebration Committee. It was a delightful time of fun, roasting of Paul, speeches of high praise, and included a visit by the Rev. William Proudfoot, aka George Jolink. MCs Rev. David McKane and Bob Schram were in fine form and in their element.

Other celebrations followed. The FSA Strings concert on June 15<sup>th</sup> was dedicated to Paul and Enid and ended with a rendition of *Auld Lang Syne*. In addition, on Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, the UCW hosted a Strawberry Social to honour Enid and Paul, and to thank Paul for all his support over the years. Check out the photo albums in the Library, duplicates of those given to Paul and Enid, which cover special events over the years and provide full coverage of the May celebration weekend.

In the spring of this year, after Paul had announced that he would be retiring at the end of June, a Search Committee was appointed. As a result of their excellent work, it is with great pleasure that we welcome Terry Head as our new director of music. To learn more about Terry, see the [Getting to Know](#) article on page 4 of this issue. †



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## MISSION, OUTREACH AND ENVIRONMENT

Marilyn Beach

### St. Paul's Daily Bread

It has been a busy year at St. Paul's Daily Bread! With London's unemployment rate at a high level, many people have found themselves without money to buy food and pay rent and utilities. St. Paul's Daily Bread is an emergency food bank where folks in need can visit once every two months if necessary. Also, we have had many new Syrian refugees visit—many with translators. Food has been supplied from January to the end of July for 588 families, of which 250 were Syrians. FSA members have been generous during this summer holiday period, remembering that hunger does not take a vacation even though we do. Your kindness and generosity with food and monetary donations is much needed and much appreciated. Thank you.

### CFGB—Corn Roast (Grow-a-Row)

Another year another campaign alongside St.

Marys United, and another yummy corn roast. Join us on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> in Proudfoot Hall after church for corn, ham, rolls, homemade beans from St. Marys, and London-made coleslaw, as well as cookies and apples, all for (we hope) a generous freewill donation. Also, if you haven't made your annual donation to help our friends in developing countries—Syria, Nicaragua, etc., pick up an envelope at any of the entrances, pop in your cheque and you will receive a receipt at the end of year. This year, as David Epp has another commitment, he has arranged for Helen Keenlyside to be present at our lunch to give a presentation on her trip to Nicaragua and answer questions. Come and join us, catch up with your FSA friends after the holidays, and help our less fortunate neighbours.

### ELUCO News

Mark your calendars for September 25<sup>th</sup> for the annual ELUCO Walk-a-thon. You can be a walker, or sponsor someone else. †



## 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WHITE SQUIRREL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Diane Knoppert

It began in 2007 with a request at a MOE meeting—could David Knoppert, Paul Mansell and Jack Hillier organize a fund-raising golf tournament? And so the White Squirrel Golf Tournament was born. Much more than a golf tournament, this event now includes a nature walk for non-golfers, led by Dave and Winnie Wake. Many people come just for the delicious dinner. It truly is a time of fun, fellowship and fundraising.

There was a definite "Elliott" presence on the winning golf teams. The 18 hole winners were Jim Elliott plus Bob and Jonathan Rogan. The 9 hole winners were Cliff, Janice and Maxine Elliott.



Jordan & Kerry do the Nature Walk at the White Squirrel

This year, over \$10,000 was raised to support MOE outreach projects—St. Paul's Daily Bread, East London United Church Outreach (ELUCO), Los Quinchos School, and the outreach trip to Nicaragua by FSA teens.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this event. As always, we are indebted to Bob Schram of Sterling Marking Products.

One addition to our promotion was a White Squirrel webpage on the FSA website, created by Jim Silcox. All of the White Squirrel information was accessible from this page and there are [links to many of our Hole Sponsors' websites](#). \$5100 was raised through their contributions.

Plan to join in the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual White Squirrel Golf Tournament at Ironwood Golf Club in Exeter, Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017. †

*Jim Deacon*  
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## PROPERTY

*George Jolink, Heather Vouvalidis*

As you read this, summer has drawn to a close and we are gearing up to resume our regular activities for the fall season at



First-St. Andrew's. We are a busy church in the heart of London and your Property Committee works hard to ensure that our "home" is in good repair and able to meet the needs of both ourselves and the broader community.

Most of you are aware of our unfortunate incident early in the summer, which resulted in damage to many areas of the building. I am pleased to report that our interim church administrator has worked closely with our insurance provider and repairs are being scheduled asap. We expect to be back to normal in the next several weeks. In addition to those unexpected repairs, the Property Committee contracted some flashing repairs to the east and west Narthex as well as a complete upgrade of the lightning protection system on the entire building. This will address yet another of the Avis

recommendations. Other minor repairs included corrections to water drainage in the parking lot, downspouts on the main building, and exterior painting of all entrance doors by volunteer Ron Bradley. Work still to be completed includes some masonry repairs to Farquhar House and the installation of an exhaust fan in the washroom by the Sunroom.

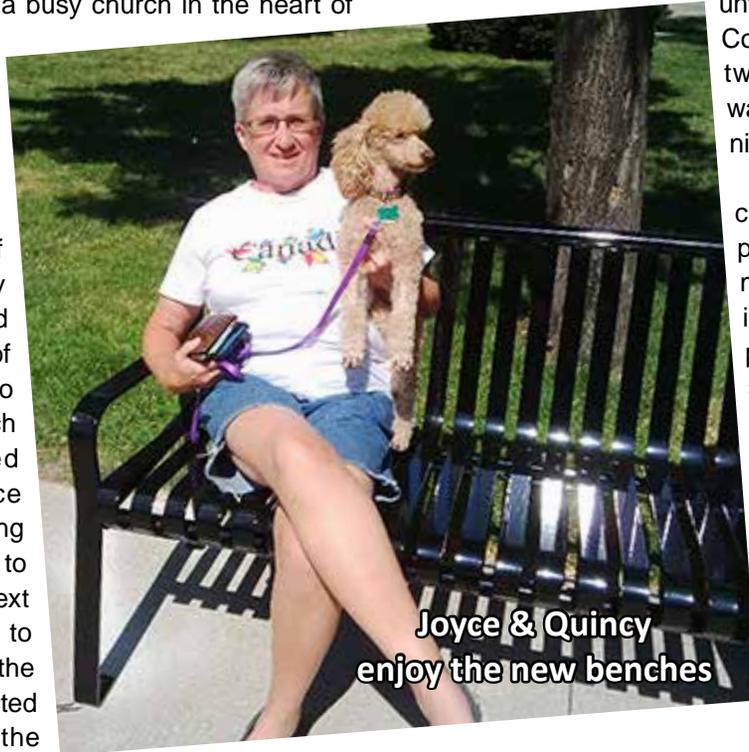
You will notice our grounds are well maintained by vol-

unteers David Beach and Audrey Coulthard. We have also installed two benches along our centre walkway to encourage community use of our park-like grounds.

As the fall progresses our committee will be addressing priorities as they arise, and making improvements, including a new electronic LED display sign to replace our current signage at the corner of Waterloo and Queens. This is a joint project with Communications and Marketing and will require some fundraising. Stay tuned for details.

As always special thanks to Tim Miedema for his ongoing commitment to FSA. The Property Committee consists of myself and Heather

Vouvalidis (co-Chairs), Bill Guthrie, Donna Travis and Peter Ross. We thank Willis Buckingham for his years of invaluable service to the committee. †



**Joyce & Quincy  
enjoy the new benches**



## STEWARDSHIP

*Tara Gonder*

As the fall season approaches, we gear up for another busy church year. From a stewardship perspective, this means we have more opportunities to once again celebrate all of the selfless giving that takes place at FSA.

September 25<sup>th</sup> will be an exciting day for FSA stewardship, so save the date! First of all, we'll be hosting our Stewardship Fair after Sunday service. The display will showcase all of the important undertakings that keep our hard-working volunteers so busy. Later in the day, the Christian Development team will be hosting a spaghetti dinner to launch the fundraiser for FSA's new electronic lawn sign.

Personally, I'm very excited about the communication possibilities our new sign will bring. It won't be cheap, but not many big changes are. Sometimes we just have to have

faith and go for it. I can't help but remember another FSA project which caused some lively debate in our own family. My late mother-in-law was quite vocal in her opposition to the atrium extension, deeming it a waste of money. Could she have foreseen that one day she would need to use the new elevator she found so objectionable? How many of our faithful members would not be able to attend service had the atrium and elevator not been added? I don't like to think about it. Chances are, I might need it myself some day. I am only glad that our Council members and our congregation had the foresight and commitment to make it happen. A bright new sign will offer our community yet another point of accessibility. Who knows what wonderful people our sign might attract to our FSA community? According to P.T. Barnum (a philanthropist as well as a showman), "Without promotion, something terrible happens ... nothing!" †



## COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Pat Tripp

The Communications and Marketing Committee has been busy. On June 18<sup>th</sup> Nancy Johnson and Pat Tripp staffed a booth at Woodfield Fair to show First-St. Andrew's as a neighbour in the community. It was a beautiful day with lots of good buzz and bubble blowing for the kids. The committee continues to market events both inside to our members, and to the outside community.

Committee member Jim Silcox continues to do sterling work with keeping our announcements front and centre with our members through the weekly email blast. Sign up for it with the office, if you don't now get weekly FSA news. Jim

also has considerable skill as a graphic artist on posters, flyers and concert programmes.

On Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, First-St. Andrew's will be opening our doors to London and visitors to show off our church as part of the provincial Doors Open Ontario festivities— <http://www.doorsopenontario.on.ca>. The hours are 10:00am to 4:00pm.

We want to show off our historical church as best we are able—the beautiful sanctuary, the wonderful music, and especially our warm and welcoming community. The Amabile Boys' Choir will be practising in the sanctuary in the afternoon, and tell us that they will not be disturbed by visitors in the church at the same time. There will be refreshments and children's activities.

Invite your friends to visit your church home. †



## MEMBERSHIP & NURTURE

### Pride Parade

Kerry Stover

"A wonderful afternoon of food and fun people, thanks to your church for doing this." "Wow, look at those Pride Bagels!" "This is amazing." "Thank you First-St. Andrew's." "This

is wonderful what your church is doing." "The cheers were fantastic as Middlesex Presbytery marched in front of FSA." These are just small samples of the accolades and congratulatory remarks from the parade watchers and participants who were involved in a very successful Pride picnic on the front lawn of our church on Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup>. The weather threatened rain after a week of high humidity, and FSA's dedicated volunteers prepared litres of lemonade and ice-cold water in preparation for keeping hydrated the large crowd that had gathered. The hot dogs were fantastic accompanied by ice cream cones and ice cold freezies. Everyone gathered on the lawn was there for a good time and a good time was had by all.

The lawn and the boulevard at the street became a wel-

coming place for the large crowd that gathered regardless of gender, age, sexual orientation, ethnicity or faith tradition—First-St. Andrew's at its finest, being called to serve and follow the one that came before us.

Many thanks to the Membership and Nurture Committee for its generous support covering the cost of the hotdogs, garnish, and cookies. And a big THANK YOU to Jay



Snyder for the colourful rainbow/Pride bagels. It was amazing to see the looks on people's faces as they marvelled at how the bagels were made and how wonderful they looked. Thanks to all of the FSA volunteers and their friends who helped, whether in the kitchen or serving food and drinks. Everyone involved had a wonderful time. Thanks to Barry Tiffin for staffing the Atrium door and welcoming those that needed to find a restroom. And

lastly a gigantic Thank You to the Youth Group for serving the ice cream cones and the freezies. We are proud to announce that the freewill offering raised just more than \$560 and it was given to the Nicaragua Youth Mission trip. And best of all was that the rain held off until the parade was finished. Thanks for everyone's support for another fantastic FSA yearly event. †

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## MISSION MOMENTS: THEN (From the Archives)

Pat McGregor

This is the second in a series where we look back at some of the families who went out from FSA to serve as missionaries overseas. We will be quoting from selected entries from the Rev. Moir A.J. Waters' booklet titled *Did You Know That ...? Being Brief Sketches of the History of First St. Andrew's United Church*. We continue with entry No. 22:

"An event of unusual significance took place at the morning service at First-St. Andrew's United Church on Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 1960. Dr. Angus MacQueen designated Dr. John McKim, an Elder of our Session, and Dr. Mary McKim as medical missionaries to India. An inscribed Bible was presented to mark the occasion. After a three-week inter-denominational orientation course



at Fort Erie, they left in August 1960, taking with them their four boys. For the next three years they served in the famous five-hundred bed Christian hospital at Ludhiana, India. Dr. John McKim's special assignment was to establish and develop a department of paediatrics. Dr. Mary McKim lectured in psychiatry. Ludhiana was founded by Dame Edith Brown as a women's hospital and later expanded to include men patients as well.

"In 1972 Dr. McKim, under the International Red Cross, spent February to May in Bangladesh. He became co-ordinator and leader of sixteen national Red Cross teams. During his time in Bangladesh he had the satisfaction of seeing a much-needed fifty-bed children's hospital built. In 1974 he returned to Bangladesh to review the progress of the projects and to explore the existing needs. He reported back to CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency).

"In 1963, on returning from India, Dr. McKim conceived the idea of enlisting medical students to go abroad to get an idea of the world problems, and had  
(Cont'd. on page 19)



## MISSION MOMENTS: NOW

Barbara Dalrymple

In this series we are looking at how the United Church Mission and Service funds are used today. The money is divided among six areas: Community and Justice Work is the area highlighted in this article. In 2016, 14.5% of Mission and Service Funds (3.9 million) are budgeted for this area.

ELUCO (East London United Church Outreach) and the London Community Chaplaincy both receive funding from this area of Mission and Service.

ELUCO is also supported by a group of United churches, including First-St. Andrew's. Some of the ways FSA members contribute are by volunteering in the community and on the Board, buying shopping cards for Christmas Share, and sponsoring walkers in the annual ELUCO Walk and Roll for Families. FSA member Nancy Howard is the full-time ELUCO Community Outreach Worker. Nancy reaches out to families in need in East London, advocates for them, and helps them face the challenges of daily living through programmes and services. In the northeast, the ELUCO Food Cupboard is available at Gethsemane Gardens affordable housing, and the Welcome Wednesday lunch programme is held at Hillcrest Salvation Army. There are many activities based at the community centre in the Marconi area, including the After School programme for children.

The London Community Chaplaincy also works with families who face the challenges of living in poverty. The Chaplaincy team, under the direction of Rev. Pam Cullen, serves the Southdale and Limberlost communities, the two largest low-income housing complexes in London. There are over 800 children and youth living at these two sites. The Chaplaincy relies on the support of many volunteers and organizations such as the Mission and Service Fund and the First-St. Andrew's UCW. The sites are open daily for advocacy and pastoral care support. A variety of adult programmes run consistently, like mom's morning out and cooking classes. Children's programmes include music and art, girls' groups, youth night, leadership camp and reading buddies.

ELUCO and the London Community Chaplaincy are examples of the difference Mission and Service dollars in the area of Community and Justice Work make in the lives of families in London. For more information, go to the websites of these organizations: [www.eluco.ca](http://www.eluco.ca) and [www.londoncommunitychaplaincy.com](http://www.londoncommunitychaplaincy.com). †

**(Mission Moments: Then>>Cont'd. from page 18)**

the enthusiastic co-operation of the dean of medicine at the University of Western Ontario. Under this plan no less than 45 medical students have been sent to India and other countries ... Thus John McKim's work continues abroad in the person of these medical students."

*[Mary notes that the family left for India in September 1960, not August; also that it was "not only a hospital but a medical school for women" that Dame Edith Brown founded in 1895. Ed.]*

**DID YOU KNOW?**

<p><b>KEEP THE DATE</b></p> <p><b>MOE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corn Roast: Sept. 11<sup>th</sup></li> </ul> <p><b>Christian Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rally Sunday: Sept. 18<sup>th</sup></li> <li>Sing for Your Supper: resumes Sept. 21<sup>st</sup></li> <li>Spaghetti Supper: Sept. 25<sup>th</sup></li> </ul> <p><b>Communications &amp; Marketing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doors Open: Oct. 1<sup>st</sup></li> </ul> <p><b>UCW</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boutique Bazaar: Nov. 12<sup>th</sup></li> </ul>	<p><b>MILESTONES</b></p> <p><b>Deaths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Helen Payne, June 23<sup>rd</sup></li> <li>Donna Spencer, July 4<sup>th</sup></li> <li>Laverne Cooper, July 6<sup>th</sup></li> <li>Erica Pederson, July 9<sup>th</sup></li> <li>Mary Gonder, July 11<sup>th</sup></li> <li>Gene Corbett, July 26<sup>th</sup></li> <li>James Bere, Aug. 4<sup>th</sup></li> </ul> <p><b>Baptisms</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>George Gustafson Appleton, June 19<sup>th</sup></li> <li>Charlotte Gustafson Appleton, June 19<sup>th</sup></li> <li>Leythan McInnis, July 31<sup>st</sup></li> </ul>
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**(Vignette>>Cont'd. from page 7)**

and playground equipment at Shalom Zone, and learned hand washing laundry techniques. "Sometimes we didn't know what the other was saying, but we worked well together. They would laugh at us as we tried to figure out how to do things. It was so funny." We enjoyed recreational activities together, practised each other's language and developed friendships that will last our lifetime.

The pastor got it right in his message.... You don't have to accomplish great things to make a huge difference. It's not so much about doing; it's more about being one together. It's about being. †





## Passing Parade



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### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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