



# Tidings

Vol 24, No 3 – Pentecost/Fall 2014

## *All God's Gifts Around Us . . .*

(See page 7)

### INSIDE

The Editor's Desk .....	2	Travel Tales .....	6
Note from Kate .....	3	Vignette .....	7
View from the Pew.....	3	Call of the Wild .....	7
Remembering .....	4	Did You Know? .....	8
Profile .....	4	Committee Reports.....	8-14
Getting to Know .....	5	The Last Word .....	14
Noteworthy .....	5	Windows on First-St. Andrew's.....	16
The Next Generation .....	6	Church Staff.....	16



# The Editor's Desk

## Tidings

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

Cover Photo: by David Wake

### 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 **under 350 words** and are accepted only from members of First-St. Andrew's. The editors reserve the right to edit or reject submissions. The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors, and are not necessarily those of Council or the staff of First-St. Andrew's United Church.

## EDITORIAL

David Flynn [pdflynn@rogers.com](mailto:pdflynn@rogers.com)

I wasn't quite sure how to write this editorial. I am reassured by George Jolink's Property report (based on an earlier report by the outgoing Chair, Mary Ann Hodge, which inadvertently missed an earlier issue.) Their report points out that we are keeping our building in good repair, guided by the Avis Report but not bound by it when it comes to replacing worn original material. It seems the old place may survive another few decades, if not centuries, with the expenditure of much less money than Avis recommended.

As well, I am inspired by Kerry Stover's Worship Committee report, where he reflects on why being part of our church keeps him in London. Like many of us, he has found here his community and his spiritual home.

As Kate puts it in her Note, we exist not in the shadow of those who are chosen as leaders, from Council to staff, but in the shadow of Jesus Christ, his words and his life. Perhaps that is why, though members and staff come and go, the congregation of First-St. Andrew's remains large in spirit.

Some of us at the Brown Bag Lunch say that our meetings are as much part of our weekly worship, albeit in a different way, as the formal Sunday worship services. I'm sure others would express a similar attitude about the groups and committees to which they belong. And, speaking of the Sunday worship services, I continue to be amazed summer after summer, to walk out of church better able to face the coming week, because of the volunteers who conduct the liturgy, preach the sermons, and perform musically, as much as I am during the rest of the year by services conducted by the regular staff. Mind you, I know that these summer arrangements do not happen by chance, but require organizing by those we pay to lead us.

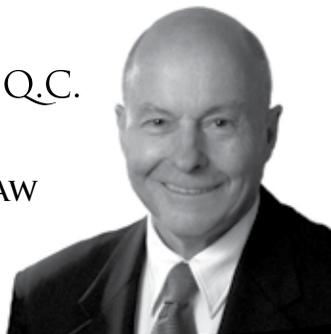
It turns out this editorial was easy to write. I just had to remember the people and events which keep me attached to this venerable institution we lovingly call FSA. For your own reminder of why you continue to belong to this congregation, read in this issue about our past and future activities. In particular, pick up and peruse the new *Programme Guide* for 2014–2015. †

W.R. RUSSELL  
MONTEITH, Q.C.  
Lawyer

WILLS & ESTATE LAW

519.642.2500

[www.russmonteith.ca](http://www.russmonteith.ca)



gejoLink

Property Services ... Call George

(519) 854-6845

**N**OTE FROM  
**K**ATE



**WHOSE SHADOW ARE YOU?**

Kate Crawford

Someone said something to me once that I found intriguing: an organization is the shadow of its leader. This was said in the context of volunteering, and the impact that a person can have on the organization in which they offer leadership. But I think it might be true in many areas of life.

The more I think about it though, in

the context of the church, I wonder if it needs to be nuanced. Because surely the church is not the shadow of the leaders—whether that’s the minister or the Council or the committee chairs—but the shadow of Jesus Christ.

It has often been said, if you want to know what Jesus looked like, consult a mirror!

So, whose shadow are you? †

**P**IEW FROM THE  
**S**TEVE



**WHAT (DO) WE BELIEVE(?)**

Steve Elson

Excerpt from the New Creed of the United Church of Canada:

*We believe in God:*

*who has created and is creating,*

*who has come in Jesus,*

*the Word made flesh,*

*to reconcile and make new,*

*who works in us and others by the Spirit....*

We believe ... is the beginning of many sentences in religious life. We state what we believe in common, and it provides a foundational point of reference for our and other religious groups.

At the same time, what we believe is deeply personal and individual. So we have both going on at the same time, and not without some tension.

Because religious belief, in contrast to other kinds of beliefs, is an attempt to define the spiritual, it deals with the non-material. In essence we’re saying we believe in something that we cannot see, touch or feel—something that cannot be

proven or demonstrated.

We know that belief in some things has been proven wrong, and it is the nature of scientific thought and discovery to test hypotheses (beliefs) and prove them to be either right or wrong. Beliefs in this context are purposefully conditional and temporary.

Religious beliefs warrant the same kind of scrutiny. Not to prove them right or wrong, but to examine them for their merits, what they mean, how they can be applied to our daily lives and help inform our actions. To go back to the creed statement at the beginning:

- What do we mean by God creating?
- What does it mean to believe that God has taken human form?
- What does the Word made flesh mean?
- What does working ... by the Spirit mean?
- Is this what I (we) believe?
- How does this belief translate and have meaning for my life?

What we state together does not need to mean the same thing to everyone. We all come at this with our own life experiences and perspectives. We are all on our own journey.

That’s the way I see it, from the pew. †

## REMEMBERING



### SHIRLEY WYNNE

June McKay

A friend recently said to me, "I wish that I had been blessed with a sister, so that I might miss her."

Shirley was so many things to so many people, always asking "What can I do for you?" She was wife, mother and a one-in-a-million sister. She loved to cook and her recipes are still a closely-guarded secret. When she and her husband Tom moved from Etobicoke to London in 2001, she became involved in the Hospitality Meal programme at FSA, where she spent most Monday afternoons and evenings.

Tom Fullerton quickly saw a need within the programme, and came on board as the shopper, stopping weekly at Costco and Tim Horton's, and they became a great team. Shirley loved to look for bargains and, when nobody was



looking, secretly supplementing or replacing, at her own expense, the worn-out kitchen equipment at the church!

For several years Shirley was a huge help as my co-convenor for the Supper Club. She and Tom catered at many receptions at the church for funerals, birthdays and anniversaries, UCW luncheons and dinners, providing food for 75 or 200 people as if it were an everyday occurrence, even delivering hot roasted turkeys on Christmas Day for FSA friends. When they moved to Milton in 2009 to be with their daughter's family and twin grandchildren, she kept a close connection with these friends, treasuring coffee hours whenever she returned to visit me. She was always just "a phone call away."

On July 12<sup>th</sup> she was lifted into God's tender and eternal care.

I love you, kiddo ... I'll catch up with you.

*June*

## PROFILE



### MARGO CHRISTODOULOU

Diane Knoppert

Who would you call if you needed to feed 5,000 people?\* Easy—Margo Christodoulou.

Margo is an accomplished cook, whose culinary skills have led her to celebrity status at FSA. She's been taking occasional cooking classes since she was first married. Her favourite? Classes at the Raffles Hotel in Singapore.

Margo has catered for numerous FSA events, including the UCW Christmas dinner (where she memorably fell up the stairs and had to go to hospital). The fact that this dinner proceeded seamlessly is a testament to her advance preparation and careful planning. Margo also oversees one of the Hospitality Meal teams where her leadership skills are clearly evident.

The idea to auction a Downton Abbey-themed dinner was Margo's brilliant initiative. She will be the head cook for two dinners this fall.

Margo was born in England and moved to Belleville at age two with her sister and her mother, a war bride. She met Alex when they worked at the same engineering



office. Alex can frequently be found helping out at FSA events, such as special breakfasts, the pancake supper, corn roast and Hospitality Meals.

Margo spent most of her working life at Canada Trust, retiring when TD took over. She then started a second career as a mortgage broker for a private company. She retired for the second time two years ago.

Perhaps it's her financial background which led Margo to initiate, with Council's approval, the Shopping Card programme at FSA. During the first seven months of 2014, sales have totalled \$47,315 producing a net profit of \$1,989 (a 4.2 % return).

Margo joined FSA in 2002, mainly because her "surrogate" daughter, Katie Foster, attended here. She particularly enjoys the fellowship, the opportunity for stewardship and the music.

Margo is genuine, caring, thoughtful and fun to be with. She's known to take meat pies (she's on that team, too!) to a sick friend, accompany a dear aunt to an appointment or help babysit her sister-in-law's chickens! The only thing she won't do is eat carrots! And yes, we believe she could feed 5,000 people!

\* Asked by David McKane in a recent sermon. †

## GETTING TO KNOW



### MEET JANE DOCKRILL

Pat McGregor

Jane, who arrived in our midst recently to fill the position of youth and young family coordinator, says that she has received “such a warm welcome here, and I love the history, not only of the actual building, but of the men, women and children who have found a home here over the years.”

Jane grew up on a hobby farm just west of London in Southwold. While raising a family, she lived in Mississauga, Brampton and Barrie before settling back in the London/Lambeth area.

A recent empty nester, Jane and her partner have 5 kids between them and she says she always looks forward to seeing and/or hearing from them. John, the youngest, is going to school in Toronto. Joanna practises nursing at the Sick Children’s Hospital there, and the oldest, Andy, lives in London with his new wife Jess. They were married in June this year, Jane stating “that was so exciting!”

Asked about her position here at FSA, Jane says that it is an opportunity to share her energy and experiences with the young families here. She hopes that FSA programmes will encourage, inspire and engage the children, youth, parents and leaders on their faith journey.



How about time for fun? Jane says she is “working on my golf game—I plan on being good at it someday!” She plays baseball in the summer with her son’s team, claiming “it’s good for a laugh and some stiff and sore muscles, every time.” She enjoys getting outside and walking in any season, stating that she loves winter. Jane and Mark enjoy music and going to all types of concerts.

Even though her schedule is obviously very busy, Jane still finds time to read, having recently finished *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* and *The Secret Garden*.

Another interest is one with which we can all identify—food! She strives to eat a healthy diet, lots of garden vegetables and BBQs in the summer. She says she is “not a big fan of eating out but always says yes to breakfast—any time of the day.” She also loves to bake and create, not afraid to try a new recipe but says she usually needs help eating her creations, so that she doesn’t eat

everything herself!

And finally, when asked what feeds her spiritually, Jane replied “nature for sure, coming to church and people.”

FSA is fortunate to have this vibrant, energetic woman working with our young people, and one can’t help but feel we, and they, are in good hands. †

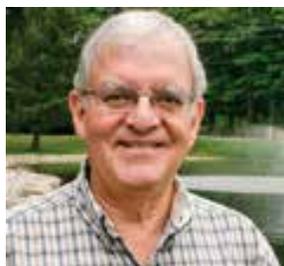
## NOTEWORTHY



Milestones reached this quarter include the 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of **Willis and Marian Buckingham**.

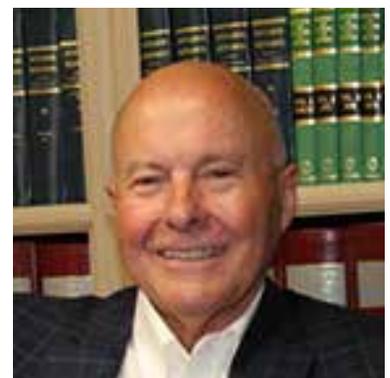
All of us extend our congratulations to them both and to their family on this special day.

Never one to sit around and wonder what to do next, **John Eberhard** has accepted an appointment to be a member of the Social Security Tribunal with the Government of Canada. The SST was created as an independent administrative tribunal to provide an effective and independent appeal process



relating to Employment Insurance, the Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security rulings.

As a result of Mayor Fontana’s resignation and Joni Baechler’s appointment as mayor until the fall election, there was a need to fill Ms. Baechler’s council seat. Our own **Russ Monteith**, who retired from Council in 2006, has accepted the nomination to sit as Ward 5 councillor. Described by his fellow council members as “well respected” and “the perfect guy for the job,” Russ will be a busy man for the next few months as he takes his seat at City Hall. †



(Monteith photo by Mike Donachie, Metro)

## THE NEXT GENERATION



### FRASER FEENEY

Jacob Feeney

**F**raser Feeney has red hair, a positive attitude, and enough energy to power a small city. He is the youngest of the Feeney clan, with an older sister Robin, and a fantastic older brother Jacob, all three of whom are regulars at FSA.

Fraser was born in London and has lived here all his life, although he has lived in no less than six different houses in the city. He previously attended Lester B. Pearson School for the Arts, and will be going into grade 10 at H. B. Beal Secondary School next year. He is a member of the Beal Science Club, the Board Game Club, and is looking forward to joining his sister in the Raider Robotics Club (which, as the name suggests, is a club about building robots!)



Having always been an energetic person, Fraser has recently started going to the gym on a regular basis, instead of his previous summer pastime of playing baseball. He is always looking for ways to keep his body active, doing things like lifting weights while watching television or at the computer, or spontaneously bursting into song and dance. He is also a fan of biking and underwater basket weaving.

His largest passion is without a doubt video games, especially multiplayer ones. When not at school or a friend's house he can usually be found in front of his computer, talking with his friends through his headset and thwarting digital foes.

When asked what his favourite thing about FSA was, he replied "I like the atmosphere, talking to everyone in the morning." He also mentioned that his favourite member of the congregation was none other than his older brother Jacob, international man of mystery and journalist extraordinaire. †

## TRAVEL TALES



### MIMI'S VACATION

Mary Vernon

**I**n July 2014, a friend and I ventured off to Prague, the "City of Spires," an amazing, friendly city with majestic architecture and historical sites. We walked across the Charles Bridge, one of the city's famous landmarks, and saw the old town square. There sat the Prague City Hall, which has a famous astronomical clock made in 1410. The figures of apostles that appear every hour were added in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

We spent an afternoon in the Jewish Prague, which was the heart of the Jewish community for 700 years. We visited an old Jewish school, and the old-new synagogues, which have held services since the 13<sup>th</sup> century. We sauntered through the oldest surviving Jewish cemetery, established in the 15<sup>th</sup> century; some 12,000 tombstones and layers of unmarked graves tumble over one another to create a haunting yet beautiful scene.

En route to Nuremburg, Germany, by bus, our guide told us that the older Germans are finally discussing the



world wars and apologizing for being so misled by Hitler. I spoke with a Jewish man on our ship and he told me that he, his parents and grandparents left Germany in the late 1930s. Now he and his wife have been back to his home village and have been made very welcome, even visiting his homestead.

Then we went on a river cruise down the Danube through Germany and Vienna. Our journey was highlighted with stops along the way at several towns nestled in the Bavarian forest. Homes were freshly painted and had many window boxes filled with beautiful flowers. We sampled tasty beers, wines, apricot and bloodroot schnapps, homemade bread from an outside woodstove and, of course, bratwurst.

In Passau, we thought of Paul and Enid Merritt, as we attended an organ concert at St. Stephen's Cathedral. The main organ is the largest in the world, and it had smaller organs, one on either side. Fantastic!

Vienna is another beautiful city. On the last evening, we attended a Mozart and Strauss concert, a fabulous end to a wonderful vacation! †



## ENTRENCHED

Jane Daichendt

July 2014 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> year since the start of World War I. My perspectives of war are primarily based on my family's war traumas. My parents were very young children of Europe during WWII. My history class seemed uninteresting and I felt muted when asked questions. Overall, disregarding war stuff seemed the best way to cope.

I broadened my perspectives of Canada's war efforts as presentations on Remembrance Day and annual dates of significant battles were revealed. I decided to visit **The Royal Canadian Regiment Museum** (Wolseley Barracks). They offered interactive wartime activities. I found myself walking through simulated trenches that Canadians soldiers fought in.

In July, I watched TVO's WWI programmes. The series, *WWI: The Apocalypse*, was aired and WWI historians were independently interviewed about Canada's involvement. One spoke about **The Canadian War Museum's** WWI exhibits (Ottawa). A second series was offered for website viewing. Furthermore, TVO presented an interactive web discussion—a chance to debate the accessible information.

I felt embedded in both the RCR's display and TVO's *WWI: The Apocalypse (Episode 3—Hell)*, with descriptions of "trenches." Can you imagine: 400 miles of primary trenches and two other layers of secondary trenches? It's completely appalling to relay the utterly inhumane conditions that these soldiers lived and fought in ... for four incomprehensible years.

**Lest We Forget.** Traumas of WWI's trenches transferred into the minds, hearts and souls of soldiers and peoples of wartime. Disgracefully, society ignored and minimized their excruciating anguish—now termed Post Traumatic Stress (PTS). Subsequently, various supports for people with PTS became significantly overdue.

**Best How to Let....** It's perplexing that such exorbitant losses and sufferings of all peoples of wartime paved the foundations of my freedoms. Personally, I more freely live my beliefs in God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit; I'm trusting God with my internal trenches that divide me from myself, others and Him.

In *WWI: The Apocalypse*, countries told their citizens that new, industrialized technologies (planes, tanks, gases) would promptly end the war. How do electronic technologies (drones) persuade today's minds of war? †

## CALL OF THE WILD



## ENJOY THE FLOWERS OF LATE SUMMER

David Wake

Late summer and early fall bring the resumption of many activities in our communities. A new term begins at schools, and church programmes start up again after the summer break. What is going on in the world of nature at this time of year? Of course many birds are heading south, and squirrels are busy storing food for the winter. Let's take a few moments to consider wildflowers.

Many people think of spring as wildflower season in southern Ontario, but did you know that we are blessed also with many beautiful native wildflowers in late summer and fall? Two of my favourite groups of flowering plants at this time of year are the asters and goldenrods. If you walk on riverside trails, or drive along country roads, keep your eyes open for these colourful flowers.

In the London area, there are several species of goldenrods. To the casual observer, the most

prominent is Canada Goldenrod. Goldenrods are mistakenly blamed for causing hay fever. This error has been repeated in advertisements for some hay fever remedies. Ragweed is the main culprit for hay fever in the fall. Ragweed pollen is carried by the wind, whereas goldenrod pollen, being heavy and sticky, is transported by insects. Goldenrod flowers are important sources of pollen and nectar for insects. Bees require pollen in order to survive. Migrating Monarch butterflies obtain nectar from a variety of flowering plants, including goldenrod, to fuel their long southward journey.

Among the clumps of golden yellow flowers, watch for the beautiful deep purple of the New England Aster, one of many species of aster in Ontario. Like the goldenrods, these flowers produce life-sustaining pollen and nectar for many insects. On a sunny day in September, the New England Aster glows like a purple fire. Many times in the past, I have watched Monarch butterflies visiting these colourful flowers, and, although Monarchs are in decline, I will be watching for them on asters again this year.

Asters and goldenrods are an important part of our natural landscape, and their beauty reminds us of nature's splendour. †

**DATEBOOK**

**From Christian Development**

- September 27<sup>th</sup>—Family Love and Share Sale
- September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>—What Does Walter Say?
- September 24<sup>th</sup>, October 29<sup>th</sup>, November 26<sup>th</sup>—Fall Film Series

**From UCW**

- November 8<sup>th</sup>—Holly Bazaar

**From Music, "Music at FSA"**

- September 21<sup>st</sup>—HMS Pinafore
- November 8<sup>th</sup>—A Western Choral Presentation
- November 28<sup>th</sup>—Noon Advent Concert (first of three)
- November 29<sup>th</sup>—The Antler River Project

**From Worship**

- October 5<sup>th</sup>—World Communion
- October 26<sup>th</sup>—Music Sunday
- November 23<sup>rd</sup>—Anniversary Sunday with The Rev. Betty Sangster
- November 30<sup>th</sup>—Service of Lessons & Carols

**CHANGES**

**Marriages**

- June 21<sup>st</sup>—George Edward Jolink and Richard Roger Verrette

**Baptisms**

June 15<sup>th</sup>

- McInnis, Kenadie Ireland, daughter of Liisa and John McInnis
- Garlick, Peyton Maggie-Ann, daughter of Sarah-Louise Brandon and Jonathan Garlick
- Garlick, Jackson William Michael, son of Sarah-Louise Brandon and Jonathan Garlick

**New Members**

May 11<sup>th</sup>

- Riley Langley
- Margaret Hill
- Fraser Feeney
- Thomas Samson-Williams

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**



**COUNCIL**

Jo Ann Silcox

*"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may be one...."*  
— John 17:20-21

**T**hose of us who hold dual citizenship with both Caesar and Christ know only too well what Jesus was praying for. Compelling words alone unmarried to compassionate welcoming, have never sold the Gospel and never will.

Decades of animosity between East and West Germany only ultimately dissolved, in 1991, when the Berlin Wall was demolished brick by brick, hand by hand, heart by heart. And decades of partitioning within and without communities of faith all claiming to be made in the image of the universally blessing God, will require the same painstaking collective effort.

In this Season of Pentecost we have been showered with Biblical stories of inclusivity—Jew and Gentile, slave and free, wheat and tares, flour and yeast, to name

but a few. Now is the time to turn polity into practice as we enter a new church year at First-St. Andrew's.

Might this be the Season in which we communally choose to make peace one with another and with our neighbours, to share all our considerable resources rather than those we think we can spare, to consider what we already have in common rather than focusing on our differences, to try "fishing on the other side" in the words of the last General Council?

Some have already shown us the way—the community outreach realized in the Vacation Bible School and the Peace Camp this summer with Jane Dockrill, the Conference-wide UCW activities, the Sing for your Supper initiative welcoming young families from the community and not just the church, the sharing of pastoral care and preaching resources with the larger Presbytery by Tom Hiscock, David McKane and Kerry Stover, the commitment of a growing number of us at Presbytery and Conference levels to help other congregations at times of crisis and discernment, the overwhelming outreach to the LGBTQ community in this year's Pride weekend.

We can do better and we will with God's help! †



## WORSHIP

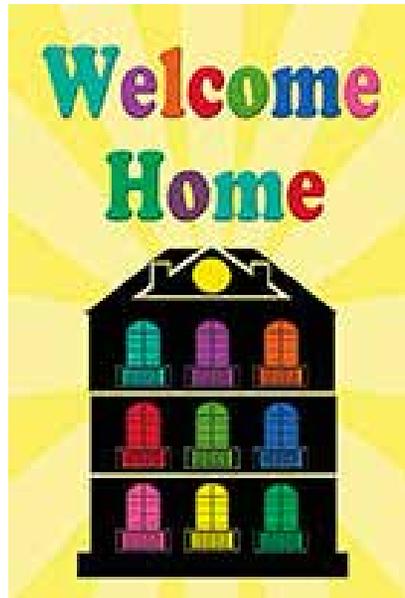
Kerry Stover

*“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.” — Matthew 10:40.*

I had the great privilege to travel with a longtime friend this summer to Prince Edward County, Peterborough, and then to Ottawa. I am blessed to be living in a wonderful and beautiful province. On my trip back to London I started to ask myself, why do I live here? It’s not a particularly pretty city; Southwestern Ontario is very flat; it is hot and humid and then cold and blustery the other six months. It was quite the conversation I was having with myself.

Then the next day, on Sunday morning when I attended church, the Lord reminded me why I live here. Why London is my home and most definitely why First-St. Andrew’s is my home.

At church I saw friends, dear and old. I saw friends



that were new to me. I saw people whom I go to church with and don’t really know, but I recognize them and they recognize me. I looked around and saw my church family. I felt close to bursting with a love for those with whom I worship every Sunday morning, and thanking the Lord for all these friends in my church family.

It is the people and the relationships. It is not the place or topography that makes me happy. It is the visitors, the familiar friends and church members that I hold dear that make a place a home. It is years of investing in friendships and people that make me feel full—home.

My time away was fun, exciting, and it was good to escape from the day-to-day and the media, but ever so good to come home.

Ultimately our home is with the Lord. It is in God and through Jesus Christ that we find the way, the truth and our rest. Our home.

God uses the relationships here at FSA and beyond to remind me of these truths. Thank you, Lord for these relationships, and for these reminders of what home and First-St. Andrew’s truly is. †



## MUSIC

Paul Cooper

As summer draws to a close our thoughts turn to the wonderful music programming with which we are blessed at First-St. Andrew’s. Music Director, Paul Merritt, has worked hard to plan the start of our fall season and now it’s your turn to enjoy it. This year, once again, he has put together a number of musical delights. Please mark the following in your calendars and consider asking friends and neighbours to come to performances with you:

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21<sup>st</sup>** at 3:00pm. The Concert Opera Group under the direction of Darryl Edwards returns again this year for a concert performance of Gilbert and Sullivan’s *HMS PINAFORE*, with sing-along choruses and wonderful soloists. This is a fun event that will send you home humming tunes with a smile on your face!

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30pm—A

**WESTERN CHORAL CELEBRATION.** The Don Wright Faculty of Music at Western University has many wonderfully talented choral performers. At this concert you will delight in sampling the presentations of five choirs from the Faculty of Music. You will not be disappointed with the musicianship of these talented young people and the wonderful music they make.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30pm—Our own Sonja Gustafson appears with the popular group THE ANTLER RIVER PROJECT. Sonja, a graduate of Western’s music faculty, is always a delight to hear and this concert will be no exception. Please plan to attend.

The calendar year winds down with our ever-popular **ADVENT NOON RECITALS**, which are followed by a delicious lunch. This year’s recitals will be on the Fridays of **November 28<sup>th</sup>, December 5<sup>th</sup> and December 12<sup>th</sup>** at 12 noon.

Come and experience this unique part of congregational life at FSA. †





## FINANCE

### Path of Stewardship 2014—January to June

Harold Jackson

*“Concerning all acts of initiative and creation, there is one elementary truth—that the moment one definitely commits oneself, then Providence moves, too.”*  
– Goethe

Dollars	January - June 2014	January - June 2013
Total Income	334,052	271,778
Total Expenses	395,635	344,075
Trust Funds Income Support	46,386	32,195
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(15,196)	(40,102)

At the time you will be reading this *Tidings* report from Finance, the results provided will be two months old. However, the table presents the consolidated financial picture of the progress of First-St. Andrew’s United Church (FSA) down its path of stewardship for the first six months of 2014. This is in comparison with the same period in 2013. Although income lags expenses in this period, the net deficit is considerably smaller than the prior year. There are some important results to consider that the gross figures don’t reveal:

1. Congregational givings for the first six months exceeds the prior year by \$2,394. **Congratulations!**
2. The Shopping Card programme since its inception has generated a net profit of \$1,721 on sales of \$39,295 offset by card costs of \$37,574, a 4.4% return. **Continued use of this new fundraising programme is encouraged.**
3. Expenses are higher than in the prior year. **This is largely a result of programme, office and utility cost timing increases.**
4. As planned, Trust Funds income support has increased.

The plan for a small operational deficit of \$8,983 in 2014 still remains. Despite this apparent reality for 2014, it will be necessary to continue with a balanced budget focus as we move forward with 2015 operational plans and financial stewardship plans. Please consider your involvement in reversing the current 2014 financial situation. Your continued support and generosity are essential as this great congregation aspires to the promise of being **“At the Heart.”** †



## CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

### Update

Allyson Watson

Christian Development is getting ready for an awesome fall. We know you will be checking in and seeing what we have to offer that might be of interest to you. There will be a series on Walter Broeggeman; Jane Dockrill has lots of new ideas and activities for the youth and children; meditation series and labyrinth walks. If there is something you would like us to look into please let us know!



The Family Love and Share sale will be September 27<sup>th</sup> 9:00–2:00. This is a children’s rummage and used book sale event, the proceeds going to ELUCO and Growing Chefs. If you have things you wish to donate, please contact Allyson Watson.

We want to thank all of those people who helped and participated in our first annual Spirit Camp at Camp Kee-Mo-Kee. It was terrific. We had about 40 people spend the night and then approximately 80 people for worship and lunch. We are already starting to plan for next year, so keep an eye out for the date and how you can be involved in this church community event. †



## COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

### The Web and Your Socks

The K.O.W.\*

This September marks some major changes in the FSA website, [www.fsaunited.com](http://www.fsaunited.com). Web sites have many levels of design: first and foremost there's content; then there is organization of that content into what one always hopes are intuitive and bite-sized morsels of information. The coding, the machinery that drives the web links and ensures that pages render more or less the same on all browsers, is yet another level of design. Finally comes the cosmetic piece, the colours and logos and pictures that make a website fun and interesting to explore.

Since 2006 we have gone through many cosmetic changes, and one major organization change, but this marks the first time that all levels will undergo change simultaneously. I can already hear the gnashing of teeth and I understand. I'm the kind of person who likes to know exactly where his socks are kept and I want those socks to always be there when I open my dresser drawer. I don't want to have to



go looking for them all over the house. Nevertheless, our web socks are now on the move!

This is not happening on a whim. Times have changed and now people want to be able to access their web information from mobile devices, which are handy but have the disadvantage of having very small screens where web pages, designed for desktops, do not display well.

Consequently, we have made the new website "responsive." The new code of our site-pages can now reach out to your device and determine what size screen

you are using, that of a desktop computer, a tablet, or a smart phone. It then automatically sends out pages that are configured and sized for that particular real estate so that the look of FSA's pages on your computer at home will be different from that of your smart phone: the content will be identical but the layout will be "tailor-made."

So next time you go looking for your old familiar "socks" on the FSA web, be patient. Accessibility to all the great information there will be easier for everyone in the long run. †

\* (Kindly Old Webmaster)



## WELCOMING

Heather Locking-Cusolito

What's new with the FSA Welcoming Committee? Well, for starters, the Welcoming Committee itself is new. Arising out of a decision made at the

2014 Annual Congregational Meeting, George Jolink called for a group of volunteers to form a welcoming committee, with a view to enhancing the way in which we welcome people into our congregation. The following intrepid souls rose to the occasion: Anne Cummings, Heather Locking-Cusolito, Dennis Pellarin, Jay Snyder and Pam Turner-Langley. Heather has agreed to Chair the committee and Anne to act as secretary.

Since our formation we have met twice to:

- Develop and approve the Terms of Reference.

- Establish liaisons with Membership and Nurture and with Council.
- Develop a needs assessment. (We will be asking the congregation to complete this needs assessment in the early autumn to help

us to decide where our priorities should lie, and to determine your willingness to participate in activities to meet these priorities.)

- Explore resource material. (Specifically, we are reading a book recommended by Pam titled *Radical Welcome:*

*Embracing God, the Other and the Spirit of Transformation.*)

We will try to keep you informed about our committee through *Tidings* and other communication strategies. Please feel free to approach any member of the committee to share your thoughts and ideas about welcoming people to our congregation. †





## MISSION, OUTREACH, ENVIRONMENT (MOE)

Linda Badke

### St. Paul's Daily Bread Food Bank

The number of new folks needing the services of St. Paul's continues to grow—hence the need for non-perishable food, toiletries such as deodorant, toothpaste and brushes, shampoos, shaving items, feminine products, etc., becomes greater. When shopping, please pick up some of these items and pop them in any of the white baskets located around the church or the shopping cart in the atrium. Thank you for thinking of others.

### Grow-A-Row—Canadian Foodgrains Bank

We are into the 19<sup>th</sup> year of our joint project with St. Marys United—growing a crop to help support our friends in the developing world. At printing, our fundraising is somewhat **down** from 2013, so hopefully, if you haven't filled out the form which was handed out at the launch in the spring, you will find the envelopes on all of the tables in the atrium, outside the narthex and chapel. This is an important joint outreach project.

### Annual Corn Roast

**Today, September 7<sup>th</sup>**, is the day, downstairs in Proudfoot Hall. Join us for a yummy lunch of fresh corn, apples, ham, rolls, cookies and homemade baked beans. All the food is donated and we hope that you will be generous with the freewill offering. Come on down, meet your friends and catch up on their summer fun before the rush of school and fall activities begin. **David Mayberry** of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank will be there for a short presentation and to answer any questions you may have.

### Christmas Share: St. Paul's Daily Bread

This year the Little White Christmas Tree will again have "ornaments" with requests for gift cards from grocery stores, Walmart, Giant Tiger etc., and the **good news** is Margo will be there with her gift cards, which benefit FSA by giving us a percentage on each card purchased, so we all win. The tree will appear in November.

### Fair Trade Coffee

This ongoing outreach programme raises funds by selling Fair Trade organic coffee every week at church. As a result \$4 for every pound goes to the Los

Quinchos school for child street vendors in Nicaragua.

We are currently averaging 25 pounds of coffee sold every month (or \$100 per month to Los Quinchos). Our inventory on the coffee kiosk is also 25 pounds, so we have a very fresh supply of coffee available to be purchased at the church. On average, we place an order every month to ensure our supply is as fresh as possible for our congregation.

Selling organic coffee means you are getting the healthiest coffee, without pesticides, to drink. Normally coffee has one of the highest pesticide uses, unless it is organic. It is probably the pesticide in coffee that gives you the coffee jitters, not the caffeine.

Selling Fair Trade coffee means that the coffee plantation worker and the farmer get a fair price for their efforts. Coffee is grown in the poorest countries in the world, so it is a social justice issue to be able to see them paid responsibly.

Buy our coffee for the quality that it offers. This is gourmet coffee that we sell and the price is very competitive with all other similar coffees on the market. So treat yourself and support our outreach programme by buying coffee at the church. Thank you!

### ELUCO

Nancy Howard, our ELUCO (East London United Church Outreach) worker has had another busy summer in the community. Her work in the London Housing community is both challenging and rewarding. This year she has been able to send children to a variety of camps including Camp Kee-Mo-Kee, Stevenson Children's Camp, day camps in the city and Social Skills Camp. All of these camps are positive experiences for the children and families involved. Thank you for your support of Nancy's work.

### MOE Memories

Sundae Sunday was held at Kee-Mo-Kee in conjunction with the FSA service conducted there on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Special thanks to the London Ice Cream Company for providing the delicious ice cream. The \$223.00 donated will be given to ELUCO for the emergency diaper supply.



Ice Cream Scoopers



## Nicaragua Volunteer "Boomerang" Trip

Janice Elliott

Linda Badke



Just over a year ago a group of nine teens and adults from First-St. Andrew's participated in a volunteer trip to Nicaragua with the Companeros organization. After an amazing experience there building houses, teaching English, and getting to know people in an impoverished neighbourhood of Managua, a group of four adults from FSA joined a "Boomerang" group returning for an enriching volunteer experience in the same area in February 2014, strengthening our relationships with those living in poverty there.

We are now invited to return again to Nicaragua with Companeros for another "Boomerang" trip from January 31<sup>st</sup> to February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015! Projects will likely include building and teaching opportunities and at least a visit to Los Quinchos, a school for children working as street vendors, which FSA has been supporting for many years through our Fair Trade, organic coffee sales.

This is a great chance for anyone interested in building relationships and helping to improve the lives of those living in Nicaragua, the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, from retired adults looking to make a meaningful difference with their lives to teens and young adults wanting a chance to give a significant contribution and learn more about the world.

For more information, please contact Linda Badke (519-432-5420, [linda.badke@rogers.com](mailto:linda.badke@rogers.com)) or Janice Elliott (519-657-7183, [janiceelliott04@gmail.com](mailto:janiceelliott04@gmail.com)).



## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual White Squirrel Golf Tournament

Diane Knoppert

Eight years—and some things haven't changed! The winning foursome of the inaugural event in 2007 included Ivana Klouda and David Manness. This year, Ivana and David were winners for the sixth time (a Tiger-like accomplishment!). Their partners this year were their friends, George and Mary Lou Arts. The nine hole winners were Lynn Witt and Cliff, Fran and Maxine Elliott.

A new high of \$10,900 was raised to support valuable MOE outreach programmes: (supporting ELUCO, the East London United Church Outreach; providing meals to the needy at our church and at St Paul's Daily Bread; providing support for Los Quinchos, a school for child street vendors in Nicaragua).

Thanks to all who participated in the tournament: volunteers, golfers, walkers, diners and those who donated auction items or sponsored holes.

Special thanks to Bob Schram of Sterling Marking Products for once again being the tournament Corporate Sponsor and contributing advertising posters and Hole Sponsor signs. This year we had a record number of sponsors—29! Each contributed \$150 for a total of \$4,350.

A.B.C. Electric Inc.

Paul and David Mullen, A. Millard George Funeral Home

BMO Nesbitt Burns, Peter McCallum

BMO Nesbitt Burns, The Naylor Investment Group

Bartlett Restoration Ltd.

Mike McDonald, CIBC Wood Gundy

The McGorman Investment Team, CIBC Wood Gundy

Collins Barrow KMD LLP Chartered Accountants

Dove Dental Centres, Dr. Hassan Mostafa

Peter Ross, gen-car

HSM Consulting

Harris Funeral Home

IDS Integrated Digital Solutions

Investors Group, Chris Liddiard

London Audio

MV Plumbing

McFarlan Rowlands Insurance Brokers

Paramount Painting & Decorating (London) Inc.

Progarde Security Inc.

RBC Dominion Securities, Ken Somerville

Remark Fresh Markets

Sherwood Travel

Skyline Elevator Inc., a Division of Schindler Elevator Corporation

Jane Hill, Agent, State Farm Insurance

Stevenson & Hunt

Ken Chandroo, Subaru of London

Wendy Thompson & Associates

Paul Needham, Westview Funeral Chapel

Zavitz Insurance Inc.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual White Squirrel Tournament will be held again at the Ironwood Golf Club in Exeter. Mark your calendars for June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015. †



## PROPERTY

George Jolink

For some time now the Property Committee has been operating under the weight of the Avis Report, identifying \$4 million in recommended capital improvements. Based on a Building Condition Assessment conducted in 2008, Allan Avis Architects Inc. identified building components requiring major repair or replacement; provided cost estimates; grouped and prioritized work needed; and provided an Implementation Plan. What has become clear since then is that the Avis Report's focus was an overhaul of FSA to restore it to as-new condition and, in some cases, better than original. Clearly, FSA is not in a position to undertake such a large-scale project at that price tag OR at that level of investment.

The Avis Report was segmented into various priority items. Priority 1 projects (life safety issues) have now mostly been completed. What we have found with a number of items is that the budgeted amount often exceeds our actual expenditure, especially on the big items. For example, one of the big line items is the replacement of the asbestos shingle roof of St. Andrew's Hall. Instead of installing a new slate roof with copper flashings, we elected to install a 40-year asphalt roof for a savings of about \$175,000. This work was completed in July 2014. Painting the wood decorative elements

on the building, instead of replacing with copper, saves significantly as well, and will be one of the next areas to be addressed in the near future. The report noted that all of the masonry should be re-pointed, but our masonry expert did not agree and only re-pointed what was necessary. The report suggested replacing the slate roof on the main church in 2014, but we believe it still has some life left in it. The report also includes a 47% surcharge for fees, permits and contingencies, which we have not needed to date. These are just some examples of how the Avis Report has been a very useful document even though the suggested budget numbers so far have proven to be in excess of actual costs. The only project with some urgency left is the boiler replacement. We are lucky to have committee members like Peter Ross and Willis Buckingham who are able to discern more practical and cost-effective solutions that take this seemingly insurmountable capital budget to a more manageable scope.

The Property Committee continues to address minor maintenance repair needs and building operations concerns, both ongoing and arising, as well as larger-scale projects outlined by the Avis Report. FSA's custodial and maintenance facilitator, Tim Miedema, regularly attends our meetings, providing helpful information and valuable suggestions. We gratefully acknowledge the Trustees and the congregation at large for your ongoing support. †



## STEWARDSHIP

Tara Gonder

As we prepare for the fall stewardship campaign of 2014/15, it's difficult to ignore the events which have been playing out on the world stage. This summer, we've seen reports of escalating military actions in Ukraine, Gaza, and Iraq. Then there's the Ebola crisis which threatens to worsen—and these are only the headlines.

The addition of social media has meant that we are much more aware of the human cost of these crises; we can be sure that YouTube, Twitter, Facebook and blogs will convey the full humanitarian impact. We've watched with horror, pity and fear as image after image depicts the living conditions these affected people face. Imagine a refugee camp, row upon row of tents, with a population the size of the city of London. Think what it might be like to live in the ruins of bombed-out buildings, with no fresh water, electricity, or reliable food source,

unsure of where (or when) the next bombs will fall. Think of the uncertain future these people face, and the toll this will take on future generations.

We empathize, but we have one clear advantage; we can turn off the television, shut down the computer, throw the newspaper in the recycling, or choose not to check our favourite social media sites. We can make a donation to a reputable charity, hoping that our donation will do some good, and the prickings of conscience we feel for living in a politically stable, resource-rich country are assuaged. We can thank heaven that people don't face problems of that magnitude *here*—but they do.

They may not live in refugee camps, but there are people in our community who need our support on a number of levels. So often we focus on world humanitarian events, but miss the people right here, right now, who need our help. FSA has a long history of community involvement; this fall, we'll be asking you to consider all that FSA does to help change lives in our own community, and to share in our mission. †

## THE LAST WORD

The Marathon Bridge celebrated its final dessert and bridge in June. The winners were:

1. Susan Wark and Bruce Moor;
2. Joni Pypka and Sally Smith;
3. Nancy and Jim Hutchinson

†

Jim Deacon  
(519) 870-RUGS (7847)

## DEACON FLOORING

CARPET, WOOD FLOORS & CERAMIC Inc.

EXCLUSIVE SHOP AT HOME SERVICE

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

Residential Renovations Commercial

## PEELPRODUCTIONS



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

Telephone: 519.203.5000 Email: info@peelvideo.com

www.peelvideo.com

CHERYL SAMSON  
Registered Massage Therapist

## WOODFIELD MASSAGE THERAPY CLINIC



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

## Brilliant Painting

"Nothing but Brilliant!"

Frank Hamid  
Manager

519-933-4933

brilliantpaintinglondon@gmail.com



## Solcan - harnessing the sun since 1975

Solcan offers:  
solar collectors made in London  
design-build solar water heating  
design-build solar PV projects  
microFIT projects



for information contact  
Bob Swartman, CEO

**solcan**

519-473-0501  
www.solcan.ca



A solar hot water system installed on the roof of the Orangeville District Secondary School. System provides 48% of the hot water load from the sun and saves over 9,500 lbs of CO2 equivalent to 110 trees over a year.



## "Meals to go"

Catering designed specially for seniors

- \* Meals delivered to your door
- \* We do the cooking so you don't have to
- \* Specially designed menus

Margaret Trainor  
Executive chef

519-762-6984

MENEAR WORRAD  
& ASSOCIATES

Will & Estate Lawyers

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

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

H | HARRIS  
FUNERAL HOME LTD

Traditional Services ❖ Cremation Alternatives

For preplanning information visit

www.HarrisFuneralHome.ca

or call 519-433-7253

Family-owned & operated since 1962

Rates for Business Card Ads: \$90 for one year (four issues)  
Submit ads to [info@peelvideo.com](mailto:info@peelvideo.com) by the middle of  
August, November, February, or May to ensure publication in the next issue.



July 27<sup>th</sup>. Pride Parade



June 29<sup>th</sup>. Kee-Mo-Kee & time for family



June 29<sup>th</sup>. Kee-Mo-Kee & ladies who lunch

## Windows on First-St. Andrew's

June 14<sup>th</sup>. Good fun at the White Squirrel Golf Tournament



May 24<sup>th</sup>. The Moderator at Conference Ordination Service



July 20<sup>th</sup>. Group hug at the end of FSA-SALT Camp



June 1<sup>st</sup>. Affirm Sunday

### CHURCH STAFF

#### Minister of Worship and Administration

*The Rev. Dr. Kate Crawford*

#### Visitation Minister

*The Rev. Tom Hiscock*

#### Minister Emeritus

*The Rev. Dr. David McKane*

#### Designated Visitor

*Jo Ann Silcox*

#### Director of Music

*Paul Merritt*

#### Church Administrator

*Brenda McManus*

#### Youth & Young Families Ministry

*Jane Dockrill*

#### Administrative Assistant/Receptionist

*Katrina Stolk*

#### Custodians

*Tim Miedema and George Jolink (part time) with Ron Chatterson, Custodial Support*

#### Atrium Steward

*Barry Tiffin*

#### Nursery Supervisors

*Amanda Ingrey and Sonya Grant*