

# Tidings

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 Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2017



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# Tidings

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*Rev. Michelle Down*

The wise, respected, author and theologian Phyllis Tickle, talks about the Great Emergence of the church with chapter headings like: Rummage Sales: When the Church cleans Out Its Attic; Questions of Re-Formation: Darwin, Freud and the Power of Myth; The Century of Emergence: Einstein, the Automobile, and the Marginalization of Grandma; and The Way Ahead: Mapping Fault Lines and Fusions. We are in a time of great development, incarnation, and re-incarnation within the church and Christianity as a whole. We here at First-St. Andrew's have been celebrating our 185th Anniversary with great gusto this year. Both looking back and celebrating our past, and looking forward and re-imagining our future. As a symbol to mark our anniversary, the Worship Committee has designed a Christmas ornament. Not because we all need one more knick-knack, but because

## A Moment with Michelle

we all need a constant reminder that we are preparing for New Birth within us and around us. A reminder that we are part of the Great Emergence, the birthing of new Hope and the development of discipleship.

As we prepare through Advent to receive once again the opportunity to be pregnant with possibility, our excitement grows about how we might be blessed into a love labour. The Christmas Story is not an old archaic event that is to be remembered; instead the birth of the Christ child is as current as your last breath. In this time of change, renewal, and new life, we are being called to be part of the spiritual migration that leads us toward the manger that offers safety, sanctuary and unconditional love.

Jesus came to offer us life, and life abundantly. May you offer life that is blessed with Hope, Peace, Joy and Love to all that you meet during this Holy Season. Merry Christmas, to the emerging, and emergent life that is within you.

Faithfully offering Manger Love; Michelle



### Honouring Death

*Steve Elson*

**W**hile few people go around with a pre-occupation about death, either their own or others, there are times when we are confronted with death and its stark reality. This might come through learning about a high profile death—Gord Downie and Leonard Cohen come to mind as people who will be missed by many, and for that we feel a collective as well as a personal sadness for the loss.

Death might also come about through a personal tragedy or the loss of a loved one. Death can come suddenly or slowly and painfully. Death can be seen as being merciful—an end to suffering for the individual who has died, as well as for those who have walked with them through a difficult illness.

Innocent victims of war or mass slayings hold a special place in our hearts because their deaths are seen as being so needless and a waste of what could have been. These deaths can scar survivors for life; forever altering their view of what they thought their world was like, dashing hopes and dreams.

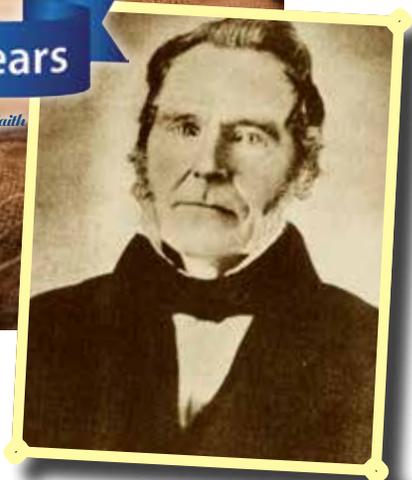
## View from the Pew

Death means that the physical and material ties that linked us to a person, or persons, have been broken; as such we are also broken, and therefore we need time to heal, to redefine the role of that person in our lives. We live on while they do not.

Each year at Remembrance Day we honour the deaths of soldiers who died in war— although we only honour those from our own country and we do not honour the innocent people who are killed in every war. As a church, each Easter we honour the death of Jesus Christ who died a very public and painful death. The deaths of other people who have had a major impact on society are honoured through tributes, statues, having schools, streets, buildings named after them.

Regardless of the death we are thinking about, honouring a death means taking the opportunity to acknowledge and reflect on the life that has been lived, as well as on our own life and how we are living it. As we go forward we can deeply honour the person who has passed by being our best selves every day.

†



# 185 Years Ago\*



Gavin McGregor

**P**roudfoot and his family sailed from Greenock on July 7th, 1832 ... “The sea rough all day, the captain said it was nothing. What, thought I, will it be when it becomes something”... to arrive safely in Montreal on August 29th. Leaving there on Sept. 1st they arrived in Hammond, N.Y. on the 5th, where they had arranged to spend time with Isobel’s brother-in-law. On the way they experienced various modes of transportation, some rather hard on the body, like the 50-mile coach ride from Cornwall to Prescott ... “Mrs. P. was all black and blue with knocks caused by the jolting of the coach.”

Proudfoot spent several days in Brockville and learned that this region of Upper Canada was well-established and he would have to go beyond the town of York to find communities that needed his expertise.

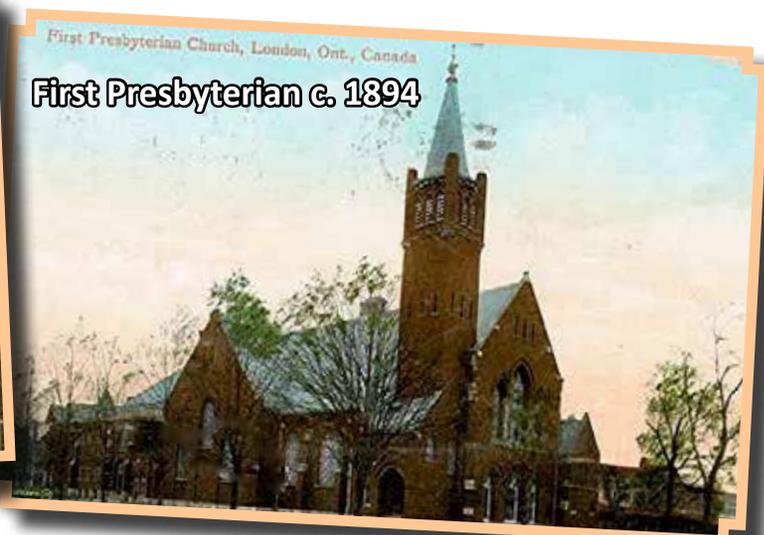
His explorations, along with a fellow missionary, Thomas Christie, led him on Nov. 8th to the village of London. On the 11th he preached in the schoolhouse to a representative gathering of Presbyterians from the village and the surrounding settled communities. At the end of the service there were expressions of interest from some communities to call him to be their minister. However, during his discussions with their leaders he revealed his vision of London becoming the centre of a Presbytery serving all the communities in the region. His leadership and vision were refreshing, and they needed time to digest his proposal. Respecting their wishes he returned to his family billeted in York.

On Dec. 22nd he received a letter outlining acceptable terms, including a stipend. Returning on February 6th, 1833, and after many meetings with the leaders of the Scotch Settlement at Pond Mills (Westminster), the English Settlement (Vanneck/Ivan) and the Proof Line (Bethel/Ilderton), William Proudfoot officially established a congregation in the village of London on March 17th, 1833.

During this period of working with the communities, we find William Proudfoot learning that communication and trust had to be solidly established and maintained between the participating communities before his vision of unity could take form.

When the church opened on York St. in 1836, it was called the United Presbyterian Church. †

\*Derived from *The Reverend William Proudfoot ... An Auld Acquaintance*, by Gavin McGregor, available on the FSA website under ARCHIVES/HISTORY.



## The William Howie Connection

*Gavin McGregor*

The following observations relate to a page copied from the Howie family history, sent to the Archives Committee by Rev. Tom Hiscock, drawing attention to William Howie's connection with FSA's history. Tom received the page from Don Stewart a member at Wesley-Knox.

William Howie, a former ship's carpenter in Scotland, came to London and started a building and lumber company. Because of his experience with ships masts he was not afraid of heights. The document states: "William built the steeple on First St. Andrew's Church which opened in 1894 at 350 Queen Street."

This is misleading in that St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church opened twenty-five years earlier, in 1869, at the corner of Queens Avenue and Waterloo St., and with a tall steeple. The year 1894 does coincide with the opening of the completely new First Presbyterian Church, which featured a prominent steeple. William Howie was a member of First

Presbyterian Church, so there is a connection. The church known simply as First Church was located at the corner of Dufferin and Clarence streets not far from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

First Church congregation formed after the frame church built by Rev. William Proudfoot on York Street was destroyed by fire in 1859, and the congregation built First Presbyterian Church (photograph) at the Clarence /Dufferin intersection circa 1862. It was demolished to make way for the much larger church (shown in the postcard), which opened in 1894.

First-St. Andrew's congregation came into existence in 1938 after the congregations of First Church and St. Andrew's amalgamated and located in the renamed Queens Avenue church. First Church was sold and torn down.

Because of Mr. Howie's ability to manage heights, there is the possibility he performed repairs to the steeple of St. Andrew's Presbyterian in 1894. In any event he has a high place in FSA's history! †

## COMMUNICATION LEADS TO COMMUNITY

*Gavin McGregor*

About four years ago, along with other FSA members, I accepted an invitation from the London Mosque to a get to know evening of food and conversation. During the stilted talk at our table the name William Proudfoot came up. A woman from the Mosque said she had seen the name Proudfoot Lane on buses and had assumed Proudfoot must have been a great aboriginal chief to have had a street named after him. It was the icebreaker we needed to relax, laugh and become more like a family, sharing our stories, shortcomings and hopes; a sense of community began to emerge. †







## THE CHANGING FACE OF FUNERALS



Bob Peel

“The times they are a-changin’,” as go the lyrics of Bob Dylan’s song. As Canada becomes more of a cosmopolitan country, the funeral business is changing to reflect the wants/needs of new immigrants.

For the past five years I’ve worked part-time at Harris Funeral Home, and I drive a hearse for a company that supplies coaches to funeral homes.

Within the past month I’ve been privileged to assist Harris with Assyrian, Romanian and Buddhist funerals. As Steve Harris told me ... “It’s a privilege to serve a diversity of people and have them teach me about their beliefs, rituals and traditions.”

Apart from more and more folks coming from different countries, one thing which has changed is that now approximately 70% of funeral home clients go with cremation

versus casket interment. I’m guessing 20 years ago it would have been 40-50%.

Motorcade processions to churches and cemeteries have recently been impacted by the new red light cameras at many intersections. If someone in a procession goes through a red light, they will get a very hefty fine. It has always been illegal for funeral motorcades to go through red lights, but the law turned a blind eye to this. Not any more ... this has made it difficult for funeral homes, with one refusing to participate in these processions.

*«With fewer people going to church, fewer funerals are now taking place in churches»*

With fewer people going to church, fewer funerals are now taking place in churches. Funeral homes are seeing more and more services at their place.

I invited Rev. Talo from the Assyrian Catholic Church to come to FSA’s Brown Bag Lunch group to tell us about the Assyrians. Brown Baggers got to learn about Assyrian Catholics and the atrocities inflicted upon them by ISIS.

I consider assisting with funerals to be a real education, a blessing, in helping folks from different countries and to have an empathy for their beliefs. The times they are a-changin’.

*Ray and Lorna Getliffe*



Jane Hill



**R**ay and Lorna Getliffe—a force to be reckoned with. They were always on your side. Ray and Lorna met in London, having arrived from Galt and Owen Sound respectively. The Huron & Erie built a beautiful new building and they met while working there, “Pop” as jack of all trades and “Gran” as secretary to Mr. Slater (Bob Slater’s father). Ray was a hockey player whose path to the NHL took them to Stratford, Charlottetown and Boston before settling in Montreal for over 40 years with their children John and Lorna (Dee). There they were members of Mount Royal United Church where Lorna was a member of the UCW. Ray was president of Leigh Textiles Canada. They loved golf; Lorna won many titles throughout her career including Club Champion at Seminole Lakes when she was 70. Ray became president of both the Royal Canadian and Quebec Golf Associations and an honorary member of The London Hunt Club.

Through the years they continued to have strong ties with London. John and his wife Isabel settled here in the 1950s, and Ray and Lorna attended First-St. Andrew’s with them when they visited. When Ray and Lorna felt it was time to move closer to family, John and Isabel in London and Dee and Mike in Oakville, they were lucky enough to find exactly what they were looking for here in 1990. Life came full circle. Reconnecting with friends from childhood and meeting tremendous neighbours, they knew they belonged and FSA was the perfect choice; they loved the music, their fellowship with many friends from both Montreal and London and Rev. Frank Meadows. They never regretted their choice, being closer to their seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. They had the opportunity to watch them grow firsthand, love and counsel when needed.

Lorna passed away on Oct. 29th just shy of her 105th birthday on Dec. 1st. Although she was committed to rallying, I know Pop was getting impatient! She was elegant, optimistic, strong, compassionate, gracious, caring, present with current ideas, had an infallible memory and was a force to be reckoned with. She is already missed by all who knew and loved her.

The end of an era. She loved us all.

†

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**HOW TO CELEBRATE A BIRTHDAY!**



*Jim Silcox*

**A**lex Pine is a remarkable six-year-old who celebrated her birthday in a very special way this past summer. When her mother and dad asked her what she wanted to do for her party, she requested that all who were invited be asked to bring a grocery item for the St. Paul's Daily Bread Food Bank. And so they did, as you can see from the picture. The children were very excited about filling the designated box and even decorated it and signed their names!

Alex has participated in the Peace Camp for the past two summers and you will often see her lighting our Christ Candle on Sunday mornings. Her parents can be truly proud of her.

And this just in. Nature London recently honoured naturalist David Wake with the organization's annual conservation award. David has been active in the city's nature and conservation community for more than 50 years. †

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# Eva and Bill Bettger



David McKane

**E**va Bettger grew up with three sisters in Dresden, all four of whom have perfect pitch. Bill Bettger was raised in Goderich with one brother and two sisters. Both had been organists in their respective home towns, so when they finished high school Western's music programme was the next step for these two accomplished musicians. While at university Eva played the organ at Richardson Memorial UC, while Bill played the organ at Hyatt Ave. UC. Upon graduation they both attended Althouse to get their teaching degrees, got married and moved to Niagara Falls as high school music teachers. Returning to London in 1971 Bill began teaching music at Beck while Eva taught at Westminster before they started a family.

Eva and Bill have three children, two daughters and a son and six grandchildren. Surprise, surprise — all are involved in music, with Pam teaching music at the Etobicoke School of the Arts, Andrea travelling out of Yellowknife to teach fiddling to Inuit children, and Jonathan teaching music in Aarhus, Denmark.

Upon returning to London in 1971 Eva and Bill attended

FSA where each of their children was baptised. David Carrothers was assistant minister at the time and Eva taught the Junior Choir while Bill sang in the Senior Choir under Barry Cabena. In 1980 they accepted an invitation to Colborne Street UC, where David Carrothers was the new minister, sharing a position as organist and choir director. They stayed for 30 years directing five choirs, with lots of involvement in music festivals and shows. All this while teaching school and raising a family.

Life was very rich, they told me, but in 2010 they decided to retire from Colborne Street and spend more time visiting their grandchildren. Returning to FSA they both sing in the senior choir. Bill retired from teaching in 1999 and Eva in 2000 but taught music at Althouse for a further eight years.

Eva fills her "spare" time playing bridge, playing the piano at nursing homes and serving on the board of the Women's Canadian Club, while Bill, a past-president, is a board member of the RCCO London chapter. Both celebrated their 50th anniversary of graduation from Honours Music Education at Western. When not making music they love to escape to their cottage on Lake Huron. As Heinrich Heine says, "When words leave off, music begins." †

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C.S. Lewis: "I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."

William James: "A great many people think they are thinking when they are merely rearranging their prejudices."

Mark Twain: "Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter."

Elizabeth Elliot: Faith does not eliminate questions. But faith knows where to take them."

"Nancy Mehl: "As I stumble through this life, help me to create more laughter than tears, dispense more cheer than gloom, spread more joy than despair. Never let me become so indifferent that I will fail to see the wonder in the eyes of a child, or the twinkle in the eyes of the aged. Never let me forget that my total effort is to cheer people, make them happy, and forget momentarily all the unpleasantness in their lives. And in my final moment, may I hear You whisper, 'When you made My people smile, you made Me smile.'"

Douglas Adams: "Human beings, who are almost unique in having the ability to learn from the experience of others, are also remarkable for their apparent disinclination to do so."

Stanislaus Leszczynski: "To believe with certainty we must begin with doubting."



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## COUNCIL REPORT

*George Jolink*

185 years ago William Proudfoot had a vision, a calling from God to start a congregation in the city of London. Since that time we have grown and changed into who we are now: an inclusive Christian family encouraging spiritual growth through worship, friendship, learning and action.

As you may be aware, we are once again exploring our future and discerning our way forward. The role of church in the daily lives of people is changing and we are looking at how First-St. Andrew's can fill that role for our congregation and the community beyond through faith, service and the arts.

Council has been actively engaged in this process. Our Ad Hoc Planning Committee has been hard at work. Already we have seen a Community Round Table on the Arts, and a grant request to the City for a Community Garden. These activities and others this fall such as the UCW Bazaar, Outreach projects, Music Concert series, and the Proudfoot lecture help to build community both inside First-St. Andrew's and

«...we are once again exploring our future and discerning our way forward...»

outside our walls. FSA continues to be alive and well in the heart of our city.

As a council we are charged with running the business of the church and charting the way forward. We do this on behalf of the congregation and in collaboration with our staff team. Recently Council and staff met for a full day retreat to bond with each other, participate in team building, explore our future, and look at our governance model. The focus was how can we improve and support each other in the work we

do. Nonetheless, it is you, the members and adherents of First-St. Andrews, who are the foundation. Your dedication and support through contributions

of time, talent and financial resources will determine what we are able to do as we move forward. Personally I would like to thank you for all of the ways you continue to make FSA one of your charities of choice.

We are strong, and we are changing. On behalf of Council I wish each of you all the best during this advent time of reflection. †



## PROPERTY

*George Jolink*

As you might expect, a large property downtown, with an historic building and an aging infrastructure, presents ongoing challenges for the Property Committee. Our mandate is to address issues as they arise, and to plan for future sustainability to ensure the long-term viability of First-St. Andrew's for generations to come. Three areas of need determine our work:

- Ongoing/regular maintenance both expected and unexpected;
- Avis Report deficiencies;
- Building improvements.

Based on these priorities and professional recommendations, projects are undertaken in a timely manner and with available funds. Indeed, it is a balancing act between what can we afford and what has to be done.

Currently the Property Committee is engaged in three major projects, which meet the priorities listed above:

- Repairs to interior plaster/painted surfaces where paint is flaking away;
- Replacement of signage at the corner of Queens and Waterloo;
- Conversion to LED lighting throughout the building.

All of these projects represent expected maintenance issues and can be planned in sequence as monies become available. However, occasionally the unexpected happens which needs immediate attention.

As you can see much work is being done and there is still much to do. We are grateful for support from the Trustees and additional capital support from the congregation at large.

The Property Committee consists of George Jolink, Heather Vouvalidis, Bill Guthrie (secretary), Peter Ross, Donna Travis, Ron Bradley, Bob Swartman and Tim Meidema (facilities manager). Please feel free to speak to any one of us regarding your concerns, or questions you may have. Together we are the current caretakers for a legacy which was handed to us by our past and which we will preserve for our future.

Blessings



**WORSHIP**  
*Stephen Adams*

Once again we approach the beginning of the Christian year with Advent on December 3rd. Rev. Michelle has led us through the fall with many services, including a memorable Remembrance Day and Music Sunday, where she interleaved her message between presentations by the many music groups at FSA, reminding us that church music is not a performance but an offering to God. As I write, we celebrate

the 185th anniversary of FSA in November, looking forward to an appearance by our moderator, Dr. Gary Paterson (November 21st at 7:30), and services led by two of our former senior ministers, Dr. David McKane and Dr. Kate Crawford. David has already spoken and, for only the second time in my personal experience, delivered an inspired message that drew spontaneous applause from the congregation. In these days when the name "Christian" is claimed by the loudest and most retrograde groups, David revisited what the United Church tradition has come to stand for. We at FSA must work to reclaim the word "Christian" by our words and our actions.†



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## MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

*Barb Dalrymple*

We have a problem—a BIG PROBLEM that will affect many people in London and beyond! We need our major fundraiser to continue supporting key outreach programmes.

The White Squirrel Golf Tournament began as a way of celebrating FSA's 175th anniversary by raising money for Los Quinchos, a school for street vendors in Nicaragua. The following year, with pressure on the church budget, our committee agreed to also raise funds for St. Paul's Daily Bread and ELUCO (East London United Church Outreach). Since then, there has been no money in the church's operating budget for outreach programmes.

The golf tournament is not only our major fundraiser supporting the outreach programmes, it is equally important as a time of fun and fellowship for FSA members and friends. This year was the eleventh year of the golf tournament and we raised \$11,500.

- We have a proven track record and processes are in place to run this event.
- We have many repeat donors and sponsors willing to support us again next year.

### The Problem:

- We need more people, including a chair or co-chairs to help with the planning of this event. Without this help we will have to cancel the twelfth Annual White Squirrel Golf Tournament!

*«Without this help we will have to cancel the twelfth Annual White Squirrel Golf Tournament!»*

- We need to know now if we will have enough volunteers before we can commit to holding the tournament and confirm the golf course and dining room bookings.

Planning will begin in the New Year with the event to be held on **Saturday, June 9th**. You can help out even if you have no golf experience or cannot attend the event.

- Do you enjoy shopping? You could help by co-ordinating the Silent and Live Auctions. Mission Outreach Committee members and friends are committed to seeking donors.
- Do you enjoy creative writing? You could help by writing the bulletin/email blast announcements about the event.
- Do you enjoy talking to people? You could help by looking after registration.
- Do you enjoy promoting FSA and outreach projects? You could help by co-ordinating the Hole Sponsors, who donate to the event in exchange for advertising.

For more information and to volunteer, contact Liz Galbraith at 519-471-3439 or email [energyworks-naturally@bell.net](mailto:energyworks-naturally@bell.net). Thank you for considering, and hopefully volunteering, to join this fun group. Together, FSA will be able to continue to provide funds for these valuable outreach programmes.

### ELUCO Update

We are thrilled to welcome Ann MacPhail to the ELUCO Board of Directors as a representative of First-St. Andrew's! Linda Badke, a long-time board member and enthusiastic supporter of ELUCO has resigned. Many thanks for your many years of dedicated service to ELUCO, Linda.

First-St. Andrew's will be hosting an intimate jazz cabaret featuring Sonja Gustafson and a group of musicians on Jan. 26th, 2018 in support of ELUCO.

Nancy Howard, our community support worker, reports that the ELUCO school lunch programme started this fall with a bang with 31 children. It looks like this programme will be well-attended this year. She stated that much of her time this fall has been spent assisting community members with legal and mental health issues.

Welcome Wednesday, a lunch and social time provided by ELUCO and other churches, continues to fill a need in north east London. It is held each Wednesday at the Salvation Army on Huron St. near Highbury.

Another ELUCO programme, the Food Cupboard, supplies emergency food to people in the area. It is located in Geth-semene Gardens.

### Grow-a-Row Update

\$5,694.71 received in donations less Corn Roast expense of \$105.16 = net proceeds of \$5,589.55 for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, matched 4:1 by the Canadian Government. †



## MUSIC

Merran Neville

The season changes from fall to winter and brings the excitement and anticipation of Christmas music that we so much enjoy at FSA. Looking back, we remember the Fall Hymn Festival in October, the stirring Music Awareness Service on Oct. 29th led by the music groups—Senior Choir, Laudamus Bells and FSA Strings—all coordinated by our director of music, Terry Head, and the sellout crowd at the Canadian Brass Concert on Nov. 15th. This concert marked the first time the Music Committee, with much help from others, sold beer and wine during the intermission. The FSA Strings, led by their director Bruce Richardson and featuring pianist Lynda Kennedy, gave a concert of some of their favourite music on Nov. 22nd.

On Nov. 4th the Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers (OGEHR) Fall Workshop for Southwestern Ontario was hosted by FSA's Laudamus Bells and was a big success. Terry Head was both a workshop leader as well as the co-

ordinator of all the workshops that included ones in Toronto and Ottawa. A delicious lunch and snacks throughout the day were prepared and served by Joyce Payne and Michelle Down. Meeting other ringers and learning from their directors was an enriching experience for all involved.

The Friday Advent Noon Recitals have begun:

Dec. 1st Ken Baldwin, trumpet, Jordan Baldwin, violin, and Terry, piano;

Dec. 8th Catholic Central Chamber Choir, director Don Sills;

Dec. 15th Laudamus Bells.

A very special presentation of *The Gift of the Magi*, directed by George Jolink with soloists Sonja Gustafson, Francesca Ranalli, Todd Wiczorek and Chad Louwerse, with Terry on piano will be performed on Dec. 8th-9th. There will be three performances. Please see the poster for details. <http://www.fsaunited.com/PDFs/Posters/giftofthemagi-optimized.pdf>

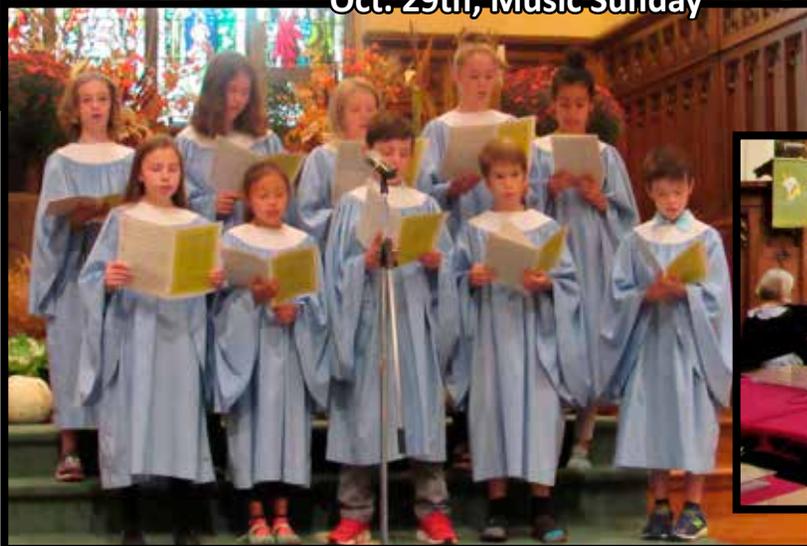
Mark your calendars for the visit of the Tuskegee Golden Voices Choir on Mar. 7th, 2018. This renowned choir from Alabama will be a thrill to hear and not to be missed! †



Oct. 29th, Music Sunday



Nov. 15th, Canadian Brass



Nov. 22nd, *Shades of Autumn* with the FSA Strings



## UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Nancy Quinn

### Retrospective:

On September 23rd, Leah Morise and her partner, Mike Bourgeault, gave a wonderful concert for the UCW in their lovely renovated church home, located in Fingal. A delicious lunch was enjoyed at the Wayside Dining Lounge.

Annabelle Logan, on October 11th, once again graciously hosted a Gourmet Potluck Luncheon, where good food and friendship were the guests of honour. Marilyn McBride gave an interesting report on the July London Conference UCW summer meeting.

Once again intrepid spirits, industrious hands, and generous hearts have made the November 18th Boutique Bazaar a great success. Glenda Robinson, co-ordinator, with over one hundred volunteers, twenty-three conveners and twenty-one community artists, welcomed the London community with artful and socially responsible delights. Over \$14,000 was raised, with some expenses still to come in.

Together we created a synesthetic happening—with exquisite experiences for: eye and hand— sewing creations, vintage collectibles, artistic renderings; . . . taste buds and nose—French Café quiches, turkey pies, deli condiments, baked goodies; . . . and ear—harp, organ, piano, flute. Children were welcomed into the Toy Shop and adrenalin abounded at the Silent Auction. FSA women, men and teens joining together in wonderful camaraderie made the day extraordinary—Kudos!

On November 21st, our UCW president, Laurel Kenney,

travelled to Ottawa, to join with many other United Church and UCW representatives in presenting 346 hand-made Dolls of Hope to our national MPs, in the House of Commons. Representatives included Linda Woods, Nancy Sutherland (National UCW President), Catherine MacLean (Past President of UCW Maritime Conference), and Sharon Prenevost (Alberta Conference rep. and also co-chair for Child Well-Being Initiative). The idea for Bread not Stones grew out of this Initiative.

Our delegates were enthusiastically greeted at a special all-party Parliamentary breakfast and panel discussion on child poverty in Canada. London MP, Irene Matheson read the Bread not Stones Statement during the Question Period. Special highlights of the day were meeting with MP Adam Vaughan, Parliamentary Secretary for Families, Children, and Social Development and with Ana Fularczuk, Special Assistant for Ontario Indigenous Services. Thank you to everyone who helped with the doll-making workshops, the petition letters and in many other ways. We are making a difference!

The Metropolitan UCW invited our UCW members to a delicious Christmas Dinner on November 27th.

### Upcoming:

Tuesday, December 5th, 11:30am. Come join us for our FSA UCW potluck, where Alastair Smythe, our new bass soloist, will delight us with light-hearted vocal selections.

Wednesday, February 28th, 8:30 am, at Richards Memorial Church is our Middlesex Presbyterial UCW Annual Meeting. Registration is \$25.00 with Rev. Pam Cullen as the speaker.

Please, stay tuned for details on our up-coming UCW meetings for Winter/Spring 2018. †



*Bread not Stones  
on Parliament Hill*



L. to R. Linda Woods & Laurel Kenney  
with their special baggage



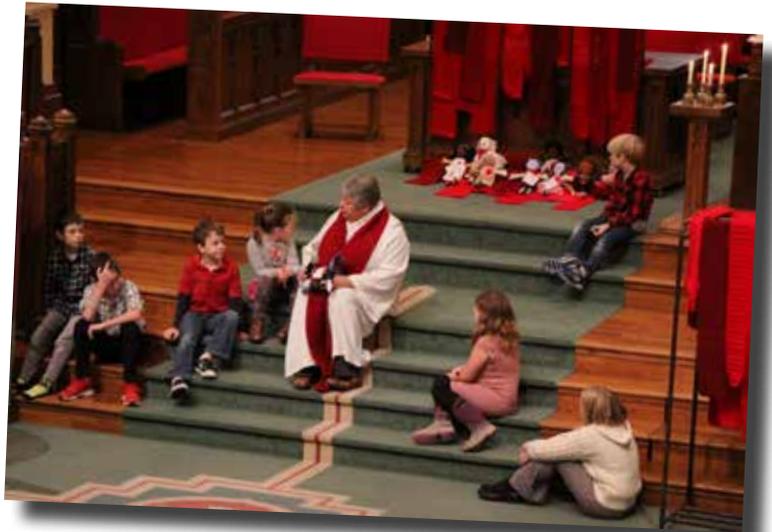
## CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

### Mining the Mystery – Season Three

Sunday evenings, 7:30-9, Feb. 4, Mar. 4, Apr. 8. The Brown Bag Lunch and the Christian Development Committee are organizing the third season of Mining the Mystery.



The first session is a guest speaker on dementia, Helen Jevnikar from McCormick Dementia Services. Session 2 is an opportunity to reflect on the effects of chronic illness, especially as a caregiver or care recipient. Session 3 will suggest ways in which FSA can offer spiritual and practical help to those affected by chronic illness. Rides are available.



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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**from the UCW**

- Dec. 5th — Christmas Lunch
- Feb. 28th — Middlesex Presbyterial Annual Meeting

**from MUSIC**

- Dec. 1st, 8th, 15th — Fri. Advent Noon Concerts
- Dec. 8th and Dec. 9th — *The Gift of the Magi*

**from CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT**

- Dec. 17th — Children's Christmas Pageant
- Feb. 4th — Mining the Mystery: Session 1

**from WORSHIP**

- Dec. 24th, 6:30pm — Family Christmas Eve Service
- Dec. 24th, 9:30pm — Candlelight Communion

**from MOE**

- Jan. 26th — Jazz Cabaret with Sonja Gustafson & Friends
- Feb. 4th — Mission Sunday with speaker, Nancy Howard

**MILESTONES**

**Baptisms**

Walter Dominic Fonesca, Sept. 24th, 2017

**Weddings**

Danielle Cram/Paul Mensink, Sept. 9th, 2017  
Ian Solecki/Amy Jennison, Oct. 7th., 2017

**Deaths**

Lillian Pederson, Sept. 27th, 2017  
McKay McMurdo, Oct. 19th, 2017  
Jacqueline Caldwell, Oct. 29th, 2017  
Lorna Getliffe, Oct. 29th, 2017  
Stan Hill, Nov. 6th, 2017

**New Members**

Sarai Fonseca, Sept. 24th, 2017  
Staci Fonseca Sheldrick, Sept. 24th, 2017



**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

We just read the recent issue of *Tidings*, and we're most impressed, beginning with the dramatic cover, a great illustration for Steve's column.

Difficult to highlight any of the other articles, but I was especially moved by Gavin [McGregor's] on Tom McLarty. Willis deserves a special award for the effort to copy all the records. Almost inspires me to get my birding records up to date!! Again, congratulations to both of you, and to all the writers.

*David and Pat Flynn*

Many thanks to Willis Buckingham for the informative article outlining the work he is doing in Archives. It is important work that this committee does, and is appropriate to share with the congregation. Please convey appreciation to your team from Membership/Nurture.

*Audrey Coulthard*

What a fascinating article "A Graveyard Mystery" is!! Thank you for sharing it.

*Glenda Robinson*



Nov. 19th, Blessing of the Red Scarves  
Rev. Michelle and Martin McIntosh



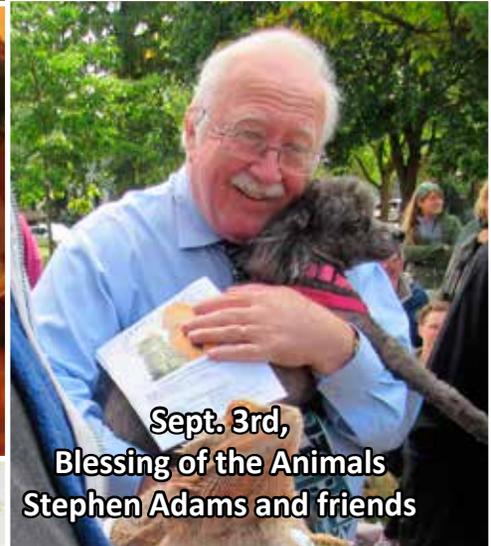
Nov. 5th, Service of Remembrance  
Rev. Dr. Anne Beattie-Stokes



Nov. 5th,  
Service of Remembrance  
Bruce Richardson



Oct. 8th,  
Chancel at Thanksgiving



Sept. 3rd,  
Blessing of the Animals  
Stephen Adams and friends



Sept. 10th,  
Corn Roast Speaker  
Dave Clements



Oct. 1st, World Wide Communion  
Rev. Michelle and Joyce Payne

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