

Tidings

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Tidings

Editor David Wardlaw
Graphic Designer Jim Silcox
Photographers Willis Buckingham, David Wake, Jim Silcox
Ad Sales Bob Peel
Team Members Willis Buckingham, Barb Dalrymple, David McKane, Bob Peel, Pat McGregor, Nancy Quinn, Jim Silcox,
Proof Readers Pat McGregor, Pat Sole

Published by:
The Communications & Marketing Team
First-St. Andrew's United Church
350 Queens Avenue
London, Ontario N6B 1X6
Tel: 519-679-8182
mail@fsaunited.com
www.fsaunited.com

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David Wardlaw

Two of the articles in this issue concern the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, a national organization which is a partnership of churches and church-based agencies representing 30 denominations. One of the articles is an update by Linda Badke on FSA's 2019 Grow-a-Row project (in partnership with St. Marys United Church) which makes a direct contribution to the Foodgrains Bank. The other is a feature article, by Musu Taylor-Lewis, that explains how the Foodgrains Bank operates and describes its scope while at the same time revealing the impact of its programmes on people in need, in this case a family in Somaliland. Musu works for the Foodgrains Bank and, at the time of writing, was scheduled to be the guest speaker for the worship service on Sunday Sept. 8th, 2019.

The publication of this issue marks the resumption of the normal or regular cycle of worship services, activities, programmes, meetings, and events at FSA. We now emerge from a summer season in which the overall level of church activity is reduced and a summer format adopted for worship services. Hopefully, you will return from whatever summer respite you were able to manage recharged and ready for the 2019-20 church year. The upcoming year includes well-planned worship, youth, and music programming, plus the work of many committees, the programming of organizations and groups, outreach projects at home and abroad, various special events, and numerous fundraising activities (and no doubt the list goes on). There are myriads of opportunities and ways to be involved in the life and work of FSA. And with each way of being involved comes the real possibility, often when one least expects it, of faith development or a spiritual moment.

†



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MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Rev. Michelle Down

This Fall we begin a six-week series titled "We Sing Thanksgiving." As our Creed affirms, "We are not alone, we live in God's world," so too the United Church of Canada's doctrine titled "A Song of Faith" states:

*God is creative and self-giving,
generously moving
in all the near and distant corners of the universe.
Nothing exists that does not find its source in God.
Our first response to God's providence is gratitude.
We sing thanksgiving.*

It is with this theology upon our lips that we gather together again to explore how God is working in our lives through our Faith, Service and the Arts. Fall is a special time when we are reminded that things are always transforming, shifting and changing as a natural cycle of life, death, re-birth. This is a time when we see the changing leaves and marvel at their beauty; at the same time we so often forget to also give gratitude for the changing patterns and spirals in our own lives. In our changing bodies, our changing beliefs, our changing community, our changing family structures, our changing health, God is always offering us new ways to experience Grace and Love and Hope.

As we sing our thanksgivings together we can help to be reminded that:

- when we start with gratitude, we start with our best selves;
- when we share our vulnerabilities, we allow others into the sacred intimate circle of our lives;
- when we stretch our faith and belief systems, and become the leaves on the trees that change and transform in order to bear a new idea, a new seed, a new fruit, then we can become the disciples that Jesus dreamt for us to be.

Come! Sing YOUR Thanksgivings here in this place. Go! SHARE Your Thanksgivings in the world that is so in need of love, compassion and goodness. Be! Your THANKSGIVINGs through random acts of kindness, discipleship, stewardship and mission.

I invite you in this moment to go to a window and look at a tree. Offer your Thanksgiving. Think of the changes that that tree has gone through, and that you have also. Think of the joy of having young children climb in its limbs, and the sorrow of natural disaster and disease. Look at the transformation that it is going through right now, and Sing Your Thanksgiving for its courage and resolve. Think of the leaves and the branches of both strength and struggle that you have in your own family tree. Think of the deep roots that you have in your faith, and the stability that it provides.

As we Sing Our Thanksgivings together over the next six weeks, may we be open to experience all that God has in store for us.

In Faithful Service, with Gratitude and Thanksgiving. Rev. Michelle Down

†



Steve Elson



CAPACITY BUILDING

Community capacity building is defined as the “process of developing and strengthening the skills, instincts, abilities, processes and resources that organizations and communities need to survive, adapt, and thrive in the fast-changing world.”

Source: Google search under the subject "capacity building."

As individuals and organizations we need to have an understanding of our capacity and our strengths, together with an ability to put them to use—in order to make a difference.

Capacity building can begin by having an appreciation and awareness of the skills, instincts, abilities, processes and resources available to us. Building capacity involves using these known abilities and applying or leveraging them to accomplish a given task or reach a defined objective. While we might be limited in what we can do as an individual, as a group, working together, much can be done!

At First-St. Andrew's we are witness to our capacity to get things done on an ongoing basis—some behind the scenes and some highly visible. I am sure that anyone who was involved with building the Atrium at FSA (completed in 1994) was witness to capacity building in action. It is often through doing something new and thereby challenging ourselves that we truly learn what our capacities are—and at the same time build new ones. A more recent example is the creation of the eco-meditation garden. In both of these examples, leadership was a key success factor. And while leadership is an essential skill for making significant change, it is not enough—as the old adage goes—it is necessary but not sufficient. Many skills, abilities, resources and processes need to come together to achieve success.

The ability of people to come together and work through challenges to achieve a common objective is more important than the skills any one person brings to the table.

As we think about our future as a church community we know that we have the capacity to accomplish many things. Our past and our present demonstrate this. As we turn our attention to the future we know we will be challenged to do things differently and make some difficult decisions. By harnessing our current capacity and building new ones we will, together, find the ability to not only survive and adapt but “thrive in the fast-changing world.”

At least that's how I see things—from the pew.

†



Anne Cummings



Kerry Stover

It was with great joy that FSA celebrated Kerry Stover's ordination: first, in Port Elgin on May 25th at the Antler River Watershed Regional Council (with 14 FSA members in attendance) and secondly, on June 2nd with Kerry preaching and serving communion in our service, followed by a reception that included members from Siloam United where Kerry had been Minister of Visitation for three years during his seminary education.

Kerry was born in St. Thomas, but grew up in New Jersey. After completing his Industrial Engineering Technology degree, he returned to St. Thomas and worked as a quality engineer at a manufacturing company. Later, he worked for Siemens Automotive in London as Senior Manager of Information Technology for their automotive-related divisions in Canada. His most recent job was at London Health Sciences Centre as a Senior Systems Analyst for their Human Resources and Finance departments.

After becoming a member of FSA 35 years ago, Kerry was actively involved in the choir for many years, served on the Worship, Music, Property, and Finance committees, and on Council. As Chair of the Affirm Committee, he was instrumental in shepherding our congregation to become the first Affirming United Church in Middlesex Presbytery. He also helped with the FSA Hospitality Meal, Bridges Out of Poverty, and many of the Broadway productions that FSA produced. He also lived his social justice commitment by being an active volunteer for the Children's Aid Society, Ark Aid Christmas Day dinner, Hospice of London, and the Regional HIV/AIDS Connection.

The five-year path toward ordained ministry is filled with many challenges. When I asked him what surprised him most about it, he replied that during his year of discernment with a small committee, he realized that he had felt called to ministry earlier in his life, but had not trusted that it was a real Call. The most meaningful aspect of his journey was "knowing deep in my soul that God is always with me." Finally, when asked what he learned about himself over the five years, he said, "That I do have a Call to ministry and that I have a great number of friends who care about me and supported me along this journey."

While we will miss the many gifts and presence of this remarkable man in our congregation, he will be a blessing to his new congregation. Kerry feels honoured to be called to serve at Kingsway-Lambton United Church in Etobicoke as their Associate Minister of Youth, Young Families, and Social Justice beginning on July 15th, 2019. †





Ann MacPhail



Linda Badke

EL CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

A Physical, Historical and Spiritual Pilgrimage along the "Way of St. James"

MAY 14-29, 2019

EI Camino (the Way) de Santiago (of Sant Iago/St James), was an important Christian pilgrimage during the Middle Ages, and since it was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1987, it has attracted a growing number of modern-day international pilgrims. There are many pilgrimage routes to the final destination of the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, the reputed burial place of St. James. We began our journey in St. Jean Pied-de-Port, France (near the border with Spain) and walked 220km of the over 800km pilgrimage route to Santiago. We bused 580km.

The journey is a spiritual, historical and physical experi-



ence, and is unique for everyone completing their personal pilgrimage. Historically, along the route you see and experience buildings and relics from when central European Celts settled in north-western Spain (1000 BC), the early Roman period (200 BC), the early Christian period (40 AD), western Islamic Moors (476-1000 AD), Knights Templar, and finally the Roman Catholic Church and Catholicism. Beautiful examples of monastery and church architecture, art work, stained glass and other religious relics are plentiful and inspirational.

The demands of the physical journey are not to be underesti-

mated! Northern Spain is surprisingly hilly and the Camino trail, with both inclines and declines of 30-40 degrees do not seem to be uncommon! Except for the lucky few, we all seemed to spend an inordinate amount of time nursing our feet, knees and hips along the way. Each pilgrim finds the Camino 'humbling' both physically and spiritually!

However, the main power of the journey for each pilgrim is not the incredibly beautiful scenery, the grape vines, the blossoming Scottish Heather and Scottish Brush, the religious buildings, the art work, the food and



Café con leche (coffee with milk), or the physical demands, but the individual and very personal spiritual journey which each pilgrim makes as they walk along. It is the inner, personal changes which are powerful. Five to six hours of walking each day provides one with adequate time to reflect on one's life, both solitarily and with the other pilgrims one meets and communes with along 'the Way,' each on their personal Camino journey. When asked why they were walking the Camino, their answers were as varied as the people: to spend time on their own, to start a new life, because they were undergoing treatment for breast cancer, because they were turning 40 with three kids and wanted to do something for themselves, to leave daily structure behind,

to follow in the footsteps of his/her spiritual mentor, to bring a smile back into their soul—each journeying back to God and/or reflecting on life, its direction, its meaning. 'How to live and what to live for?' becomes a predominate thought as one walks along each day. And the Camino does not disappoint! It nurtures, provides markers, direction and life messages to keep us on the correct Camino and life path. All we have to do is take notice! En route we came upon the message, 'Be kind' (shown in the photo below) ... what a powerful message on how to live one's life!

Bon Camino! †





Kerry Hill

The Shopping Card Programme at FSA



You are likely aware that FSA runs a shopping (or gift) card programme. FSA buys the cards at a discount. Members and friends buy the cards at full price (face value of card) and use them like cash. FSA makes a percentage on each card. An important point to realize is that shoppers still receive the full face value of the card when using it at the store. Note that rewards programmes such as PC-Optimum points, COSTCO executive points, Air Miles, and so on, do not depend on how you pay for your purchases.

Over the past few months, our Shopping Card programme has really taken off, due in part to bigger margins negotiated by David Manness, with financial support from trust funds to manage the cash flow (of the church having to pay for the cards before they are sold). We now receive a 6% return on PC, Sobeys and Ungers cards. Our net gain in the first three months of 2019 was up by 61% compared to last year! Have we reached our potential? Not at all! Look at the example to see what's possible if up to 100 families use gift cards for much of their shopping:

One family doing a lot of their regular shopping with shop-

ping cards will contribute \$442 a year to FSA! Can we achieve a participation rate of 100 families? Will all of the participating families do most of their shopping with shopping cards? Well, why not? Look at what's possible. What a game changer!

The shopping card programme is the third largest fundraiser at FSA, second only to the White Squirrel golf tournament and the Boutique Bazaar. And, it's the largest ongoing fundraiser directed to church operations.

Retailer	Weekly spending	Annual spending	Typical Margin	Annual Return to FSA, \$		
				1 family	50 families	100 families
Grocery	\$ 100.00	\$ 5,200.00	6%	\$ 312.00	\$ 15,600.00	\$ 31,200.00
Gasoline	30.00	1,560.00	2.5%	39.00	1,950.00	3,900.00
Restaurants	20.00	1,040.00	3-10%	52.00	2,600.00	5,200.00
Other	25.00	1,300.00	3%	39.00	1,950.00	3,900.00
	\$ 175.00	\$ 9,100.00		\$ 442.00	\$ 22,100.00	\$ 44,200.00

Got a big project coming up? Plan ahead and do it with shopping cards from Home Depot or Home Hardware. Give cards as gifts for that hard-to-buy-for person. Reward an unexpected good deed, or surprise a

friend, with a Tim's or McDonald's card. Invite your friends and neighbours to participate.

Watch for new ideas and further innovations to our programme. Do you like to shop at a retailer not listed at the moment? Let us know; we can likely get their cards.

Like most fundraising, the programme requires a lot of volunteer work. If you'd like to help, contact David Manness, Margo Christodoulou, or myself.



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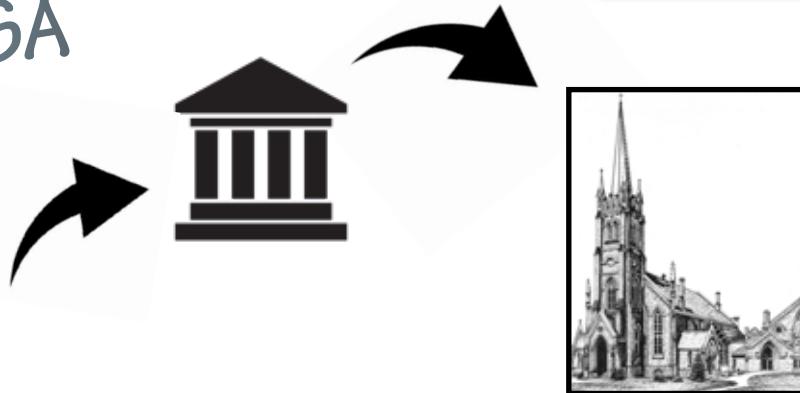
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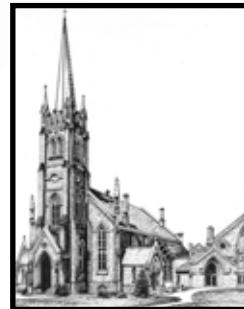
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GivePoint System at FSA



Kerry Hill



The Finance Committee and Trustees have teamed up to try out a new electronic donation system at FSA. It's called "GivePoint" and works much like a bank ATM. For now, the kiosk is located in the Atrium at the top of the stairs leading up to the Sanctuary. It works as follows: The donor chooses where to direct

his/her donation. Ongoing categories include the operating budget (general givings), Friends of Music, and Memorial Fund. In addition, one or more "campaign" and/or special events will be featured from time to time. Once a donation is made—by debit or credit card—the first-time user is asked to enter their e-mail address; an acknowledgement is then e-mailed immediately to the donor. **To ensure that donations are receipted properly, donors must go online to register their name and address with GivePoint.** Official tax receipts will be provided in the usual way, directly by FSA at the end of the calendar year.

If a donor has used GivePoint before (at FSA or anywhere else), there is no need to re-enter an e-mail address—un-

less you are using a different credit/debit card. The card is the way the system identifies you, just as it does when you use your cards in stores.

You may have seen the GivePoint system at Riverside United, in the lobby of the Grand Theatre or other locations. The company behind GivePoint is Zomaron, headquartered in London. If you're wondering about the security of GivePoint, rest assured that the system is as safe and secure as the ATMs operated by banks. This is because Zomaron is part of the banking system itself, in the same way that credit card companies are. Data is encrypted before transmission; the kiosks are tamper-proof; the system is fully PCI (Payment Card Industry) compliant.

The main goal of our GivePoint kiosk is to attract donations from visitors attending concerts, services, and other events. We also hope to plug into the burgeoning "cashless society."

But: before you rush to make GivePoint your donation method of choice: **we still want our members and adherents to use PAR, envelopes or post-dated cheques** for their regular givings. Why? GivePoint is, in part, a fee-for-service system; the traditional methods of giving are less expensive for FSA to process. However, if the spirit moves you and you're without a cheque—say after one of our wonderful concerts, a particularly moving worship service, or the recognition of a special need—then by all means, dig out the plastic and give generously!

†

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FEATURE ARTICLE



Musu Taylor-Lewis*

At first glance, there's little in common between a family of livestock herders in Garadag, Somaliland, and a United Church congregation in London, Ontario. However, the family's story and link to First-St. Andrew's is a reminder of what we can accomplish when we work together—Canadian churches, farmers, community volunteers, and the local partners overseas, working tirelessly to end hunger in communities around the world.

Halima Jama, her husband and five children, are pastoralists living in Somaliland. They often move from place to place looking for pasture and water to nourish their livestock, made up of 150 small pigs, ten camels and three donkeys. They were able to support themselves by selling and trading animal products and even the animals themselves. When an intense drought struck their community of Garadag, all animals but ten pigs and two camels died. The family's life quickly became much more difficult and mere survival became a struggle. Without their donkeys, getting water to drink became a challenge and daily hunger became part of their reality.

Thanks in part to support from The United Church of Canada, Halima and her family were not left alone to suffer. The United Church responded to the crisis through Canadian Foodgrains Bank, a partnership of 15 church organizations working together to end hunger. The tagline of the Foodgrains Bank is "A Christian Response to Hunger."

Halima's family was provided with enough cash to be able to purchase rice, flour, sugar, pasta, and cooking oil at a local shop. The help will allow them to get by until the drought is over and they can slowly rebuild their herd.

This is an inspiring story, but it's only possible because of the support of people and churches across the country—like the support that comes from First-St. Andrew's United Church Grow-a-Row project (in partnership with St. Marys United Church). Across Canada, there are 217 projects similar to Grow-a-Row. Groups of farmers, farm supporters and others with a heart for ending global hunger come together to grow a crop. The proceeds from the sale of crops are sent to the Foodgrains Bank for use in the work of ending hunger around the world and 60 of these community projects contribute the funds directly into the United Church's account at the bank.

Last budget year, the Foodgrains Bank provided \$40 million of assistance for 837,000 people in 36 countries working through its members and with support from the Government of Canada. Currently 97 of those projects in 30 countries are operating with support from the United Church. Halima and her family were able to receive support in a time of need because of several Christian denominations working together, including The United Church, The Christian and Missionary Alliance, and the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

The story of churches coming together to help people who are hungry is something to celebrate. Thank you to everyone at First-St. Andrew's who faithfully support the Grow-a-Row project. Your efforts are truly making a difference! †



Staff affiliated with the Foodgrains Bank from: World Renew (Christian Reform); Primates World Relief and Development Fund (Anglican); Canadian Lutheran World Relief; Emergency Relief and Development Overseas (Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada); and Anglican Diocese of Nebbi. The photo was taken in northern Uganda earlier in 2019. The author is second from the left in the back row.

Halima Jama and her five children outside their home in Garadag, Somaliland. The supplies in the foreground were acquired with the support provided by the Foodgrains Bank.



Linda Badke

GROW-A-ROW CAMPAIGN UPDATE

This year's Grow-a-Row Campaign for the Canada Foodgrains Bank (CGFB) was kicked off on May 5th by Cynthia Simpson and Linda Badke. Cynthia wrote a skit that was performed at the front of the church as an attention-grabber. First-St. Andrew's is again twinned with St. Mary's United Church as we have been in the past. Soybeans are the crop for this year with the profit from the sale of the soybeans being sent to the CGFB to go overseas. As of the end of July \$2,994 has been sent to St. Marys as our contribution. Money will continue to be collected through to the end of October. Please keep our campaign in mind if you have not yet contributed to it. Remember that the Canadian government matches all contributions 4 to 1. On Sunday, September 8th Musu Taylor-Lewis from the CGFB will deliver the message during the service and answer questions afterwards in Proudfoot Hall. Our traditional corn roast luncheon takes place on the same day. †



One of the 60 growing projects in which one or a pair of United Church congregations is a partner in 2019. The project in this photo is located just south of London. No photo was available of the FSA-St. Marys United Church growing project which is located in the St. Marys area.

**Musu Taylor-Lewis is Director of Resource and Public Engagement for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, located in Winnipeg. At the time this issue was sent for printing, she was scheduled to be the guest speaker at FSA on Sunday, Sept. 8, 2019. For further information on the Foodgrains Bank go to www.foodgrainsbank.ca.*



Our First Writer-in-Residence, Robyn Marie Butt



Born and raised in Oxford county and now living in London, Robyn is a lifelong member of the United Church of Canada and formerly in Christian Education. As a professional writer Robyn has been an arts critic, a produced CBC radio and CBC TV dramatist, literary magazine editor, arts lecturer, fiction, stage and screen writer. As well as many articles and reviews, she has a professionally published stage play originally produced by Toronto's Theatre Passe Muraille, four professionally published books of poetry, multiple handmade chapbooks in limited editions, and a glowingly reviewed book of short fiction, since re-published, that was chosen best book of the year by London's Scene magazine. She spent two years as a regular weekly live radio show host and interviewer on theatre for CKLN's Stage Left in Toronto and was playwright-in-residence at several theatres there. She has run public reading series featuring writers in Toronto, Collingwood, and London, and has taught writing at two colleges, privately to groups, and to children in the Gifted programme for her local school board. As a playwright she toured to engage young people in theatre with Canadian Stage's Hour Company. Recently she's become a sought-after public PowerPoint presenter on her four-book poetry/visual art/audio exhibition project, *A Hundred Poems About Flowers*, herself painting the 25 works in oil for the final exhibit.

In her parallel professional life Robyn serves as a psychic counsellor whose life-long psychic gifts flowered after three years' intense training with a spiritual teacher. Together they followed the application of meditation, dream study, prayer, and traditional virtue disciplines as laid out in the Edgar Cayce Source Search for

God Study Guides. Robyn's current and past life readings offer personal and spiritual guidance during compassionate, intelligent, warmly humorous private sessions either in person or by phone.

Robyn also offers public lectures for groups interested in the no-nonsense practical aspects of psychic work or for those interested in New Age Christian spirituality. She has spoken frequently for events sponsored by the Association for Research & Enlightenment and by Edgar Cayce Canada, and as a psychic, has guested live for Heart FM. Robyn has been developing & delivering popular PowerPoint presentations around material from the Cayce Source readings that tell fascinating fuller stories of the life of Christ.

A committed outdoor jogger and walker, Robyn was clearing brush from a path in the family woodlot when she picked up a black-legged tick. She survived Lyme Disease for 11 years until formally diagnosed, survived the 18 months of treatment, & now acknowledges syndromes related to Lyme's residual effects, but as her favourite encouraging slogan says: *Onward!*

Dare to act on dreams.

The writer-in-residence position and its first incumbent were approved by Council in May 2019. An announcement from Council is provided on the Bulletin Board on page 15.

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OVERVIEW OF THE UNITED CHURCH M&S FUND

MISSION AND SERVICE



Barb Plante

Did you know that the United Church is active in countless countries around the world? Countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America and the Philippines? Throughout the world our United Church of Canada partners with organizations, churches and agencies striving to make a difference in people's lives.

Not only does our church work with international organizations far around the world, it is active across Canada, again striving to make a difference, to help people to a better life.

The story of the Mission and Service fund is one of which we can be proud, and of course, is one of which we are a part. When we donate to M&S we are advocating for children's rights in Kenya and other African countries. We are adding our voice for the rights of women in Korea. In Asia, we are involved in Interfaith work because we are partnered with the Asian Muslim Action Network. In China we support the Amity Foundation, which works toward sustainable development goals, partners with international organizations for peace, and generally helps people in need. In the Philippines we are part of Voices for Human Rights. These are just a few examples of the hundreds of organizations M&S works with around the world.

In Canada, through the M&S Fund, the United Church of Canada is part of organizations that support a myriad of initiatives, including poverty relief, medical programmes and hospitals, youth programmes, university chaplaincies, and housing programmes.

And in times of international crises, the United Church works with Action for Churches Together (ACT) to send aid.

The Mission and Service Fund is often the face of who we are, as United Church people, regionally, nationally and internationally. It is funded entirely by individual givings or congregational collective givings (depending on the individual church), and by fundraising activities within a church. Every dollar we give goes to the work of the many organizations with which we are affiliated. It is up to each of us to ensure that this M&S fund remains strong. When our financial campaign runs this autumn, we will be asked to review our annual givings to FSA, a portion of which can be designated to M&S. I encourage each person to make that designation. There are a great many organizations needing our support. I repeat—the M&S Fund is supported only by United Church people and its impact is limited by the size of its budget. It's all up to us.†

NOTEWORTHY

Mason Robichaud Honoured

Mason a Sovereign Medal for Volunteers. This award recognizes exceptional volunteer achievements of Canadians and, as an official honour created by the Crown, the medal is part of the Canadian Honours System. Mason's citation notes that he "grew up in a family struggling with finances and, as a result, was constantly moving. Adapting as best he could, he found a home through WAYS Mental Health, contributing both as an independent resident, and as a LGBT2Q+ advocate, leading awareness presentations among WAYS Mental Health Transitional Programme participants and staff....Much of Mason's involvement and leadership shines through with his dedication to his church....Mason sits on multiple committees, volunteers as a librarian, teaches Sunday school and has also been a youth delegate for the London area."

Many will know that Mason recently embarked on his next life step by leaving us to move to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. We congratulate him on receiving this honour and wish him well as he opens this new chapter in his life. †

This past spring the London Community Foundation awarded



INDWELL ON DUNDAS STREET: AFFORDABLE HOUSING WITH SUPPORTS IN THE FSA NEIGHBOURHOOD



Julie Ryan*

This summer, Indwell, a Christian charity, opened its doors to its first tenants at Woodfield Gate, a new affordable housing community at 356 Dundas Street, just a block from First-St. Andrew's. Most of the new tenants have experienced homelessness, and most are living with a disability, usually mental health.

Indwell transforms lives by creating affordable housing communities for people seeking health, wellness and belonging. Ten staff members provide onsite supports for the Woodfield Gate tenants. These staff members include two nurses to help administer medications and monitor tenant health; an addictions support worker to support tenants who are struggling with addictions; a food security worker to provide a hot meal for some tenants, and training and food-related activities for others; and a number of apartment support workers to help tenants resolve problems and connect to community resources.

In total, 67 people will be served at Woodfield Gate. Thirty new tenants are coming from St. Joseph's Mental Health Care programme where they have been living, some for over a year. Other tenants are coming directly from "living rough" on the streets, others from emergency shelters, and others from housing that has been inadequate in meeting their needs. One woman arrived to move in with just five garbage bags containing all her belongings.

As London contends with a crisis in affordable housing, homelessness and addiction, we seek solutions to these complex issues. Supportive housing is an important tool in ending homelessness in London. Many people who have struggled to maintain housing begin to thrive in supportive housing communities.

Relationships are key to transforming lives in Indwell communities. Tenants build relationships with staff, developing trust and stability and a willingness to seek help when needed. Tenants also build relationships with volunteers, who come to the building to coordinate social activities like meals, crafts, tea times, games, book clubs, and movies. And tenants build relationships with each other, forming deep friendships.

First-St. Andrew's has already extended a hand of friendship at Woodfield Gate. A number of FSA members volunteered this summer to set up furniture in our furnished apartments for people coming from hospital or homelessness. As well, Indwell has included a welcome letter from Rev. Michelle and a guide to FSA's services and activities in our Tenant Welcome packages. We invite you to volunteer with Indwell, as an individual or a group. For more information, please contact Steve Swarath at sswarath@indwell.ca or 226-526-4600.

Woodfield Gate is the first Indwell community in London. Next spring, we plan to break ground on a new 75-unit building at Dundas and English Street in the Old East Village. We are finalizing the planning process with the City of London, and working to raise funds from the community for this project. This building will be home to Indwell's regional office, where we will continue to grow our reach and impact in London and Southwestern Ontario.

(Cont'd. on page 20)



BULLETIN BOARD

Arts after 5

Please join us for the next Arts after 5 wine and cheese reception which will be held in the Parlour on Tuesday, September 10, 5:00-6:30pm. Long-time London singer-composer, Jake Levesque, who is a familiar fixture on the local artistic scene, will be the guest speaker. A \$5 donation to defray the refreshment cost is suggested. (From the Arts sub-committee of the Planning Committee.)

Writer-in-Residence

FSA is delighted to welcome our new writer-in-residence, Robyn Marie Butt. Council endorsed the concept of the position and the offer of service by Robyn at its May 2019 meeting. The position will be reviewed in 18-24 months. (See Council Meeting Minutes for May 28, 2019.) Robyn will be introduced to the congregation as a new member and writer-in-residence on New Members Sunday, September 22nd. Her position commences in September 2019. She will be sharing her talents as a poet and author and looks forward to interacting with the membership, including our young people. (See article on page 12.)



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COMMITTEE REPORTS



MUSIC

Merran Neville

The senior choir may be in recess over the summer months but that is not to say the music stops too. We are blessed to have so many talented musicians at FSA who continue to provide music for all summer services. Throughout July and August, we have enjoyed vocal and instrumental performances in service given by Alastair Smyth, Margaret Trethewey, Nancy Quinn, Francesca Ranalli, Bob Kennedy, Pam Deacon, and Bruce Richardson. And of course, we have our wonderful pianists Lynda Kennedy and Eva Bettger who stepped in while Terry was away on continuing education.

As well, members of the Laudamus Bells rang for the choral benediction each week.

The planning for 2019-2020 is now complete and an exciting line-up of concerts is offered. There will be something for everyone in the great variety of concerts, which include Amahl and the Night Visitors, Dec. 6th and 7th starring Andrew Richardson as Amahl and Sonja Gustafson as the Mother; the second annual Sing-along Messiah Dec. 22nd at 2:00pm; the Advent and Lenten Friday Noon Recitals, including Terry Head's piano recital; the Beal Singers with their director David Weaver; Claire Jones-Fright, violin; Saunders S.S. Chamber Strings with classical guitar; and the Laudamus Bells. The New Year brings a concert with Mary Elizabeth Brown, violin, and the FSA Soloists concert, offering even more richness to the programming. The concert year is topped off with the senior choir giving a performance of Rossini's "Petite messe solennelle" in the spring concert on May 2nd. Soloists are Sonja Gustafson, soprano, Francesca Ranalli, mezzo soprano, John Tessier, tenor and Chad Louwerse, bass. Make sure to pick up the Music at FSA brochure for all the details. Note: we have a new logo on the brochure.

Woodfield Jazz is offering a second year of four concerts with guests Jennifer Thorpe, Jeremy Price, The Bettys and Andrew Downing. All details about the performers and pricing (see the four-ticket advance purchase special) are provided in the brochure which is now available.

Terry has selected wonderful music for all choirs to sing in services throughout the year and to celebrate special Sundays. It doesn't get much better than this. †

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FINANCE

Kerry Hill

At the half-way point of the calendar year, expenses appear to be well under control. Many of the budget lines are below the budgeted amount. Farquhar House required some emergency repairs but the remainder of the year's maintenance will be managed in such a way to stay within budget by end of the fiscal year. Property expenditures for

the main building are also scheduled in a way to meet budget constraints. Kudos to the Property Committee in this regard. Thanks also to all the committees that are keeping their expenses down.

On the revenue side, the overall picture is good. Additional rental revenue will be realized in the second half of the year, now that Meals on Wheels is using a small space in the Fireside Room. The only disappointing note is that givings are below budget; however, this may simply be the result of normal seasonal swings.

The Executive of Council approved the extension of David McKane's role as our Visitation Minister into 2020. (Thank you to David for agreeing to this.) This position was not budgeted for the full year, so additional funding will be required. †



MEMBERSHIP AND NURTURE

Heather Locking-Cusolito

While our Committee takes a break from formal meetings during the summer, we continue to engage in activities to support congregational life. For example, we have moved from Coffee and Conversation in Proudfoot Hall to Lemonade on the Lawn. We were also pleased to have helped with food preparation and serving at the Pride Picnic on the lawn, now an FSA tradition. Both these activities create a visible human presence to people passing by our church on Sunday mornings.

Pastoral care is an important part of our Committee's mandate so we are grateful that Reverend David McKane has agreed to continue as Pastoral Care Minister, extending his term from the end of September until the Annual Congregational Meeting.

We are looking forward to welcoming new members to FSA at a formal service on Sunday, September 22nd, 2019. The following Sunday, September 29th, we plan to celebrate Volunteer Appreciation Sunday. We are so thankful for the hard work of the many members of our congregation who give their time so generously to support the life and work of our busy community.



Archives
Willis Buckingham

Have you been looking for some person or event involved with FSA many years ago? Baptisms, weddings, burials? Now the computer can locate dates, usually names, or even subject matter, then print out the information you were seeking (for an appropriate donation of course!) Digitizing of many archival files within FSA has now been

completed to the end of June 2019.

The old guard has now handed off to a newer generation. They will be tasked with ensuring that when computers demand newer software formats, the existing JPG and PDF files MUST be converted to the new formats to preserve access. Are you able to view all your 8mm films, VCR tapes, and slides these days? There are many in storage at FSA that the Committee cannot access.

The Archives Committee needs to have several more people (hopefully with good computer skills in photo and text formats) and a genuine interest in preserving the history of FSA operations in London. Natasha Roberts has volunteered, but with a toddler will have limited time to handle the storage duties.

The Archives Room continues to need attention on an occasional basis as materials do tend to get dropped off to be processed. There are artifacts that should be rotated through the display cases. Donations need to be documented and recorded in the ledgers currently maintained by June McKay for the Trustees. The 200th Anniversary is coming quickly, so planning is needed.

Anyone interested in doing some data mining for anecdotes or quirky bits of data to stir interest and let the congregation know what scope of information is available in Archives?

Contact Heather Locking-Cusolito johncusolito009@sympatico.ca, Natasha Roberts natasha.roberts99@gmail.com, or Willis Buckingham wjb13@rogers.com. †



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MEMBERSHIP/NURTURE

White Squirrel Golf Tournament

Allyson Watson

We had a beautiful day for our 2019 golf tournament, one of the best in June. Thanks to all of the hard work by the golf committee we were able to raise a total of \$11,000 for the following organizations: St Paul's Social Services, Rotholme, ELUCO, and Los Quinchos (see accompanying thank-you letters from St. Paul's, Rotholme,

Mission Services of London

July 8, 2019

First St. Andrew's United Church
360 Queen's Avenue
London, ON N6B 1X6

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Mission Services of London, I would like to express our appreciation for First St. Andrew's United Church's recent support directed to fill client needs at Rotholme Women's & Family Shelter. We were very grateful to receive a \$2000.00 donation on July 2, 2019.

Thank you for reaching out to families experiencing homelessness and poverty in the London area; your gift will make a practical difference and will also help to bring hope to men, women and children seeking a fresh start.

Gifts like yours helped to extend a hand up to families who have fallen on hard times – nearly 400 children and 250 adults. Your contribution, and that of many other friends in our community, has supported the delivery of programs like Prevention of Homelessness Among Families – a program proven highly effective in keeping families from entering emergency shelter altogether (among other positive outcomes). To read more about the recently revealed research findings on this program, and about its transformative impact on struggling families, please visit our website: <https://missionservices.ca/rotholme-shelter-diversion-prevention-homelessness/>.

If you have any questions, or if you would like to learn more about the impact of your gift, please contact Carole Metrum at 519-433-2807 ext. 2103.

You enable this labour of love to continue. Thank you once again for your support!

Yours sincerely,

Ericka Ayala Ronson
Ericka Ayala Ronson
Director of Development & Communications

Charity Registration #119302578RR0001

Administration Office 4, 397 York Street London, ON N6A 4A8 T: 519.433.2807 F: 519.433.0596 missionservices.ca	Community Mental Health Programs 457 York Street London, ON N6B 1B5 T: 519.672.8860	The Men's Mission & Fellowship Centre 477 Queen's Avenue London, ON N6B 3J5 T: 519.672.8080	Rotholme Women's & Family Shelter 43 Stanley Street London, ON N6B 3B6 T: 519.673.4514 rotholme.ca	Mission Street 4, 397 York Street London, ON N6A 4A8 T: 519.433.3050
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and ELUCO).

We could not have done this without the generous support of all the Hole Sponsors and Silent Auction donors. The tireless work of the committee combined with their passion for outreach created a fantastic day. The event would not have been a success without all of the people who played golf, participated in the nature walk led by David and Winnie Wake, attended dinner, and purchased items. It shows just how much we support our community when an apple and pecan pie can raise \$81 in the live auction! Thank you to all of the people who made this event possible, especially the golf committee! Save the date for 2020! You don't want to miss it!†

Hello Barb Dalrymple, Chair, FSA Mission and Outreach Committee



On behalf of the East London United Church Outreach (ELUCO) Board of Directors, please accept our very sincere thank you for First St. Andrew's United Church, Mission and Outreach Committee extremely generous and propitious donation of \$4,000 (through the 2019 White Squirrel Golf Tournament). These funds will help support our full time Community Outreach Worker, Nancy Howard, in providing assistance and hope to families and children who find themselves in very challenging life circumstances, within a low-income housing community in East London. Key areas of assistance provided include individualized advocacy, instruction in life skills, development of self-reliance and a sustainable community, Wednesday Hospitality Lunch Program, and the ELUCO Food Cupboard. Thank you again for your continued support!

Blessings,
Ann MacPhail
Member, ELUCO Board of Directors

St. Paul's Social Services Food Bank & Fellowship Centre

St. Paul's Cathedral
472 Richmond Street, London ON
N6A 3E6



July 31, 2019

To: **Barb Dalrymple and Pat Pettit**
Mission Outreach Committee
First St. Andrews United Church
350 Queen's Avenue, London, ON
N6B 1X6

Once again, on behalf of all of us here at St. Paul's Social Services, I want to say how much it means to us to have the support of First St. Andrews United Church, his foursome and they are already making plans to attend next year and bring Godsend as well as a very suitable memorial to the memory of Jean Knowles. We are now serving lunch three days a week in the Fellowship Centre and numbers of new faces continues to grow. The refrigerator is in constant use for meal preparation and food storage.

Thanks to the generosity of the Mission Outreach Committee and your White Squirrel Golf Tournament, we will continue to be able provide three hot, tasty lunches each week as well as buy quality milk powder to distribute in our Food

The work that you do in our Lord's Name continues to support the most vulnerable in our Community is much appreciated!

Sincerely,

Barbara Symington

Manager, St. Paul's Social Services, St. Paul's Cathedral
472 Richmond Street, London, ON N6A 3E6
T: (519) 434-8979
E: SPSS@stpaulscathedral.on.ca www.stpaulssocialservices.ca



UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Nancy Quinn

Retrospective:

Monday, June 17th was an inspirational and fun UCW Camp Kee-Mo-Kee Day, with Middlesex Presbyterial.

Saturday, July 20th London Conference UCW met at Si-loam United. The theme was "We Are One," with speaker, Carolyn Murray, who works with refugees. Our president, Laurel Kenney, gave an informative ten minute presentation on our current national UCW mission project, Women for Change in Zambia. This project works to keep girls, ten to eighteen, in school. https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/resources/women-for-change-zambia_nucw-project-description.pdf

Upcoming:

- Wednesday, September 18th at 2:00pm, in the Parlour. Please join us to hear Sarah Collins, programme director for the Salvation Army. The Centre of Hope is transitioning from an emergency shelter to a recovery community centre. In Phase One they will assist those seeking recovery by bridging the gap between withdrawal

management and the up to twelve-week waiting period before treatment.

- On Saturday, September 21st, 10:00am to 3:00pm, the Western Ontario Waterways UCW Region is having a celebration event with speaker, Beulah Hayley (National UCW president), at Mount Forest United Church, 175 Queens Street East, (Highway 89). For registration information contact, by Monday September 9th, Nancy at 1-519-578-0804 or email UCW.WOW@gmail.com
- Wednesday, October 16th, at 12 noon: Join us for friendship and delicious food, as we enjoy a splendid UCW Potluck Luncheon at Annabelle Logan's. Please, call Annabelle, at 519-471-2518, by Friday, October 11th, to confirm details and for gate security clearance.
- Saturday, November 16th, 10:00am to 2:00pm: Mark the date for our much-anticipated Boutique Bazaar. Glenda Robinson and twenty convenors, with over one hundred volunteers, open FSA's doors to the London community. Delights include the interactive Children's World, the French Café, home preserves, baking, turkey pot pies, sewing artistry, jewellery, and other treasures. Don't miss the unique creations of our twenty-five plus local artists and artisans. Many thanks to our volunteers, who plan all year. In gratitude to our FSA Bazaar volunteers, we invite them to enjoy a wine and cheese reception and an opportunity for early bird shopping in Artisans' Alley, from 7:00-9:00pm on Friday, November 15th. Proceeds from the Bazaar are distributed among local and international



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COALITION (ESC)

MaryAnn Hodge

In May, London declared a climate emergency and a few weeks later Canada followed suit. The ESC was formed as a response to this emergency. Its goals are to both educate and advocate on the need to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Our mission is: to embolden London and Middlesex County to meet or exceed the targets as set out in the Paris Accord.

If you think reducing our emissions means we turn back the clock on progress, you will be excited to hear about what is possible. In 2006, Canada submitted its long-term low greenhouse gas development strategy to the United Nations. From the executive summary:

"A low-greenhouse gas future represents an opportunity to increase prosperity and the well-being of Canadians, to improve the liveability of the built environment, modernize transportation, and enhance the natural environment. Canada's actions on climate change will help communities in

Canada in tangible and meaningful ways, since clean growth is not just good for the planet—it's also good for the economy.

The benefits include:

- reducing air pollution and congestion,
- modernizing infrastructure to provide more inclusive and sustainable cities,
- creating cleaner and more modern communities,
- growing Canada's clean technology sector,
- increasing economic productivity and efficiency,
- saving energy and reducing energy costs, and
- enhancing resilience to the impacts of climate change."

The goal is to reduce net emissions by 80% from 2005 levels by 2050. This will require substantial effort on the part of all Canadians, with action to be realised from virtually every greenhouse gas emission source and activity. Recognizing that every little bit helps, and that we need to walk before we can run, these actions will take many different forms:

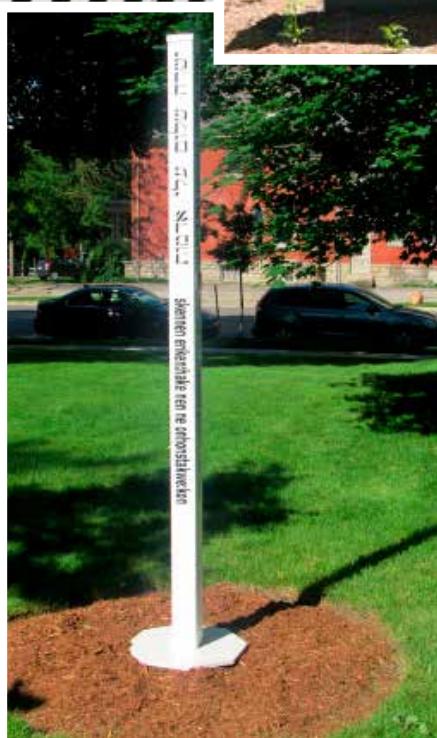
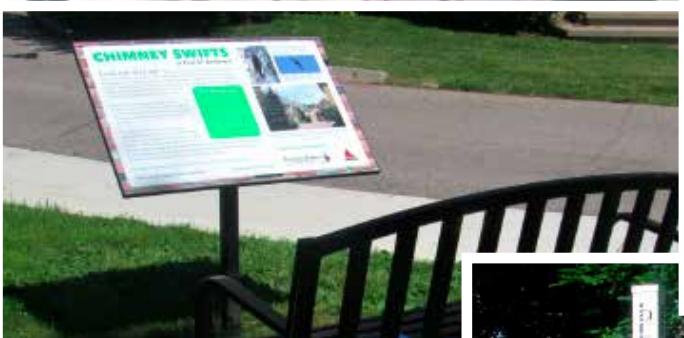
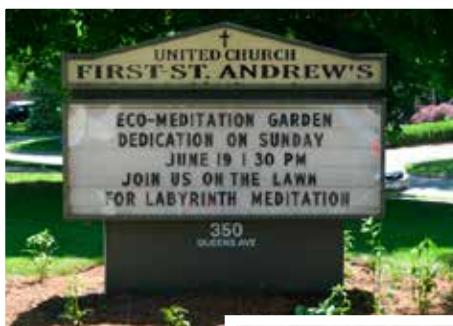
- Talk about the climate crisis with friends and family.
- Watch for our environment tips every week in the eblast and the bulletin.
- Reflect on the impact of our everyday choices when multiplied by our population.

Goals are reached through action. Please join us as we seek out ways that our actions can make a difference.

The ESC meets the third Monday of every month in the Fireside Room. †

Dedication of the Eco-Meditation Garden

June 23rd, 2019



Our Neighbours (Cont'd from Page 14)

Indwell is very excited to be in London, and appreciates the welcome we've received from First-St. Andrew's. We hope the Woodfield Gate tenants will become a part of your community, and you a part of ours.

Want to learn more and join in the discussion? St. John the Evangelist Church is hosting a panel discussion on "Housing for London's Most Vulnerable" on October 2nd at 7:00pm, 280 St. James Street. †

**Julie Ryan is the Fundraising and Community Coordinator for Indwell, a Christian charity that creates affordable housing communities. Its programming supports more than 550 households in Hamilton, Woodstock, Simcoe, and London. For further information go to www.indwell.ca.*

MILESTONES

DEATHS

Sharon Lynne McIntosh, July 3, 2019

Robert Reed, August 17, 2019

Mary Lou Douglas-Dubois, August 26, 2019

MARRIAGES

Yoandris Castro Vicet and Ana Belen Sanchez Tamayo, July 6, 2019

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Jo Ann Silcox

Director of Music

Terry Head (Ext. 3)

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