

Tidings



FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
Where liberal theology meets the best of tradition

VOLUME 19 - NUMBER 1

LENT, HOLY WEEK, EASTER 2009

FRONT PAGE

AN EASTER PEOPLE.

The year is 1991. The place is Convocation Hall at the University of Toronto. The occasion is a memorial service for Dr. Northrop (Norrie) Frye. I am seated six or eight rows from the front. Former Premier Bob Rae, a former student of Frye's and one of the speakers, is working the front of the room. To my right is Dr. Peter Gordon White, Chair of the UCC's General Council's Theology and Faith Committee. We are exchanging stories about Frye, delightfully humorous and very human stories about this Canadian icon and departed friend. Turning to face me, Peter reaches into his inside suit pocket and hands me several typed pages. "I just received the final draft of Norrie's last book," he says, "It just arrived this morning. These are the last pages. I brought them to read on the subway. You might be interested." I unfolded the pages and read:



David McKane

Our physical bodies are part of a world usually described as material, but if matter is simply energy cooled down to the point at which our physical bodies can live with it, perhaps spirit can enter a world of higher energies where the separate things spread around objective heres, and theres are no longer things to keep bumping into. In such a spiritual nature, a nature of "implicate order," as it has been called, or interpenetrating energies, and no longer the nature of congealed objects, we should be gods or numinous presences ourselves. If the spirit of man and the spirit of God inhabit the same world, that fact is more important than the theological relation between them....if death is the last enemy to be destroyed, as Paul tells us, the last metaphor to be transcended is that of the future tense, or God in the form of Beckett's Godot, who never comes but will maybe come tomorrow. The omnipresence of time gives some strange distortions to our double vision. We are born on a certain date, live a continuous identity until death on another date; then we move into an 'after'- life or 'next' world where something like ego survives indefinitely in something like a time and place. But we are not continuous identities; we have many identities, as babies, as boys and girls, and so on through life, and when we pass through or 'outgrow' these identities they return to their source. Assuming, that is, some law of conservation in the spiritual as well as the physical world exists. ...In the double vision of a spiritual and a physical world simultaneously present, every moment we have lived through we have also died out of into another order. Our life in the resurrection, then, is already here, and waiting to be recognized (p.84-5).

I turned to Peter and handed back the pages. Like a student reminiscing about an old teacher or a disciple talking about Jesus, I said, "What a great gift he has given us." "I know," said Peter, "and to think that it should arrive this morning." The Resurrection is an ongoing occurrence, the risen Christ a continuing presence, the physical and spiritual are daily and personally intermingled. We are an Easter people, carriers of death but also carriers of life and life eternal.

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EDITORS MESSAGE

by David Flynn



David Flynn

In a recent *Christian Century* article, "God Does Not Demand Blood", Daniel Bell argues against the notion of the necessity of blood sacrifice to appease God. Instead of the Crucifixion representing God's demands for the violent shedding of blood to expiate sin, Bell believes that

Jesus' death by torture on a cross, illustrates the risk of practising God's love. We must be prepared, if necessary, to suffer in our efforts to express our Christian love toward others.

It is in this sense that Dennis Pellarin begins a column on "The Faces of Christ". In part, the title means seeing different aspects of Jesus in the faces of people who serve. In a deeper sense, it is seeing Jesus' face in the faces of those who suffer. "Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to... even the least of them, you did it to Me" (Matthew 25:40).

I am amazed with the growing list of programs in the Program Guide—over sixty this issue—showing the many ways the people of FSA portray Christ's compassion as they see Christ's face in the faces of those in need. By the way, most reports of programs are now in the Program Guide.

Because of a sudden death in our daughter-in-law's immediate family, I found both David McKane's *Front Page*, and Steve Elson's *View from the Pew* personally helpful. Other articles—from June McKay's *Remembering Jack* as one of *God's Stewards*, to Janice Elliot's description of the *Amnesty Dinners*—confirm that love can overcome suffering.

Tidings has expanded to 20 pages to permit more graphics and more articles. The cost is not much more and Sterling Printing has agreed to cover part of the printing cost. We have also added several new people to the Tidings Team (see Masthead, page 2.)

Please email me feedback at pdflynn@rogers.com.

REMEMBERING GOD'S STEWARDS

THE REVEREND JOHN (JACK) MCKAY

by June McKay

On January 9th, God took into his Nearer Presence one of Earth's Weary Pilgrims.

Jack's unmistakable call to God's Ministry came at age 20, and he left the family homestead to pursue nine years of study. He found the challenge almost insurmountable after being out of school for seven years but his commitment to God was total. He graduated from Albert College, Belleville, Waterloo College; Emmanuel College, Toronto; New College, Edinburgh; and the School of Theology, Boston.

Ordained in 1957, he served the United Church in Saskatchewan, Toronto, Windsor, London and Ailsa Craig, as well as many UCC National and Presbytery committees. After retirement in 1994, he and June joined the FSA family at which time he agreed to be Visiting Pastor for 15 months.

He was a gifted preacher and writer, a caring and committed pastor, with a quick wit and an encouraging response for those in need. He was truly a 'Jack of all Trades' whose love of wood-working resulted in many cherished gifts for family and friends.

Jack's battle with Alzheimer's was long and rough, beginning about 1990, and it was a battle which we knew he could not win. The loss of memory, the inability to follow through with projects, was devastating, especially for a 'people person' whose special gift was encouraging others in communication and action. As physical strength dwindled, he became dependent upon caregivers, and it was necessary for him to be in long-term care for the last 6 1/2 years of his life, where he endured a stark, diminished existence.

Through all the struggles, Jack's faith was unshaken. In his book, "The Unfolding Drama of Christmas" he concludes:

When our brief little hour upon earth comes to a close, it is a great comfort to know that the same Jesus whom we have loved and served all our days goes with us, hand in hand, down through the dark valley of death, up, up vista'd slopes of eternity, on a path that leads to the 'house of many mansions', a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.



June & Jack McKay

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FACES OF CHRIST

DR. KEN WRIGHT (KEN)

THE CHAIR-PERSON

by Dennis Pellarin

Ken—along with his wife Jean, long time members of FSA—is a man with a passions for people and for ‘chairs’. For 10 years, he worked to raise funds for *Community Living London* (CLL) by organizing their annual ‘Chair Affair’—auctioning 1,000 specially designed and custom built chairs. During that decade, he raised over \$400,000 for CLL—a not-for-profit association dedicated to supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities, and their families.

Over the past several months, Ken has been focused on another type of ‘chair-ity’ involving another type of chair—portable dental chairs. He is making them and the services they bring with them more accessible to needy local patients. He’s combined his professional expertise as a well-reputed periodontist (a specialist dealing with gum disease), his connections as a professor of dentistry at UWO, and his



Ken Wright's movable Dental Clinic

passion for helping others, in order to offer free basic dental services to those who cannot afford them and who are attached to one of three designated social service agencies in London.

Ken has created a movable dental clinic with 5 portable chairs and ancillary equipment that operates at three London-area social-service agencies. His clinic now serves over 40 patients per month. To accomplish this, he raised \$70,000 in donations, recruited 16 volunteer dentists, and enlisted 15 staff volunteers and 80 students from UWO's School of Dentistry and Fanshawe College's Dental Hygiene and Assistant Programs.

The next time you see a car sporting a “Dr. Gum” licence plate, pulling a trailer packed with dental chairs and equipment, then “Ken’s sleigh” is on its way to its next community dental clinic to help those who might otherwise be neglected.

Together, we can smile more brightly and broadly because of Ken Wright!

PROFILE

JACKIE WILLIAMS AND TERRY PETERS
TRANSITIONS

by George Jolink

When Jackie and Terry came to London from Montreal in 1997, the move was another in a life of transitions. As FSA enters a period of transition, with Jackie as Chair of Council, we can benefit from their experiences of change.

Members of an active church in Montreal, they anticipated difficulties in finding a similar church here. As professional researchers, they planned to visit many churches before making their decision. Barry Moore's Free Press article on FSA's inclusivity attracted them here first. Thanks to the pink mugs for visitor's and Terry's McGill tie, Ken (a McGill alumnus) and Jean

Wright spoke to them at once and this developed into a dear friendship. Jackie and Terry never did visit other churches and became members of FSA as well as the senior choir.

Jackie and Terry met at the Montreal Neurological Institute. Terry had moved from New Zealand in 1977 and Jackie

from the UK, via Calgary and PEI, in 1988. Their blended family includes four daughters: Emma (New Zealand), Claire (Toronto), Carla (Montreal) and, somewhat confusingly, Emma (Montreal). Tragically, Terry's son Tim died accidentally in New Zealand in 1995. They are proud grandparents of Jett Rose in Auckland and Riley in Montreal.

Both Jackie and Terry work at the Robarts Research Institute, where they work in Imaging technology as well as teaching. They have collaborated on two books.

Whether it be immigrating to a new country, moving within Canada, changing jobs, blending two families or dealing with the loss of a child, Jackie and Terry have faced each transition with a focus on the positive. In Jackie's words:

It's not that I particularly enjoy change and upheaval—it can be heart wrenching—but when I look back on the transitions I've made, they were times of personal growth that I wouldn't have missed for anything. It is important to embrace change and look for the positive aspects.

We are blessed during our own time of transition to have the leadership of Jackie as the new Council Chair—and the continued participation of both in the community of FSA.



George Jolink



Terry Peters



Jackie Williams

GETTING TO KNOW...

ALLYSON, JEFF AND MADDIE WATSON

by Valerie Moretti

Maddie Watson was baptized at FSA in 2008, over half a century after her great-great-grandmother Helen Cram joined an early FSA women's group. Maddie's mother, Allyson, grew up in Rochester and then Philadelphia, where her grandfather, Robert, one of Helen's sons, was a doctor.

Maddie's father, Jeff, is from Aylmer but an athletic scholarship brought him Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Michigan. From there he went to Villanova University in 1998 as a conditioning advisor to the women's water polo team whose coach was...Allyson Gillespie. They were married in 2004.

It took a few years for Allyson to complete graduate work at Villanova, and, after lengthy commutes from her home in metropolitan Philadelphia, she and Jeff were determined to move to a less populated area. They wanted to start a family, be close to other family members, and see EACH OTHER more than a few hours a day.

In 2007, Jeff joined the Athletic Department at UWO, recruited by a school friend from Aylmer, Mike Lysko, Western's Athletic Director. The family moved just after



Val Moretti



Allyson and Maddie Watson

Maddie's birth, and they chose as the christening godfather, Allyson's mother's first cousin, Brian Cram, another grandson of Helen and a long time member of FSA. The Watson family then joined the FSA family, making Maddie the fifth generation of Crams at FSA.

The Watsons are a busy, gifted young family. Allyson sews, reads and gardens, and Jeff tends to the 'inside' things at home. Allyson volunteers at ELUCO, offering program support for preschool

education—her MA is in school counselling. Jeff is busy making all of Western's teams and athletes stronger and fitter. Maddie is one of the regulars at FSA's nursery and has her own familiar pack of pals and care-givers.

Allyson is looking for more family opportunities at FSA and is interested in building relationships with other stay-at-home mothers. She is keen to develop programs that will encourage the involvement of other young families in our church.

We welcome the Watsons with open arms just as they have embraced their new home. What a terrific asset for FSA and for London!

BEHIND THE SCENES I

FUNERAL RECEPTIONS AT FSA

by Louise Slater

Bereaved FSA families often choose to celebrate the deceased member's life with a funeral or memorial service in the sanctuary or chapel. Many of these families wish to have a reception afterward which may take place in Proudfoot Hall, the Church Parlour, Chapel, or Atrium. Our volunteer *Funeral Reception Committee* was formed last fall after UCW decided they no longer wished to take on this responsibility. The Committee works with each family to make the event memorable, attractive and smooth running. Tea, coffee, juice and water are provided to complement refreshments chosen by the family.

How is this organized? Two of the following people act as team leaders for each reception: Helen Guthrie, Shelley Kostecki, Louise Slater, Trudy Valentine, Roberta Wenn and Paul Wenn. In turn, the team



Louise Slater

leaders recruit volunteers from this bank of well-known FSAers: Millie Bates, Charlotte Ann Bell, Jean Comfort, Jan Cram, Heather Locking Cusolito, Heather Eaman, Doreen Gartley, Margarie Gunton, Muriel Harris, Jean Hudson, Doug Jones, Paul Mansell, Pat McGregor, Russ Monteith, Charlotte Oldham, Thelma Pleiter, Pat Potter, Lillian Reid, Jeane Stewardson, Pat Tripp, Elspeth Watson, Elaine Wilson, and Margaret Wonfor.

As well, personal friends of the family may be invited to assist or offer their services. The motivation of the Committee is to be helpful to the family, and make all the visitors who attend feel at home as they come together in support. Families have expressed appreciation to the Committee and some have chosen to make a donation to FSA in recognition of its services.

ELUCO EASTER BUNS

ELUCO will be taking orders for homemade cinnamon buns during Lent. The buns will be distributed on Easter Sunday. Orders can be placed through Janice Elliott or Linda Badke.

BEHIND THE SCENES II

THE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

by Donna Travis



Donna Travis

In the Fall of 2008 Council approved the position of Volunteer Coordinator. This volunteer position was for a one year trial period. A job description was developed and approved by Council. Council Chair, Stan Hill, publicized the position, asking for volunteers. I indicated my interest and was approved by Council. It

was decided I would attend Council meetings and give a monthly report but not have voting privileges.

Since then, the time has flown by. I initially started by identifying all of our current FSA Volunteers. Lists were attractively typed by Muriel Parsons and displayed during our Volunteer Celebration Day December 7. The "Celebrate our Volunteers Day" was planned with a stewardship theme, generating wonderful co-operation from all the committees of FSA, together displaying their many activities. It was a very successful after-church event with full co-operation of everyone—with the exception of the weatherman.

Since then, an inventory of opportunities for volunteer activities has been developed with input from staff and committee chairs. We now have a Staging Crew—to help set up for such events as music—and an Office Assistant Group of volunteers. I am careful not to interfere with already established and well functioning groups such as Coffee and Conversation, Ushering, and Hospitality Meals, although I will be actively recruiting and, I hope, adding to their numbers as well as other groups.

I welcome suggestion from any member of the congregation for new volunteer opportunities as well as any of your thoughts of areas in which you personally might be interested in volunteering. I plan to telephone members of the congregation over the next few months. Please feel free to call me at 672-6116.



**PICTURES FROM
VOLUNTEER
SUNDAY & JNAC
DECEMBER 7, 2008**

THE LEGACY OF WILLIAM PROUDFOOT

PITRODDIE PARISH

by Gavin McGregor

Ten months after his ordination at Pitroddie, the Rev. William Proudfoot and Isobel Aitchison were married in Liberton, near Edinburgh in 1814. He preached at Pitroddie on Sunday June 5th, where the banns were read, journeyed to Liberton, was married on the Wednesday and was back in Pitroddie for the service on the 12th.

From the manse Isobel could see him working on a new church, desperately needed to replace the dilapidated structure he had inherited. The building, partially his design and known as the meeting-house, attracted the attention of architects from nearby Dundee.

The couple had little time to enjoy the pleasant countryside in the Carse of Gowrie, the low lying region in which Pitroddie lies. During construction, the Pitroddie manse was a hive of activity. What a contrast to her early life on the family farm near Biggar!



Gavin McGregor



Above: This photograph of Pitroddie Church is from *Pitroddie Perspectives 2003* ISBN 0 9054529 by Donald Abbott whose ancestors signed Proudfoot's call to Pitroddie in 1813.

A year later Isobel gave birth to their first child, Mary Wilson, named after her mother. At that joyous time she could not have imagined 20 years later at age forty-six, giving birth to their 11th child, Emily, in the far-off land of Upper Canada, where William would once again be organizing a congregation and building a church.

Over the years, the Pitroddie congregation struggled to meet its obligations to the parish and to the Proudfoots. Membership increased but the economic situation became worse. William started a boarding school. He taught classics and mathematics while Isobel looked after the students' board. He meticulously accounted for every penny spent—on pencils, on paper, on clothing and even on haircuts—the advantage of having a patron may have crossed his mind but—perish the thought!

In 1831, the United Secession Church put out a call for missionaries to Canada; William was accepted. Early in 1832, in typical fashion, he started planning and settling affairs with his loyal congregation.

The sadness over leaving Pitroddie gradually changed to excitement, especially amongst the children, as the departure day drew near.

THE VIEW FROM THE PEW

LIFE AFTER DEATH OR "IS THAT ALL THERE IS?"

by Steve Elson

I thought it might be timely to talk about life after death since we are in the season of lent with Easter fast approaching.

Life after death is an elusive yet persistent theme in many religious traditions, including our own. Life after death reflects our human desire to believe that there is something beyond our material existence here on earth—that there is a spiritual existence that lives beyond our physical body and its obvious limitations. As one popular song says, "Is that all there is ..."

In large measure, this hope for an afterlife is based upon our belief, understanding and experience that while we are alive we already embody both a physical and spiritual life. And while our physical existence is tied to and limited by our material life, our spiritual life is



Steve Elson

not—it's perceived and sometimes experienced as part of something larger. So while it's nothing we can see, touch, smell or hear with our senses, it is experienced personally and subjectively as something that is quite real—it's in our mind and our consciousness.

So, if we are prepared to accept this as a dynamic of life as we know and live it now, we can perhaps accept the idea of our spiritual life extending beyond our physical death. What is less clear is whether our individual consciousness lives on—it might simply be folded into the "light at the end of the tunnel" as people having had near death experiences have described it.

In the meantime, our capacity to love, feel compassion and act in the interests of others is a spiritual statement of our capacity to allow our material life to be guided and informed by our spirit.

Lem Wong arrived in 1896. He and his wife Toye, one of the first Chinese Canadian families in London, joined FSA. All but one of their eight children graduated from university and most became professionals (Free Press, Jan.31, 2009: E4).

MULTIGENERATIONAL FAMILIES

FOUR GENERATIONS OF MACDONALDS

by John A. MacDonald

My maternal grandfather, George Gilmore, emigrated from Ireland in 1887. He became a Presbyterian minister, and his first charge was St. George's Presbyterian Church in East London, a mission congregation of FSA. There he met my grandmother, Jessie Murdoch, and they married in 1902. From London, the Gilmores moved to Blenheim, where my mother Kathleen was born in 1905. Later the family moved to various churches in Western Ontario until George and Jessie retired to London in 1939, again joining FSA.

My parents, John and Kathleen, were married at FSA by Dr. MacGregor in 1930, and they had three boys: John A., Keith and Ross. We all attended Cubs and joined FSA. My mother was very involved, especially in the Marian Keith (Dr. MacGregor's wife) Club which became Delta Rho and, eventually, the UCW. Mom also taught Sunday School, and a set of children's hand bells were donated in her memory.

I recall helping my Dad, an Elder, deliver communion cards. He also taught Sunday School, and took part in the Christmas pageants. One of Dad's major tasks was to get us up Sunday morning in time to polish our shoes for church!

LuAnne and I raised two boys and two girls, and both girls were married at FSA. I feel as though I have been involved in most aspects of church life here, including

chairing the Board of Stewards, the Property Committee and the Trustees, as well as co-chairing the fundraising committee for our Casavant organ.

Ross and Svetlana had four boys, and their youngest, Phillip, has recently started attending FSA. Keith and Barbara and their four children lived near Toronto but his daughter Cathy and her family are members of FSA. So the tie of the MacDonalds to FSA carries on into the fourth generational.

Over the years FSA has been a real gift to the MacDonalds. We've made wonderful friends, and the church has helped us to become better people. It is our hope that this congregation will continue to be a guiding light to all those who are exposed to the fellowship of this great church.



John A. MacDonald's mother and Grandparents, c.1910

AMNESTY UPDATE

by Janice Elliott

During the Advent Season, the congregation at FSA signed 70 *Messages of Hope* to be sent to prisoners of conscience around the world by way of Amnesty International.

Messages of Hope were also signed at *Taste for Justice Dinners* held at people's homes during the months of January and February. Eleven members of the congregation offered to host dinners in their homes to give friends the opportunity to write letters to remind governments and corporations of the necessity to respect human rights. Some guests also chose to make donations to Amnesty International. We heard enthusiastic comments from hosts such as, "We had a great time." "These were all church members and we enjoyed getting to know each other better." "It was an enjoyable way to support Amnesty".

The annual *Amnesty Write for Rights* will be held in Proudfoot Hall on March 29 immediately following the

church service. Lunch will be provided for those who are participating in the writing of letters. Paper, pens and envelopes will be available. Provisions for photocopying letters will be made. As well, you may wish to bring your own laptop. If you have limited time, consider signing a petition or post cards.

Last year the 'children's room' letters were well-received. Premier Dalton McGuinty responded with a letter thanking the children for their letters. His letter is posted on the Amnesty Bulletin Board in Proudfoot Hall. Opportunities will be given for children to participate once again this year.

Human rights abuses can be stopped. Justice and dignity for all people everywhere can be achieved but only when enough people speak out.

"The power of love can conquer the love of power."



COUNCIL REPORTS

THE ANNUAL MEETING

by Stan Hill, Past Chair

Our Annual Congregational Meeting took place on Sunday, February 8, 2009. The meeting was well attended and the debate was lively.



Stan Hill

A considerable amount of time was devoted to an examination of the Finance Committee's proposed budget for 2009, which included a reduction in the percentage of envelope givings directed to the UCC Mission and Services Fund. The Finance Committee proposed a cut from 22% in 2008 to 15% in the 2009 budget. This would have produced a budget deficit of approximately \$20,000.

Finance Committee Chair Michael Cooney eloquently defended the Finance Committee's proposed budget, essentially suggesting that FSA's needs in-house should have a higher priority than our concern for outreach. Other attendees equally eloquently promoted the need for M & S funds as a basic and fundamental component of the United Church of Canada's work, locally, nationally and internationally. After over an hour of debate, an amendment which raised the level of M & S funding from 15% of envelope givings to 18% was passed. The amended budget was then approved. The bottom line, however, now showed a budget deficit of approximately \$36,000.

Wendy Eaman, Chair of the Membership and Nurture Committee, recognized the service to FSA of the following volunteers:

- Committee Chairs stepping down: Michael Cooney (Finance), Russ Knight (Property), Donna Travis (MOE), Muriel Parsons (Membership and Nurture) and Paul Pergau (Christian Development).
- Council Executive Term Expired: Catherine Leatherdale (Secretary) and Susan Fullerton (Past Chair of Council and Past Chair of Nominating)
- Long Service Committee Members (at least nine years): Heather Vouvalidis, Marg Leonard, Lu McLean and Jim Hutchinson.

What would we do without our legion of volunteers?

On a personal note, toward the end of the Annual Meeting, I received a delightful gift from the congregation to mark the end of my two year term as Chair of Council. I wish to thank the members of FSA for this generous gesture. It is much appreciated.

The meeting concluded with the passing of the gavel to our new Council Chair: Jackie Williamson. We wish her well.



Stan Hill
FSA Annual Meeting



Jackie Williams
New Council Chair



*First-St.
Andrew's
United
Church
Annual
Meeting*

THE JOINT NEEDS ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

by Rocky Moretti, Chair

The Joint Needs Assessment Committee (JNAC) at First-St. Andrews held its initial meeting in January with representatives of Middlesex Presbytery. We have continued with bi-weekly meetings as we begin the process of preparing a report that will guide future staffing decisions at FSA.



Rocky Moretti

The JNAC was appointed by the Church Council in order to start evaluating the church and its future needs in light of the coming retirement of the Reverend David McKane in 2010. Interviews with church groups, staff and committees as well as former members, along with a survey of current members will have been conducted by members of the JNAC by the time you read this.

Once the JNAC has gathered opinions, data and other information from the FSA community, it will prepare a report that will evaluate FSA's current status and then will recommend a model of future ministry for the church, and provide a description of the skills and abilities that should be sought by the congregation at FSA as it makes future staffing decisions. A full report from the JNAC is anticipated this Spring. If you have any questions on the JNAC process, please contact me at 642-4896.

“WHAT?! ME LIKE PETER?”

by Mary McKim

The UCW Services on January 25th were conducted by the women of FSA, sharing the Call to Worship, readings, prayers, announcements, and Benediction. Replacing the sermon was a humorous skit based on the New Testament reading of Peter’s denial.



Mary McKim

Using hyperbole, a number of vignettes illustrated how we fail at Christian virtues—tolerance, forbearance, inclusiveness, compassion, consideration, selflessness and dedication. Ending each vignette was a cock crow from the rear of the sanctuary, awakening the actors (and hopefully the congregation) to the implications of the words “What?! Me like Peter?”

The use of humour to emphasize a serious message is a time honoured means of communication. We hope our message was received with good humour and that no one was offended

The Inch Trail in Joany’s Woods, named after Helen and Spencer, deceased members of FSA, is now mapped and marked for hikers (The TaTTLer (the Thames Talbot Land Trust newsletter) December, 2008: 2).

Orchestra London held it’s New Year’s Opera Gala Jan. 3 in our sanctuary. Wouldn’t it be great if Orchestra London chose FSA over Centennial Hall as a performing venue regularly in 2009?

Christina Lindsey, daughter of Bev and Bob, has volunteered to “sign”, using American Sign Language, on alternate Sundays in order to improve her skills—and help the hearing impaired. Her dancing hands are especially lively during sprightly music numbers! Perhaps we should advertise this new aspect of our inclusivity.

WHITE SQUIRREL MAKES APPEARANCE

FIRST TIME IN 20 YEARS—MYSTIFIES TOWN OF EXETER

by David Knoppert

Exeter, ON. The beloved white squirrel of Exeter has made an unscheduled appearance after an absence of more than 20 years. This has mystified the people of Exeter, especially the owners of the Ironwood Golf Course.



David Knoppert

“Probably due to that group from London”, commented Michelle, the Ironwood Manager. “They have this special golf tournament each June to raise money for a children’s school in South America”.

The great deal—cart, golf, dinner, all for \$100—probably enticed the white squirrel to attend. “I think that she really enjoys coming to the tournament,” said Jean Knowles, “and I think that she really enjoys the atmosphere. She doesn’t play golf very well but she’s encouraged to come and just have fun.”



The golf game is always followed by a sumptuous dinner at 6:30, and then a silent and live auction. “I encourage everyone, especially non-golfers, to come out on June 13th this year,” recommended the White Squirrel. “I will be there again”.

More details and registration forms will be available in late March.

Jean Wright was one of the recipients of the *Women of Excellence* awards given by the Y of Western Ontario for 2009. She was commended for several contributions, including her community volunteering, her role in education and efforts in policy changing. Congratulations, Jean! (Free Press, Feb. 19, 2009: A3).

ANTIQUe AND COLLECTIBLE SALE

SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH, 2009, 8AM TO 1PM

by June McKay

We are looking for donations to the second annual *Antique and Collectible Sale*. We suggest linens, hankies, jewellery, pewter and silver, toys, dolls, tools, vintage clothing, glassware, china, books, and—'odd-ball' things in general!—but not 'White Elephants'—only truly collectible items.



June McKay

All items must be in excellent condition and clean. Please do not bring items to the church until after April 12th (Easter). They must be clearly marked "ANTIQUe AND COLLECTIBLE SALE". If it is not possible to store items at your home we will pick up and hold them.

Note: there will NOT be a Rummage Sale this spring. Please hold Rummage items until the fall sale—date to be decided.

We would also appreciate your help with set-up and pricing, Thursday and Friday, April 23 and 24th, as well as help at the April 25th sale. We need EVERYONE—including men and young people.

Call June McKay 471-5668 with your ideas, and if you would like to get involved.

Antique and Collectible SALE



+ Table of Home Baking!



Saturday
April 25th

8 am
to 1 pm

First-St. Andrews
350 Queens Ave.
(at Waterloo)
London, ON

Admission: \$1



Changes...

BAPTISMS

January 11, 2009

Gabriel Hamilton Sambulo Neron
son of Jennifer Neron and Michael Cooney

February 15, 2009

Liljah Jean Radstaak daughter of
Krista and Wesley Radstaak

DEATHS

November 14, 2008..... Gordon Cudmore
November 28, 2008..... Gordon Hill
December 4, 2008..... Dixie Brooks
December 10, 2008..... Chuck Bason
December 20, 2008..... Alan Farmer

January 9, 2009..... John (Jack) McKay
January 19, 2009..... Angus McKenzie
February 4, 2009..... Patricia Hale
February 7, 2009..... Stefan Banasiak

PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE (679-8182) FOR MARRIAGE, BAPTISM OR FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS.

First-S. Andrew's United Church

A Christian Community encouraging spiritual growth through
worship, friendship, learning and action.

PROGRAM GUIDE

WORSHIP

March 15	9:00am and 10:30am Lent III Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad	April 19	Environment Sunday Greening of the Cross Rev. Dr. David McKane	May 17	10:30am <i>Victoria Day Holiday Weekend</i> Guest
March 22	9:00am and 10:30am Lent IV Rev. Dr. David McKane	April 26	Guest: Ross Lockhart <i>Susan Shelstad on Sabbatical May/July</i>	May 24	10:30am Conference Rev. Dr. David McKane
March 29	9:00am and 10:30am Lent V Rev. Dr. David McKane	May 3	9:00am and 10:30am <i>Last 9:00 am Service until the Fall</i> Baptism/New Members Rev. Dr. David McKane	May 31	10:30am Pentecost Communion Rev. Dr. David McKane
April 5	9:00am and 10:30am Palm/Passion Sunday	May 6	2 PM May Communion <i>David McKane in Ireland May 8-23</i>	June 7	10:30am Trinity Sunday Rev. Dr. David McKane
April 10	11:00 am Good Friday at FSA	May 10	10:30am Guest		
April 12	9:00am and 10:30am Easter Communion Rev. Dr. David McKane	May 13	10:30am Guest		

SCRIPTURE READINGS

For each Sunday service, different people from the congregation read the first scripture selection. We believe that the Word is active and living to the extent that it is enunciated and heard through many voices across all generations and abilities. Please contact Elspeth Watson for more information.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

The lighting of the Christ Candle at the front of the church early during the Sunday service symbolizes the intentionality of the congregation to invite Christ's presence among us, and so prepares us for worship. June McKay (471-5668) uses an intergenerational approach when recruiting persons to read.



FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

If you would like to display flowers during the Sunday Service in memory of a loved one or in celebration of an event please sign the flower calendar outside the chapel. Make arrangements for flower delivery the Friday before and advise the church office (679-8182) of the wording you would like in the bulletin, and also if you would be taking the flowers with you or leaving them for distribution.



MUSIC REPORT

**PAUL MERRITT'S
25TH ANNIVERSARY AT FSA**
by Anne Cummings



Anne Cummings

On Sunday, January 18, Paul Merritt was recognized in the morning service for his 25 years of exemplary service as Director of Music at FSA. In appreciation, Paul was presented with a cheque from donations by members of the congregation and Enid was presented with flowers. After the service, a celebration organized by the Music Committee occurred with a luncheon in Proudfoot Hall, attended by over 150 people. Musical entertainment was provided by FSA Strings, Laudamus Bells, Joyful Singers, and the Junior Joyfuls. The Music Committee is very grateful to the congregation for the freewill offering for lunch of over \$800 which was given to the operating budget of the church.

Paul Merritt grew up in Thunder Bay and began his organ work in high school as organist of the Baptist and United Churches. He came to the Faculty of Music at UWO to continue his organ studies and there learned a love of choral directing from Deral Johnson. His first position after graduating was as organist and choir director in Moncton. He was thrilled to be able to come back to London with the position at FSA, although was a little intimidated to be directing some of his former music professors in our choir!



Paul Merritt

We, as a congregation, have much to be thankful for in the ministry of music by Paul Merritt. Over his 25 years, the music program has grown with many talented musicians coming to FSA to be part of our high calibre music groups. As well, under his leadership, the yearly concert series has been strengthened and now draws outstanding international artists, as well as showcasing our local talent. His musicianship on the organ, piano, and directing, has also deepened so that we regularly hear concert level performances. His diligent work ethic, his care and commitment, his faith, kindness, and friendship all make us say, "Well done, you good and faithful servant!"

CHORAL AND INSTRUMENTAL

FSA is committed to a Music Ministry that is rich in variety, grounded in spiritual integrity and inclusive of all ages. Consider the many opportunities to rejoice with us.

THE CHOIRS

TO SING IS THE THING

THE SENIOR CHOIR

Our Senior Choir sings weekly at the 10:30am Sunday service and in outreach concerts of the Music at First-St. Andrew's Series. Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7:30-9:30pm. Some music reading ability and prior choral experience are helpful, and regular commitment is essential. Please contact Paul Merritt at 679-8182 or 679-9173.

THE CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

The Junior Joyfuls (ages 3-8) led by Terese Sirek Ng and the Joyful Singers (ages 8 and up) led by Paul and Enid Merritt always welcome members. Both choirs rehearse on Wednesdays at 6:30pm. If your child/children would like to join in the excitement, please call Terese Sirek Ng (432-2894) or the Merritts (679-9173).

THE LAUDAMUS BELLS

Our Laudamus Bell Choir is a friendly group of musicians who play in services about once a month. New members are welcome. Prerequisites include an ability to read music and knowledge of music approximately to the grade 6 level. Specific training on the bells will be provided. Rehearsals are on Monday evenings. Call Barbara Plante, Director (472-4586 or 461-1202) for further information.



Anne Cummings congratulates Paul

THE FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S STRINGS

The FSA Strings is an accomplished performing group that has enjoyed increased exposure over the past years. If you are (or have been) an active string player and are from high school age to much older ... and wish to play with our group, please leave both your phone number and e-mail address with Bruce Richardson, Leader (473-1023).



Above: Junior Joyfuls ring bells
Below: Enid and Paul are honoured



MUSIC MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND!

SUPPORT FSA'S MUSICAL OUTREACH PROGRAM, FRIENDS OF MUSIC. MAKE DONATIONS TO THE CHURCH IN YOUR NAME OR IN MEMORIAL TO ANOTHER.

Your donations to this self-supporting fund help to underwrite production costs to allow affordable ticket prices for international and local artists such as:

**ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET
CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA CONCERTS**

Make your cheque out to First-St. Andrew's and note that it is for Friends of Music.

You will receive a tax receipt and your Name on the Concert Series brochure.

CONCERT SERIES

-----MARCH-----

FRIDAY LENTEN NOON RECITALS

12:00 - 12:30 (\$5.00)

LUNCH BY THAMES CULINARY SCHOOL

- | | |
|----------|--|
| March 6 | Paul Merritt, Organ |
| March 13 | Jasmine Long, Cello, Bob Kennedy, Clarinet, Lynda Kennedy, Piano |
| March 27 | Anne Cunningham, Flute
Paul Merritt, Piano |



A SALUTE TO MENDELSSOHN

Saturday, April 25th, 2009 at 7:30pm

An evening of choral works honouring Mendelssohn's 200th Anniversary Soloists and Choir of First-St. Andrew's with full Orchestra, Paul Merritt, Conductor

Program includes choruses & solos from Elijah & St. Paul Hear My Prayer and Psalm 115

Admission: Adults \$15.00, Seniors/Students \$12.00

Reception to follow

-----APRIL-----

THE ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

Friday, April 3rd, 2009 at 7:30pm

Geoff Nuttall, Violin, Lesley Robertson, Viola
Scott St. John, Violin, Christopher Costanza, Cello

New composition by John Adams for the SLSQ

Admission \$20.00 - Children under 14 Free



Paul Merritt accepts congratulations from the congregation for 25 years of faithful service to FSA

CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CRADLE ROLL

A kit called Growing in God's Love is sent to families with a new baby to help celebrate important events to age 3. Coordinator: Martha Bere (641-6947)

NURSERY

Our nursery is available at the 10:30am service for infants from babies until two years old. The nursery room is next door to the Chapel on the main floor. Nursery Staff: Lisa Chevrette and Erin Lovenjak

CHURCH SCHOOL

Teachers and helpers are needed for the spring term! If you're interested, please speak to Chris or Monique Silcox, Church School Coordinators (226-663-2048)

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT

TEENS IN TRANSIT (TNT)

For young people in grades 7 and 8. This group meets on Sunday mornings at 10:30am upstairs in the newly decorated "Green Room" during the regular church school year. Leader: Nancy Howard (289-1959).

TEEN CONFIRMATION CLASS

In order to offer a larger group experience we have postponed this year's small class to next year.

IMPACT

IMPACT enjoyed an active Winter, including skating at Storybook Gardens, ice hockey on the Morettis' backyard rink and cross country skiing at the Circle R Ranch. The IMPACT group meets every Sunday during church and also gets together regularly for a variety of social and service activities. The IMPACT group is excited about the improvements that have been completed in the youth area, including a video game room and a new and highly improved ping pong table.



Rocky Moretti

This Spring, IMPACT plans to host a number of activities including a canoeing trip, a bicycling outing, several evening events at FSA and a return to Camp Kee-Mo-Kee. The IMPACT program continues to grow and FSA members are encouraged to let other young people know about this dynamic program.

IMPACT is hosted by First St. Andrew's United Church and has a junior group for young people in grades 6 to 8 and a senior group for young people in high school. Details on the IMPACT program can be found at www.fsaunited.com by clicking on IMPACT. If you have any questions please call Rocky Moretti (642-4896) or email him at frankrmoretti@hotmail.com.

ADULT DEVELOPMENT

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Meets weekly from 9-10am in the Sun Room (across from the Nursery). Facilitator: Dr. Jo Ann Silcox (642-2152).

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

10am in the Parlour. Facilitator: Susan Shelstad (679-8182).

DREAM GROUP

Come and discover the amazing world of your dreams. We meet now on the first Friday of the month at 7:30pm in the Parlour. For more information, contact Anne Cunningham (433-9663) or Susan Shelstad (679-8182).

SPIRITUALITY ON TAP

An informal evening of a movie and discussion about it from a spiritual perspective. Watch the announcements for dates, movies and times.

Countering Pharaoh's Production-Consumption Society Today

Another in the series, "Living the Questions," this video features Walter Brueggemann. Wednesday evenings in March at 7pm.

OTHER - LIBRARY & CD SCHOLARSHIP

Our church library contains many wonderful things—good books for all ages, videos, and periodicals—all for your use. Come in and check us out!

Donations to this fund are used to help children, young people and adults attend programs and events such as youth retreats, camp, and Conference events. Your help is always appreciated.

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

The purpose of the UCW is to unite women of the congregation for the total mission of the church, and to provide a medium through which we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service. The UCW welcomes and encourages all women at FSA to become a member of the U.C.W. and to help keep up the good work in the years ahead. For more information contact Laurel Kenney (439-9300).

UCW REPORT

by Margaret Wonfor and Mary McKim

What better way to foster fellowship in a group than to share a meal together? The Tuesday Evening Unit provided this opportunity to FSA women on January 20 by hosting a pot luck luncheon and programme to start the 2009 year.

The icing on the cake was Natalie Cram's illustrated presentation of her summer trip to Nigeria with "Partners International." Natasha, a medical student at UWO, was chosen to work with two Nigerian doctors treating patients, some of whom had walked for miles hoping to find relief from their ailments. Treatment for malaria and intestinal worms were among the many new experience for this young Canadian med student. She also had a glimpse into the scope of work in international development undertaken by this group. Engineers come to work on wells to provide safe drinking water. Education is not a given for everyone, particularly girls, and is another aspect of these development programmes. The FSA UCW was privileged to have a small share in making this trip possible.

The UCW conducted the Services on January 25th. The sermon was a humorous skit based on the New Testament account of Peter's denial. Using hyperbole, a number of vignettes illustrated the failure of Christian virtues—tolerance, forbearance, inclusiveness, compassion, consideration, selflessness and dedication. Ending each vignette was a cock crow from the

rear of the sanctuary, awakening the actors (and hopefully the congregation) to the implications of the words "What! Me like Peter?"

The UCW Annual Meeting was held after church on February 1. Laurel Kenney was re-elected president and the 2009 budget approved. About 80% of the net income is designated for outreach projects in London and beyond.

Support for travel assistance was approved for two young women. Sarah Lenahan, an education student, will spend two months in Poland as a teacher of teachers. Candice Stewardson, a community development student, will spend a part of her summer in Ecuador working on a safe drinking water project.

The Antique and Collectibles sale is planned for April 25, and a Bake Sale will be held in conjunction with this.

The Holly bazaar date is November 14.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

FSA has two units meeting monthly. The Mary and Martha Unit—the amalgamated Wednesday and Thursday units—meets the second Wednesday of each month at 2:00 in the Parlour.

The Tuesday Night Unit meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm in the Parlour.



*Margaret Wonfor
reads the
scriptureLesson*

UCW PROGRAMS

ANTIQUE AND COLLECTIBLE SALE

Please contact June McKay (471-5668) for details.

HOLLY BAZAAR

ISABEL GETLIFFE SEWING GROUP

Meets Wednesdays from 9:30am-2pm from spring until the Fall Bazaar in November. Everyone interested in hand and machine sewing, cutting and stuffing is welcome. The group prepares items for sale at the Bazaar. Bring a lunch—coffee is provided. Contact Lorraine MacDonald (433-8815) for more information.

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

Please contact Trudy Valentine for information.

FUNERAL RECEPTIONS

Please contact Louise Slater or church office (679-8182) for information.

MARATHON BRIDGE

The UCW invites interested ladies to join the UCW Marathon Bridge group for the 2008-2009 season. Friendly, non-competitive games are played once a month from October to May, with each partner hostessing twice during the season.

WE WELCOME NEW BRIDGE PLAYERS. Join and be part of fun and fellowship with friends.

Contact: Joni Pypka (681-6900) or email pagegirl@sympatico.ca.

PHANTOM TEA

For information contact Laurel Kenney (439-9300).

RUMMAGE SALE

MISSION OUTREACH/ENVIRONMENT

This committee is involved in a wide variety of outreach programs, both here in London and throughout the world. In particular, MOE is responsible for activities of Mission and Service Fund at FSA. Some of MOE's activities are listed below. If you are interested in being on this very active and energetic Committee please contact Paul Mansell (paulmansell@sympatico.ca).

MISSION AND SERVICE

Los QUINCHOS

Los Quinchos is a school for child street vendors in Managua, Nicaragua and is supported by a block grant from the Mission & Service Fund of the United Church. The proceeds from our sales of organic Fair Trade chocolate and coffee from Nicaragua support this project.

COMMON OVERSEAS RELIEF OFFERINGS

Special offerings on some communion Sundays are sent to the United Church to help them respond to urgent humanitarian crises around the world. Contact Barbara Dalrymple (433-4460)

ALTERNATE GIFT CATALOGUE

Produced by London Conference. Your gifts support Mission & Service Fund projects, both locally and globally. Go to www.londonconference.ca, and click "Hope Book" on the left menu or ask Maureen Scarborough in the FSA office to print you off a hard copy. Catalogue may be used to purchase special gifts for birthdays, anniversaries and Christmas.

LONDON OUTREACH

DECEMBER SHOP AND DINE

Our Shop and Dine event attracted about 40 FSA members and 20 friends. Good food at J Dee's Market Grill was followed by fun shopping at Jill's Table next door. Both Jill's Table and J. Dee's were pleased with the turnout and between them contributed \$500 from their day's receipts to help fund MOE's projects.

ELUCO

Recently, we donated \$100 from the sale of Canadian Church Calendars to ELUCO (East London United Church Outreach) to be used for baby formula. ELUCO is located on Marconi Blvd. in East London and offers counselling, emergency services and support for families in need. For more information, please contact Linda Badke.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

HOSPITALITY MEALS

For more information, please contact Bill or Jean Knowles (657-9156)

Each summer houses are built for low-income families under the auspices of Habitat. Our committee provides lunch and snacks for the volunteer builders for two days.

For more information, please contact Tom and Shirley Wynne (474-4768) or the church office (679-8182).

LIFT

The official opening of Victory House on King Street, built in part by LIFT (London Interfaith Team) will be held sometime in the future. The tenants have now moved in and are enjoying the warmth of their new apartments as well as a very nice common room in which to meet and socialize. It is a vast improvement on their previous living arrangements. For more information, please contact Paul Mansell (472-4078) or Bill Knowles (657-9156).

ST. PAUL'S DAILY BREAD

Each month over 300 needy families visit St. Paul's Cathedral Food Bank. They are allowed to receive food once every three months. If funds are available, and if they show valid proof, they may receive assistance for utility bills. Volunteers also serve lunch to approximately 175 people, five days a week at their Fellowship Centre. For more information, please contact Jean or Bill Knowles (657-9156).

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF MOE

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Each March, we hold an annual Write for Rights event. The congregation is invited to join us for a luncheon, and an opportunity to write letters to address injustices throughout the world. Here are some examples of the power of those letters.

"Just to know that the outside world had not forgotten me...was an immense source of encouragement during those dark days." (Thich Qung Do, Buddhist monk from Viet Nam)

"When the first 200 letters came, the guards gave me back my clothes. Then the next 200 came, and the prison director came to see me... The letters kept arriving, and the president told them to let me go...After I was released the president asked me: 'How is it a trade union leader like you has so many friends all over the world?' (Julio de Pena Valdez, Dominican Republic)

Every petition signed, every letter written, every message of hope sent to a prisoner contributes to freeing prisoners and stopping torture. This is a way that we, as ordinary citizens, can make an impact.

For more information, please contact Janice Elliott (657-7183) or Jane Westmorland (473-1273).

ENVIRONMENTAL SUNDAY - GREENING OF THE CROSS
APRIL 19TH

ENVIRONMENTAL TIPS

We welcome all congregation members to offer environmental tips to be printed in the weekly bulletin. We would also welcome an "environmentalist" to join our committee. For more information, please contact Paul Mansell (472-4078).

GROW-A-ROW

Over the past five years, money has been provided for the Canadian Food Grains Program through the efforts of St. Marys United Church and FSA. Donations are matched 4:1 by CIDA. During the past several years, the money raised locally and matched by the government 4:1 means more than half a million dollars worth of food was shipped to countries where the need is high. For more information, please contact Bill or Jean Knowles (657-9156) or David Knoppert (668-4063).

OBSERVER

It will soon be time to renew your Observer subscription in April. Check your mailboxes and watch the bulletin for more information. The United Church Observer is the church's national magazine published 11 times a year. For more information, please contact Mary Vernon (657-7568) or Barb Dalrymple (433-4460).

QUILTS FOR WOUNDED SOLDIERS

Canadian soldiers wounded in Afghanistan are sent to Landstuhl, Germany for medical treatment, far from friends and family. To remind them that Canadians are thinking of them, Leona Forth of Strathroy has initiated the Comfort Quilts Campaign. She has arranged for locally made quilts to be transported to Ottawa, and then shipped over by military transport. In response to her request for quilts, our group is meeting the first Monday of each month, 9:30am to 2:00pm, for a quilting bee. For more information, please contact Jane Westmorland (473 1273).



Comfort Quilts

FRIENDSHIP/LEARNING

THE BRIDGE GROUP

Find a partner and you'll be included in the schedule of who plays whom in whose home for the months of October to May. You set the game day and time for each month to suit your convenience. Players make only complimentary comments about their opponents and partners regardless of playing experience. Hosts provide refreshments. Cost: \$30 per pair.

Contact Jean or Jim Young (681-8119).

FAMILY POTLUCK

Jesus understood that people who dine together tend to build relationships with one another. With that as a spiritual springboard, many families at FSA enjoy dinners together in Proudfoot Hall on the last Sunday evening of each month.

For more information, please contact Jane Hill (641-7199 mark@hilltronics.com) or Valerie Moretti (642-4896 vvmoretti@hotmail.com).

KNIT WITS

This fast-growing, friendly group of beginning and experienced knitters meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 1:30-3pm in the parlour. Our projects include knitting warm

articles of clothing for adults and children in the London community, and prayer shawls for those in emotional or physical crisis. We welcome all who enjoy knitting or anyone who would like to learn.

For more information please call Marion Wilson (434 0530) or Ann MacKenzie (659 5055).

MEN'S BROWN BAG LUNCH

Every Wednesday from 12 to 1, September to April, a group of men meet in the parlour over brown bag lunches, washed down with prepared coffee and tea. David McKane is our facilitator—although we may meet when he is away.

What do we talk about? Well, we talk about sports, politics (carefully, since we represent a wide range of views), our work (and play)—and religion. Religious topics range from FSA itself—the sermons, the music—to more general spiritual questions. How do we understand contrasting views of who Jesus? What do we say when faced with illness—or death?

Contact the church office (679-8182) for more information



Pancake Supper in Proudfoot Hall



Martha Bere reads the names on Baptism Sunday



Rocky Moretti, Chair, Reports on the Joint Needs Assessment Committee

SUPPER CLUB SERVINGS

by June McKay

Our club of about 70 members enjoyed some very entertaining get-togethers this fall and winter. As always, the Pot Luck Supper brings out the very best culinary creations of the group, and for those who don't like/want to prepare something, a plate of crackers and cheese, veggies, fruit or rolls is always a welcome addition.

In January our program was "Bats in your Belfry" presented by Dara Orback, a B. Sci. student from UWO who has done extensive research on bats and their habitats. Even those who were a bit "jittery" found the evening exciting. This was a timely subject, given our current "resident bat" situation at FSA.

We look forward to March 24th, when Dr. David Spence will be our guest. His topic will be "How to Prevent Your Stroke". Dr. Spence is one of the world's leading experts on stroke prevention, and Professor of Neurology and Clinical Pharmacology at UWO. His extensive research has benefitted many clients.

On April 28th Dr. Ken Wright, a Periodontist and

FSA member will tell us about "The D.O.C.S (Dental Service Community Outreach) Project" where teams of Volunteer dentists, hygienists, dental students, and support workers set up portable dental clinics to provide free dental care to people served by community social agencies. These evening clinics currently serve three areas and will eventually be expanded to many areas in and around our city.

On May 26th. Our Music Director Paul Merritt and Friends will bring us an evening of wonderful musical treats. Make sure to mark this on your calendar of events not to miss!

Everyone is welcome to attend our group. Come along and meet some of the new members who have joined us this year. We welcome Neil Cameron, Carol and Dorothy Plummer, and Judith Walker to our group. We start with our famous Pot Luck Supper at 6:15, followed by a Sing-Song, and then our program.

Call June McKay (471-566) or Shirley Wynne (474-4768) for more information

*FSA
Coffee &
Conversations
Every
Sunday*



FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S MINISTRY

Minister of Worship and Administration
Rev. Dr. David McKane

Minister of Christian Development
Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad

Minister Emeritus
Frank Meadows

Director of Music
Paul Merritt

Community Development Coordinator
Ted Kostecki

Church Administrator
Sue Scorgie

Administrative Assistant/Receptionist
Maureen Scarborough

Custodian
Geoff Bottomley

Paul Merritt
Director of Music
25 Years
at FSA

