

# Tidings



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

VOLUME 19 - NUMBER 2

PENTECOST/SUMMER 2009

## TWO REMARKABLE WOMEN OF FAITH AT FSA THIS FALL.

by David McKane

On Monday, November 2nd, our **Proudfoot Lecturer** will be A. J. Levine. Amy Jill Levine, or A-J as she prefers, is professor of New Testament Studies and Director of *The Carpenter Centre for Religion, Gender and Sexuality*, The Divinity School, Vanderbilt University. A prolific writer and contributor to many journals, she is also in great demand as a speaker. Her books include *Early Judaism and its Literature*; *Women Like This: New Perspectives on Jewish Women in the Greco-Roman World*; *Feminist Companions to the New Testament and Early Christian Writings*; and *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus*. Self described as “a Yankee Jewish feminist who teaches in a predominantly Protestant divinity school in the buckle of the Bible Belt”, Levine combines academic rigour, humour and a commitment to eliminating anti-Jewish, sexist and homophobic theologies. A-J will speak about her book, *The Misunderstood Jew* and answer questions.



David McKane

On Sunday, November 22, our **177th Anniversary speaker** will be Diana Butler Bass, author of *Christianity For The Rest Of Us: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith*. Bass is an independent commentator on religion, and a leader in Mainline and Progressive (Liberal) Christianity. Raised a United Methodist, she became an evangelical Christian and is now a member of the Episcopal Church. Her book *Strength for the Journey* recorded her growing dissatisfaction with conservative evangelical religion. Both of her books have been named *Book of the Year* by the Academy of Parish Clergy. While often considered a leader in Progressive Christianity, Bass is difficult to classify due to the wide range of her interests: mysticism, feminism, liberal theology, classical evangelism, and the desire to create an inclusive vision of Christianity. Diana will preach at the morning service and present a lecture, open to the public, in the afternoon where she will sign books.

Middlesex Presbytery Resource Centre will have books available for both speakers. Mark your calendars for **Nov. 2nd and the 22nd**, and invite your friends. Tickets go on sale for both events in the fall

### INSIDE

#### TIDINGS

Two Remarkable Women 1	Mary Vernon ..... 6
Editors Message.....2	Jean Wright ..... 6
Noteworthy .....2	Aldis Murray ..... 7
Council Report.....3	View from the Pew ..... 8
Middlesex Presbytery .....3	JNAC ..... 8
Summer Reading/viewing4	Knit Wits ..... 9
The Feeney Children.....4	Kiwanis Festival..... 9
Mary Ann Hodge.....5	Changes ..... 10
Angus McKenzie .....5	

#### PROGRAM GUIDE

Worship ..... 11
Music ..... 13
Pastoral Care ..... 14
Christian Development ..... 14
MOE ..... 16
Friendship/Learning..... 18
UCW ..... 18
Stewardship..... 20

## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

by David Flynn



David Flynn

The theme for this Pentecostal issue is 'the recovery of hope'. The early Christians moved from despair to hope after Jesus' crucifixion, and today we hope to recover from economic collapse and a potential slide into environmental disasters.

In March, Pat and I were on a birding trip to Costa Rica where we saw and heard hundreds of different species. Yet our guides said that at least a third of all birds are disappearing. Although some varieties are thriving, such as the house sparrow and robin, many of the prettiest and most melodic are in decline. The natural world is losing diversity.

Diversity. Christianity grew because it appealed to a variety of people—the poor and oppressed, the rich and powerful, women and men, young and old. Soon it spread around the Mediterranean to Rome itself. Christianity continues to appeal worldwide to different people, each group developing its own beliefs and practices. If we include all those who worship a higher power, there is, indeed, great hope for religion in its many forms.

*Tidings* illustrates the diversity of FSA: newcomer, Mary Ann Hodge; long-time member, Aldis Murray; community volunteers, Mary Vernon and Jean Wright; community leader, Angus McKenzie, and—a new series—the next generation, the Feeney children. The reports and plans of programs in *The Program Guide* further illustrate the diversity of FSA. Diversity is our strength—and our hope.

We will introduce business card ads in the Fall Issue—let me know if you're interested.

My apologies to Gavin McGregor for inserting Lower Canada into his column on William Proudfoot in the Easter issue. Mary McKim has kindly offered to proofread each issue for this kind of error. She will continue to write articles but Margaret Wonfor will now report on UCW. Other new—and diverse—members of the *Tidings* Team are Nancy Howard and Valerie Moretti. Dare I say *Tidings*' diversity—from Don Jones who does artistic layout, to Jim Silcox who posts each new *Tidings* within hours of its completion—is our strength. Send suggestions and comments to pdflynn@rogers.com .

### TIDINGS & PROGRAM

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Tel:(519) 679-8182 Fax:(519) 439-6838  
[www.fsaunited.com](http://www.fsaunited.com)

Four issues yearly. News Deadline for next issue: Aug. 12, 2009

Distribution of next issue: Sept. 6, 2009

*Submissions are accepted only from members of First-St. Andrew's. The Tidings Team reserves the right to select and edit submissions. Obtain information from Group and Committee Secretaries or members of the Tidings Team. The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors, not necessarily those of First-St. Andrew's Church.*

### NOTEWORTHY

**The FSA Strings** was nominated for *The Jack Richardson Music Award*, April 5, in the category 'Classical Group'.

**Nancy Johnson** produced *The Duncombe Rebellion*, written by Marion Johnson, which was performed to full houses at Fanshawe Park Village May 15-18.

**The Junior Joyfuls** won Gold at the recent Kiwanis Festival.

**David McKane** again led an Observer Tour to Ireland, May 8-23.

**Myrna Moretti** is a member of Central SS's *Reach for the Top* team which won the National competition, May 23-25.

**Terry Peters** has been made a Fellow of the International IEEE (the former *Institute for Electrical and Electronic Engineers*)

**Thomas Sampson-Williams** sang in Orchestra London's production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, May 30-June 6 at the Grand Theatre.

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## COUNCIL REPORT

by Jackie Williams, Chair

It was with some trepidation that I took over as chair of council from Stan Hill at the annual meeting in February but Stan assured me that the hard-working, dedicated volunteers on council would guide me while I learned the ropes.

Three months into my new role, I've found that Stan was absolutely right—FSA is truly blessed with council members who do an extraordinary amount of work behind the scenes, and who are so committed to the well-being of this church and its members.

As you are all aware, FSA has some significant challenges ahead—one being the impending retirement of Rev. Dr. David McKane in July 2010, and the need to find a new Minister of Worship and Administration. The *Joint Needs Assessment Committee* worked hard to poll the congregation and prepare its report. They presented it for Council approval on May 12th, and to the Congregation on May 31. Once Presbytery accepts



Jackie Williams

it, the report will help guide the newly formed Search Committee in its quest for our new minister.

The Church is also launching a Capital Campaign to address the structural repairs highlighted in the Avis Report. Although the funds recommended in this report seem daunting, we should remember the past generations at FSA who built the church, and who funded significant repairs

and improvements during times when money was probably even more scarce than today. I would like to thank Debbie Schram for agreeing to lead the Capital Campaign and Judith Walker for adding her expertise to this venture to preserve the amazing heritage that is our church building.

We also will apply to the Trillium Foundation to ask for funds to cover some of the work in the Avis Report, which would be a great boost to our Capital Campaign.

I still have a steep learning curve ahead but I want to thank all members of Council for their constant help and support as we work toward the future of our great church.

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## MIDDLESEX PRESBYTERY

by David Flynn

What does Middlesex Presbytery have to do with FSA? At church union in 1925 each of the three uniting churches contributed one level of a four court hierarchy—Congregationalists and Presbyterians named the two lower levels; the Methodists gave us Conferences to replace their bishops. General Council, with representatives from all congregations, met periodically to set national policies. In the 84 years since Union, each level has developed overlapping responsibilities.

**General Council** now meets every three years to elect a moderator and suggest general—but not binding—policies. Its full time employees are responsible for outreach and the production of educational materials, hymn books etc. They keep a list of congregations searching for ministers—and, confidentially, clergy interested in moving. GC also manages church-wide staff pensions and salaries.

**London Conference**, made up of presbyteries from Windsor to the Sault, meets annually, has an office and full-time staff plus numerous committees. The Conference Settlement Committee places ministers.

**Middlesex Presbytery** counsels (and disciplines) clergy, who are members of Presbytery not congregations—even when they retire. As well, Presbytery supervises church closings and amalgamations, in part, because most properties belong to the UCC—FSA is an exception. FSA's *Joint Needs Assessment Committee* has two Presbytery reps, as will our *Search Committee*. Presbytery has no office other than a resource centre, and only part-time staff but has several committees, most of which overlap with Conference and GC ones. Presbytery meets five times yearly with reps of the sixty member-congregations, 15 from London.

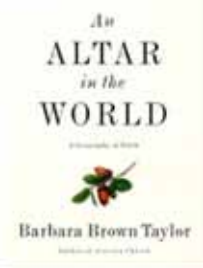
FSA is much involved with Presbytery. The past chair was Ted Kostecki and David McKane will be next year's chair-elect. Frank Meadows has been secretary for nine years. We have four lay reps: Linda Badke, Jean and Bill Knowles and Bob Vosper. Herb Wonfor is on two committees.

There is always a tension between local autonomy and hierarchical coordination. Six years ago UCC members defeated a proposal to reduce the four courts to three, yet most people agree the structure needs streamlining, and some Conferences are attempting it. In the meantime, FSA will continue to have much contact—up and down—with Middlesex Presbytery.



**SUGGESTED READING AND VIEWING FOR YOU THIS SUMMER FROM SUSAN SHELSTAD, THE CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT MINISTER...**

***An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor**



“From simple practices such as walking, working, and getting lost to deep meditations on topics like prayer and pronouncing blessings, Taylor reveals concrete ways to discover the sacred in the small things we do and see. Something as ordinary as hanging clothes on a clothesline becomes an act of devotion if we pay attention to what we are doing and

take time to attend to the sights, smells, and sounds around us. Making eye contact with the cashier at the grocery store becomes a moment of true human connection. Allowing yourself to get lost leads to new discoveries. Under Taylor’s expert guidance, we come to question conventional distinctions between the sacred and the secular, learning that no physical act is too earthbound or too humble to become a path to the divine. As we incorporate these practices into our daily lives, we begin to discover altars everywhere we go, in nearly everything we do.” (Amazon.ca)

**The Visitor (DVD)**



“A widowed college professor travels to New York City to attend a conference and finds a young couple, who turn out to be illegal immigrants, living in his apartment.”

(The Internet Movie Database)

*Susan Shelstad will be on Sabbatical for May and June, and on holidays for the month of July. The Sabbatical will be a time of rest, reflection and study in preparation for the busy time ahead at FSA. We wish her well and look forward to her return in August.*



Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad

**THE NEXT GENERATION**

**JACOB, ROBIN AND FRASER FEENEY**

by Nancy Howard

Surely, you recognize the smiling faces of the Feeney children. They’ve been active at FSA for ten years now, coming to their mother’s childhood church



Robin, Jacob and Fraser Feeney

when they moved from Toronto. It is hard to believe that Jacob will be attending Beal Secondary School this fall, while Robin and Fraser will be in grades 7 and 5 at the Pearson School for the Arts.

With musical and artistic talent running through their veins, the children have shared these gifts with our congregation through Christmas pageants, Junior Joyfuls, Joyful Singers, and reading the Scripture. At school, Robin is learning to play violin and Fraser the recorder.

Perhaps they are most prominent during the Children’s Story with their unexpected comments and sometimes deep revelations, making Susan Shelstad say, “I’m afraid to ask,” whenever any of the Feeney children raise their hands. Church School teachers admit they are often not ready for their questions, and are inspired to do extra class preparation!

Outside of church, the boys take karate lessons and are avid video game players. Jacob also loves to read. Robin enjoys swimming lessons but is reluctant to admit she spends a lot of time on MSN. She is very emphatic that it is “Not fun!” being outnumbered by brothers. Jacob benefits from the extra perks of being the eldest, such as a later bedtime. Fraser says it’s “weird” being the youngest and though it is evident he looks up to his siblings, he announces that “Jacob lives on candy, and he sneaks it!”

This is a close-knit family freely giving one another hugs, compliments, and encouraging thumbs-up when one of them performs, lights the Christ candle, presents the offering or helps in Big Circle. Humble by nature, their love and leadership carries into all their commitments and friendships at FSA. Christian Development at its finest and it bodes well for the next generation of our congregation!

(Bragging rights go to mother Heather Eaman and father Michael Feeney.)

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## GETTING TO KNOW...

### MARY ANN HODGE

by David Flynn

Mary Ann grew up in the London area and earned her B.Sc. in Home Economics from Brescia (UWO) before moving to Toronto for a career in corporate interior design and facility management. Her last project in Toronto was helping to build the first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified commercial office building in Toronto. After the death of her husband in 2005, she moved with her daughter Samantha back to London to pursue a career in teaching.



Mary Ann Hodge

Mary Ann found FSA two years ago through the internet. Living in North London, she wanted a church nearby that met both hers and her daughter's needs. After her first visit to FSA, Mary Ann felt so welcome she did not look elsewhere. She resonated with Susan Shelstad's ideas on

spirituality and progressive theology. She also found activities here for her daughter—singing with the Junior Joyfuls and attending Church School. Both attend the monthly Family Potluck.

She was a candidate in London North Centre for the Green Party in last fall's Federal Election. She is proud to be an electricity generator through her solar panels, as well as reducing fossil fuel dependence with her solar hot water system. She is a founding member of the Thames Talbot Land Trust and enjoys tree planting with ReForest London. She also supports tree planting in Africa through CPAR (Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief). She really likes trees!

Mary Ann teaches in our Church School and attends the Knit Wits. She is a member of the JNAC (Joint Need Assessment Committee) preparing the first draft of their congregational questionnaire, based on questionnaires from JNACs elsewhere. She also hopes to start a 4H club at FSA for youth 10-17 to share her love of baking, sewing and environmental action.

Mary Ann tries to live her life with gratitude and abundance. She finds that FSA gives her many opportunities to be involved and to give back. We are very fortunate she chose us. Please continue to welcome her.

## REMEMBERING

### ANGUS MCKENZIE

by Ellen McKim

It is not difficult to remember Angus McKenzie, but it is difficult to forget him.

Angus was a cherished husband and father, a mentor to many, community leader, and a fund raiser like no other.

Angus studied law at UWO where he met Jean. They were married in 1952 when he was in his second year at Osgoode Hall. This union produced three children—Katharine, Carol and Ian—of whom they were very proud. They have twin grandchildren who have brought them great joy.

Angus began his legal career articling for a lawyer who practised alone, and whose reputation for frugality was legendary. He would time Angus with a stop watch after sending him to search a title. So, ever resourceful, Angus found the shortest route by jumping all the fences behind the Dundas street office in order to return within the allotted time. Characteristic of Angus, he always found a solution when needed.

The young lawyer was invited to join Albert Shepherd, also a sole practitioner at that time. This firm over the years went through many changes and additions until ending up with its present name of McKenzie Lake Lawyers LLP. Angus was Past President of the Middlesex Law Association, and Past Vice President of the Advocate Society of Ontario. In 2007 he received the Law Society Medal, and in 2008 he was awarded an honorary degree from UWO.

Angus and Jean together have attended and supported FSA for many years, and are well known in the congregation.

Angus gave back to the community by working on the many committees with which he was associated. Among them were Childreach, Salvation Army, Memorial Boys and Girls Club, Habitat for Humanity, Canadian Diabetes Association, Orchestra London and Kings University College. He also chaired the Strong Kids Campaign at the Y.

Today, many people who were on Angus' charity list are missing the daily emails and phone calls urging support for various and sundry events. He kept people up to date and aware of the needs in our community.

Now, something seems to be missing.

That something is Angus.



Ellen McKim

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## COMMUNITY OUTREACH PART I

### MARY VERNON

by Nancy Howard

Mary Vernon was most reluctant to be written up in Tidings. She believes “So many other people do so much more,” but I wonder how she manages to juggle everything in her schedule.



Nancy Howard

Mary has spent a lifetime in service and community outreach and it's definitely not for the recognition. She is passionate about her causes, and is especially committed to the underdog where support is lacking, and to matters that have affected her loved ones.



Mary Vernon

Prior to her retirement she taught Special Ed. classes while branching into many other activities. For years Mary served on the *Board of Federation of Women Teachers and the Ontario Teachers Federation*. Dedicated to community service, Mary has been a

member of *Mission Services of London* for the past ten years and continues to educate and campaign through speeches. Near to her heart, Mary serves on the *Committee of Canadian Eating Disorders Foundation*. She supports and raises substantial sponsorship for the *Walk for Parkinson's Disease*. She provides healing with Reike treatments for *Wellspring* and now with Deborah Carter at FSA. Mary took palliative care courses through Dr. Jo Ann Silcox and Hospice of London,

and does palliative care every week at Parkwood Hospital, and also visits the Alzheimer Vets there. For these activities and more she was nominated for the Y's 2007 Women of Excellence Award in the *Community, Volunteerism and Humanity* category.

At FSA she has taught Church School, worked on music with the children, and facilitated the *Rainbow Program* to support children and parents of divorce. She continues to reach out through the *Healing Prayer Team, Caring Callers, Visitation, Care for the Caregivers, Receptions committee, ushering/reception, Coffee and Conversation, the Out of the Cold Hospitality Meals*, and is an active member of the UCW.

She also serves on the *MOE Committee*—supporting Los Quinchos through coffee and chocolate bar sales, advocacy through the *Letters for Amnesty* program, *Grow A Row* for the Canadian Food Grains Program, Hotdog Sunday, Observer sales—and the list goes on...

Taking action to spread God's love near and far—Mary Vernon.

## COMMUNITY HELPER PART II

### JEAN WRIGHT

#### WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE AWARD, 2009

by Mary McKim

A gala event took place at the Convention Centre May 5th. Close to 1000 attended, and, with a jewellery raffle, \$110,000 was raised for the YMCA Youth programs. I attended because of Jean Wright, one of the eight women honoured. Five previously honoured guests were at our table, and next to us was a contingent from FSA! I think all the Wright family were there.



Mary McKim



Jean Wright

Jean was cited for the *Community, Volunteerism and Humanity* category. After coming to London in the late 60s she joined the *London and District Association for the Mentally Retarded*, now *Community Living London*. She helped develop innovative new programs at the *Scatcherd Children's Centre*, as well as the “Chair Affair” to raise funds. She lobbied for dental

care for the disabled, and the plan to integrate the disabled into London schools.

She was a trustee for the School Board, and is currently on the boards of the *Centre for Studies in Family Medicine* and the *Development Disabilities Program* at UWO. At FSA she sings in our choir, and has been part of the *Out of the Cold* program, *Meals on Wheels*, and the *Nostalgic Theatre*. She also assists with the new *Dental Outreach Community Service* initiated by husband Ken—and is an occasional writer for Tidings.

Congratulations to a woman of compassion and commitment!



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## PROFILE

### ALDIS MURRAY

by Mary McKim and Marion Johnson

Despite living with the restrictions of MS, Aldis Murray has been an active member of FSA since 1992. Her parents, Magnus and Pauline, were the children of Icelanders who emigrated to Western Canada in the late nineteenth century. Magnus was an engineer with Ontario Hydro, and the family moved often. When the Seaway project at Cornwall ended, they came to London, settling in the East End and attending Trinity United for ten years. Church involvement was always important to the Johnsons. Relocating to Lockwood Park in 1970, they transferred to FSA. Aldis recalls hearing *Lord of the Dance*, her favourite hymn, for the first time here. Another happy memory is the candlelight service twenty-five years ago to dedicate the bells.



Aldis Murray

Aldis' daughter Krista was baptized at FSA in June 1975, when Aldis and her husband Joe (who were living in Alberta) came to London for a family wedding. More recently, Aldis had the joy of seeing Krista's two daughters, Bridget and then Lilja also baptized at FSA, the fourth generation of Johnsons with an FSA connection!

The 'access addition' that was done at FSA in the 1990s has been of major importance to Aldis and her family. They are proud of the role they played in getting it launched. When Magnus died suddenly in 1992, the family asked that an 'access fund' be started for memorial donations. Eventually, with the generosity of many, our beautiful atrium and elevator access became a reality. Aldis was the first one to ride in the elevator on Christmas Eve 1995!

Aldis has been involved in many aspects of church life—the *Worship Committee*, the *Tuesday Unit* of UCW, the *Supper Club*, and the 1998 *Search Committee*. She enjoys all the great music concerts, and loves being part of the *Jane Austen Society* which meets at FSA. Life in a wheel chair is full of challenges but living near the church and having all its programs open to her, has made an enormous difference in the quality of her life. She is glad to call First St Andrew's her church home!

## VIEW FROM THE PEW

### BIG CHANGES

by Steve Elson

*In human beings there is a constant tension between order and disorder, connectedness and loneliness, evolution and revolution, security and insecurity. Our universe is constantly evolving: the old order gives way to a new order and this in its turn crumbles when the next order appears. It is no different in our lives in the movement from birth to death.* (Jean Vanier, *Becoming Human*, based on the 1998 Massey Lecture series on CBC radio.)



Steve Elson

I have recently read *With or Without God: Why the Way We Live is More Important than What We Believe* by Gretta Vosper. I think Jean Vanier's quote is an apt reference point for Vosper's ideas. It is hard to think of a 'sacred cow' that she does not take a poke at in this book. Yet, in my view, she very legitimately calls into question the extent to which we are carrying concepts, ideas and beliefs that may be holding us back rather than moving us forward in our thinking and understanding of our relationship with the divine and the larger environment in which we live.

While the roots of her ideas are not new, she has 'pushed the envelope' and placed her ideas in a contemporary frame of reference that challenges people who read her book to look at their religion and church differently.

Like any mirror that is put in front of us, we can choose to see her approach as a false and distorted picture and dismiss it out of hand. In my view, however, that would be a mistake. For those who are not comfortable in their pew and are searching for a new way of making sense of their church experience, this book is required reading. At least that's my view from the pew.



The Alter during Holy Week

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## PITRODDIE TO NEW LONDON

by Gavin McGregor

*I was enabled to leave Pitroddie \* without owing any man any thing but Love. (William Proudfoot, June 26th, 1832  
\* (Old spelling)*

Parishioners, many having shared 19 years with the Rev. Proudfoot, watched downcast as he and his sons Alexander (14) and John (11) set out on foot over the hills to Perth. Isobel and the younger children travelled in a friend's cart and took the low road. Mary and Elizabeth remained in Scotland to finish their education and would make the journey two years later.



Gavin McGregor

The Crown sailed from Greenock on July 7th, 1832. Details of the voyage are given in Proudfoot's first journal. "The sea rough all day, the Captain said it was nothing. What, thought I, will it be when it becomes something." It was August 29th before they arrived in Montréal.

Leaving his family in the care of his brother-in-law in Hammond, N.Y., William sailed from Prescott on Sept. 11th, arriving in York, Sept. 13th. During the next few months his actions were of a man torn between settling his family and fulfilling his mission. He rented a house in York, moved in his family, and used it as a base for his work.

Eventually, the mission led him to London where, on November 11th, he preached to a representative congregation comprising mostly Established Church of Scotland (E.C.S.) adherents, Secessionists and a few others. They expressed an eagerness to unite under his leadership but shortly thereafter, the Rev. McLatchey, an Irish Presbyterian, claimed he had as much right to be their minister. To allow the congregation time to make a choice, William returned to York.

He received an acceptable call, dated Dec. 22nd, and was back in London on February 6th, 1833. With Mr. McLatchey no longer a candidate, the Rev. Proudfoot officially established a congregation on March 17th—unfortunately without many of the E.C.S. adherents.

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## JOINT NEEDS ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

by Rocky Moretti (Chair)

The *Joint Needs Assessment Committee* (JNAC) presented its report to Council May 12 and to the congregation on May 31. The report was based on numerous interviews with church committees, stakeholder groups, staff, and also survey responses from 175 members of FSA. The Committee was appointed by our Church Council to evaluate the church and its future needs in light of the retirement of Reverend David McKane in 2010.



Rocky Moretti

We found that First-St. Andrew's United Church has numerous strengths, including an energetic congregation, talented staff, an exceptional building, a tremendous music program and an enviable location at the heart of London. But we were also told that our congregation faces significant challenges in the future, including the lack of a clear future vision, an aging and diminishing congregation, a deteriorating building, a

scarcity of active young families, stagnant revenue growth and a general societal-wide decline in church involvement.

In our report we attempted to provide a vision for the future that will allow us to enhance our strengths and preserve our traditions but also improve and expand our programs in a way that allows us to remain a vital, active congregation.

While the incoming lead minister joining FSA in just over a year will play a crucial leadership role in building on the church's strengths while addressing its challenges, the JNAC believes that it is critical that council engage the congregation immediately to move forward in numerous areas. For details see the complete Report on the FSA website.



Joyfuls perform in church service



## BEHIND THE SCENE

### THE KNIT WITS

by Marion Wilson

The Knit wits of FSA are a cohesive group of dedicated and fun loving women who knit articles of all kinds for various agencies in our community. We gather together on the second Tuesday of each month from September to May, 1:30-3 in the parlour, and there we knit, chat, laugh and sip tea. We bring to each meeting whatever we have completed during that month, along with whatever project we are currently working on. These items are given to places such as Merrymount, My Sister's Place, the Men's Mission, various nursing homes, hospitals, and to members of our congregation and beyond who are experiencing any sort of crisis.

Our projects include scarves, hats, mitts, slippers, baby layettes, baby blankets, lap-quilts, and, most recently, prayer or comfort shawls. Recipients of prayer shawls include many people in London but also persons in several provinces of Canada, many states of the US, the British Isles and even Australia where several shawls were sent to victims of Australia's recent fires. Those who have received prayer shawls tell or write us that they feel comforted in knowing that they are not alone in their suffering, and that they feel enwrapped in the concern and love with which these shawls are knitted.

Our initial membership was small but we now have a group of fifteen plus. We welcome anyone who enjoys knitting—or who would like to learn—to join us as we address the need in our community and surrounding area for warm articles of clothing. Also, we invite any who are unable to come out to our monthly gathering, but like to knit at home, to donate knitted good to our group for distribution.

Please contact Marion Wilson (434-0530) or Ann MacKenzie (659-5055) for any further information.



Marion Wilson

(Reports on most FSA events are found in the Program Guide but the Kiwanis Festival, which takes place at FSA for three weeks every spring, is part of our outreach to the wider community.)

## THE LONDON KIWANIS FESTIVAL

by Bruce Richardson Chair, Kiwanis Music Selection and FSA Hall Manager for the Festival

The London Kiwanis Music Festival, April 14 to May 2, once again included FSA as one of its foremost venues. During the first week, the Cleland twins, Gordon (cellos) and George (junior violins), were our string adjudicators and operated simultaneously, one in the sanctuary and the other in the chapel. The Parlour served as a very active warm-up centre for both performance 'rooms'.



Bruce Richardson

During the 2nd and 3rd weeks we were down to the lone senior violin adjudicator, Philippe Djokic from Dalhousie University, and things settled down a little. But there was one full day where we had both senior violin classes in the sanctuary and a full day of woodwinds in the Chapel.

Every year over 500 string students pass through our doors to participate in 50 sessions and 155 classes. Add to that over 90 volunteers plus teachers, parents and others and the number of Kiwanis people attracted to our facility must be pushing 700. It is a very important venue for the Festival and it is often praised for its beauty, acoustical qualities as well as having the space to hold simultaneous classes. It is a marvel how we are able to accommodate both Kiwanis and the many church-related activities and meetings. Special thanks go to Ted, Maureen and Paul for their kind cooperation.

With a bit of snarling early on, we seem to have improved the parking for FSA members—Kiwanis people are not to park in our lot and their cooperation was more obvious this year. One bonus for street parkers—the machines stopped working about the fourth day because they were full of coins!!

Kudos to the FSA community for your support of this year's Kiwanis, a very important community outreach activity. Hundreds of young people gain immeasurable qualities of confidence, discipline and self-expression that last for the rest of their lives.

*Congregational Meeting In Proudfoot Hall*





Naomi  
Tufts



Anna  
Ng

## Candle Lighters During Worship Services



Jacob Feeney



Heather  
Guthrie



Robin Eaman



Thomas  
Samson-Williams

Winnie and  
David Wake



## Greening of the Cross

## Changes...

### BAPTISMS

May 3, 2009

Taya Marie Haggitt --- daughter of Meghan and David Haggitt  
Travis Wayne Raymond Wood --- son of Emily and Brian Wood

### DEATHS

March 14, 2009

March 22, 2009

April 24, 2009

May 8, 2009

Carl Phillips

Eleanor Bales

May Buchner

Joyce Meadows

### MARRIAGES

April 25, 2009----- Amy Clipperton and Craig Allen

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

#### SUMMER SERVICES

**June 7 10:30am**

Trinity Sunday

Rev. Dr. David McKane

**June 14 10:30am**

Rev. Dr. David McKane

**June 21 10:30am**

Father's Day (last service in Sanctuary until September 13)

Rev. Dr. David McKane

**June 28 10:30am**

(Services move to Proudfoot Hall for the summer)

Rev. Dr. David McKane

**July 5 10:30am**

Rev. Dr. Frank Meadows

**July 12 10:30am**

Guest

**July 19 10:30am**

Rev. Dr. Barry Moore

**July 26 10:30am**

Guest

**August 2 10:30am**

Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad

**August 9 10:30am**

Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad

**August 16 10:30am**

Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad

**August 23 10:30am**

Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad

**August 30 10:30am**

Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad

**September 6 10:30am**

Labour Day

Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad

**September 13 9:00am and 10:30am**

Services in Sanctuary

#### WORSHIP REPORT

**REV. DR. ROSS LOCKHART: PREACHER, APRIL 26**

by David McKane

Ross Lockhart was born and raised in Winnipeg, the son of Irish immigrants. Before his ordination, Ross worked with me as youth minister at Royal York Road United Church in Toronto. A graduate of Toronto's Emmanuel College, Ross and his wife Laura, also an Emmanuel graduate, served the United Church in Dryden, Ontario before moving to Belleville. They have two children, five-year old Emily and two-year old Jack. Ross received his doctorate in preaching from McCormick Theological College in Chicago this May.

The Lockhart family will move to West Vancouver United Church in August where Ross and Laura will share in team ministry. But before heading West Ross and family will participate in a two-month exchange with Markethill Presbyterian Church in Northern Ireland. Markethill is the home-town of Ross's late dad and home to many of the Lockhart clan. His mother comes from Bangor, Ireland, home of our own Barrie Williams.

Ross is the author of *Gen X: Y Faith?: Getting Real with God*, a book that explores how generation Xers connect with God and explore issues of faith. Google Ross Lockhart to find it on line. Ross also writes a blog for the United Church's *Emerging Spirit* and will be featured in the Fall Observer in an article on preaching. Often featured as one of the presenters at *Emerging Spirit* events across the country, I have no doubt that we will hear more from Ross Lockhart in the future. It was a delight to have him preach at FSA.

Program guide



## WORSHIP ACTIVITIES

### 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.

### USHERING AND GREETING

Each month a different Narthex Coordinator chooses six people per Sunday from a list of volunteers willing to usher or greet. Greeters are stationed in the Atrium and Narthex to welcome people as they enter the church. Ushers hand out bulletins and also take up the offering. Contact Muriel Parsons, Coordinator, 685-5409

### LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

The lighting of the Christ Candle at the front of the church early during the service symbolizes the intentionality of the congregation to invite Christ's presence among us, and so prepares us for worship. Contact June McKay (471-5668).

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

For each Sunday service, different people 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. Contact Elspeth Watson.

### COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Every Sunday, following our 10:30am worship services, the congregation is invited to remain for refreshment and the deepening of friendship. During the summer months, this takes the form of lemonade on the lawn and in the fall we move inside to Proudfoot Hall. This is an opportunity for each person to make contact and share his/her journey as a valued individual within our community of faith. Volunteers are needed. Contact Cheryl Samson or Amanda Williams, co-convenors, or the church office (679-8182).

### BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

A baptismal preparation session is held prior to every baptism (usually the Thursday evening) to prepare the parents who are bringing their children for baptism. We explore the meaning of baptism, and prepare for the Sunday service. Call the church office (679-8182)

### SCRIPTURE READERS DURING WORSHIP SERVICES



Joan Bancroft



Jacob Feeney



Ted Kostecki



Helen Mahabir



Doug Jones



Jo Ann Silcox



Rev. Ross Lockhart



Anne Cummings Consider the many opportunities to rejoice with us.

FSA is committed to a Music Ministry that is rich in variety, grounded in spiritual integrity and inclusive of all ages.

**MUSIC REPORT**

**MUSIC FOR LENT**

Although we are blessed with beautiful Lenten music every year at FSA, this year, the Lenten Noon Recitals were particularly special. Not only do these recitals provide an opportunity for the FSA community to gather together, they also draw people from the larger London community and are, thus, one form of the Music Committee's community outreach.

The first recital was an exciting, virtuosic performance by Paul Merritt of organ pieces by Mendelssohn and other composers. The second recital was equally excellent with Bob Kennedy on clarinet, Lynda Kennedy on piano, and Jasmine Long (a student at Central SS) on cello. The final recital was Anne Cunningham on flute and Paul Merritt on piano. These two musicians presented a very enjoyable trip around the world through music from Mexico, Switzerland, and the UK, which provided an exhilarating end to the recital series.

Exceptional Lenten music continued at the Good Friday service with the FSA Strings, conducted by Bob Kennedy, playing contemplative pieces which set the appropriately sombre tone. The choir sang a moving chorus by Mendelssohn, "Hear My Prayer," with Sonja Gustafson soaring above the choir on "the wings of a dove." In contrast, joyous music for Easter morning was provided by the choir in three anthems accompanied by brass quartet. One anthem, *Christians on This Happy Day*, is a recent composition by Londoner, John MacIntosh, who was in attendance at the service.

**MENDELSSOHN CELEBRATION**

In April, the Senior Choir presented, *A Salute to Mendelssohn*, a concert of some of Mendelssohn's most beloved and also less well known choral music. A 30-piece orchestra which accompanied the choir contributed to an exciting and rich performance. Our three soloists, Ross Dodington,

Sonja Gustafson, and Terese Serek Ng, and former Londoner, Darryl Edwards, all sang beautiful solos with sensitive musicality. The concert featured favourite choruses from Mendelssohn's most popular oratorios—*St. Paul*, *Elijah*, and *Christus*—as well as the hauntingly beautiful anthem, *Hear My Prayer*.

The concert was dedicated to the memory of Grace MacIntosh, a former choir member (1971-1987), who remained a staunch supporter of the choir during the 20 years after she left the group. The concert was the culmination of the four month Mendelssohn Celebration at FSA, in Sunday services and in our Concert Series, to commemorate the 200th anniversary of his birth in 1809. Much gratitude goes to our Director of Music, Paul Merritt, for planning and implementing such a well coordinated tribute to this great composer and, in the process, providing us all with a transcendent experience of God.

**CHOIR SINGS FOR TUTU**

What a privilege it was for the Senior Choir to sing for Archbishop Desmond Tutu at the St. Joseph's Foundation Dinner on May 22 at the Convention Centre. Through the promotional efforts of choir member, Dennis Pellerin, the FSA Choir and the Amabile male choirs were chosen to sing as a massed choir at the beginning of the dinner. As requested by Tutu, we sang two of three songs known as the African Trilogy: *Siyahamba* ("We are marching in the light of God") and *Shosholozo* (The train is coming from South Africa). We then sang the South African National Anthem (in three languages) and the Canadian National Anthem.

Part of the evening also celebrated winners of a competition in both London school boards (grades 7-12) for projects that built better communities and improved the lives of others. Representatives from the four winning schools were in a separate theatre and the choir repeated our performance for those students. We then were able to watch a simulcast of Archbishop Tutu's speech as it occurred upstairs. It was very inspiring to hear this remarkable man who at age 81 is now dedicating his life to raising awareness about the tragedy of HIV/AIDS in Africa

**PASTORAL CARE**

*In addition to the pastoral care provided by David McKane and Susan Shelstad, members of our congregation reach out to others in a variety of ways.*

**CARE FOR THE CAREGIVER**

This group is for those who find themselves in the role of caregiver, and who are feeling a bit overwhelmed. Contact Jo Ann Silcox (642-2152).

**CARING CALLERS**

Thirty dedicated callers make an average of six calls, four times a year: the end of August, Advent, January, and Lent (Easter). Not all members are called and some people are called more often, if necessary. Through these calls, shut-ins, young families, pre-operative, post-operative—all those in need of support—are kept up to date on church services, concerts and special activities. The callers are also a very valuable liaison for the ministers and the office regarding illness, moves, and other potentially stressful times. More “callers” are always needed and if you would like to share in this very special program, call Annabelle Logan (471-2518).

**CONGREGATIONAL VISITING TEAM**

Our Congregational Visiting Team comprises

members of our congregation who offer ongoing support to our shut-ins. We have a visiting team of 30 who maintain contact with these members of our congregation on a regular basis, and especially at birthdays and holiday times. If you are interested in becoming involved in this very rewarding experience, call David McKane (679-8182).

**COUNSELLING TEAM**

There is a counselling service available to FSA members that is staffed voluntarily by Jo Ann Silcox, a psychiatrist, who provides initial assessment and follow-through counselling for individuals, couples, families or groups facing personal transitional crises. Referrals may be made through Jo Ann (642-2152).

**PRAYER CHAIN**

Do you need prayers for yourself or others? Call Maureen at the church office (679-8182) and the name or concern will be passed through the prayer chain. First names only will be used unless permission is granted to use the full name. Confidentiality will be respected.

**RIDES FOR SENIORS**

If you need a ride to and from church and/or church events, call the Church Office (679-8182)

**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. Call coordinator Martha Bere (641-6947)

**NURSERY**

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

**CHURCH SCHOOL**

Regular church school classes are over but there will be group sessions throughout the summer. Teachers and helpers are always needed. If you’re interested, please speak to Chris or Monique

Silcox, coordinators (226-663-2048).

**YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY**

**TEENS IN TRANSIT (TNT)**

For young people in grades 7 and 8. This group meets Sunday mornings at 10:30 upstairs in the “Green Room” during the regular church school year. Leader: Nancy Howard (289-0540)

**TEEN CONFIRMATION CLASS**

A new class will begin again in the fall.

**IMPACT**

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, which includes a video game room and a new and highly improved ping pong table.

IMPACT enjoyed an active spring and winter with numerous outings including skating at Storybook Gardens, ice hockey on the Morettis' backyard rink and cross country skiing at Circle R Ranch in Delaware.

This summer, IMPACT plans to host a number of activities including a canoe trip, a cycling outing, several evening events at FSA, and a return to Camp Kee-Mo-Kee. Details on the IMPACT program can be found at [www.fsaunited.com](http://www.fsaunited.com) by clicking on IMPACT.

The IMPACT program continues to grow and FSA members are encouraged to let other young people know about this dynamic program. We have a junior group for young people in grades 6 to 8, and a senior group for young people in high school. Call coordinator Rocky Moretti (642-4896) or email [frankmoretti@hotmail.com](mailto:frankmoretti@hotmail.com).

## ADULT MINISTRY

### SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

This group has stopped for the summer, but will resume in the fall. Meets weekly from 9-10am in the Sun Room (across from the Nursery). Facilitator: Dr. Jo Ann Silcox (642-2152)

### THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

This group has stopped for the summer, but will resume in the fall at 10am in the Parlour. Facilitator: Susan Shelstad (679-8182)

### DREAM GROUP

Come and discover the amazing world of your dreams. Usually we meet on the first Friday of the month at 7:30pm in the Parlour. Please join us in the fall. 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



*The View from the Balcony*

announcements in the fall for dates, movies and times.

## LABYRINTH WALKS

On April 17th-19th there was a *Sacred Path, Sacred Body in the Spiral of Transformation* workshop at FSA led by Lauren Artress and Mary Hamilton. This is the second time the workshop has been held here, and it draws participants from all over the world.

As well, on April 20th-21st there was a *Veriditas* labyrinth facilitator training event led by Lauren Artress here. It is one of the few training events held in Canada so far.

Susan Shelstad attended both events and was asked to convey to the congregation the participants' appreciation for the beautiful facilities here.



For information on future labyrinth walks, check the Sunday Bulletin in the fall or call Susan Shelstad (679-8182).

## OTHER

### LIBRARY

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! We are currently overhauling the library and we will be highlighting the resources available in the fall.

### CD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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.

*Art Work on Display*



## MISSION OUTREACH/ENVIRONMENT

*This Committee is involved in a wide variety of outreach programs, both here in London and throughout the world. 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

*In particular, MOE is responsible for activities of the Mission and Service Fund at FSA. A few of the M&S programs are described below.*

#### ALTERNATE GIFT CATALOGUE

Your gifts from the Alternate Gift Catalogue, produced by London Conference, support Mission & Service Fund projects, both locally and globally. Go to [www.londonconference.ca](http://www.londonconference.ca), and click "Hope Book" on the left menu or ask Maureen in the church office (679-8182) to print you off a hard copy. Catalogue may be used to purchase special gifts for birthdays, anniversaries and Christmas.

#### 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)

#### LOS QUINCHOS

The MOE Committee and the children of Los Quinchos School in Nicaragua thank the Sunday School for the \$849.25 they raised at their *Big Circle Breakfast* on April 5. 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.

### LONDON OUTREACH

#### ELUCO

We raised about \$1540 for ELUCO (East London United Church Outreach) with the sale of cinnamon buns at Easter. ELUCO is located on Marconi Blvd. in East London and offers counselling, emergency services and support for families in need. Contact Linda Badke.

#### Habitat for Humanity

Each summer houses are built for low-income families under the auspices of Habitat. MOE provides lunch and snacks for the volunteer

builders for two days. Contact Bill or Jean Knowles (657-9156).

#### HOSPITALITY MEALS

This program runs year round on Mondays at 5:30pm providing hospitality meals for more than 100 persons. Well over a hundred volunteers have been involved, many of them from other churches. Contact Tom and Shirley Wynne (474-4768) or the church office (679-8182).

#### LIFT

The tenants have now moved into Victory House on King Street, built in part by LIFT (London Interfaith Team) 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 over their previous living arrangements. 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. Contact Jean or Bill Knowles (657-9156).

### OTHER ACTIVITIES OF MOE

#### AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

One small drop of water by itself is rather insignificant. Many drops of water together, however, can create a glass of water, a puddle, a river, an ocean. Water drops combined together have the power to sustain life, irrigate crops, transport goods and people, and produce electricity.

On Sunday, March 29, the people at First-St. Andrew's combined their efforts to fight injustices around the world. After church, we gathered in Proudfoot Hall to sign a petition to end the war on women and children in the Democratic Republic of Congo. We signed postcards and wrote letters to Afghanistan to plead for the protection of Women's Rights Defenders; to Paraguay where indigenous people are dying from government inaction; to Sri Lanka where journalists are being imprisoned for doing their jobs; to Mexico, where human rights defenders have been killed, and their families are in danger; and to the US to encourage a new

commitment to human rights. Over 175 letters and postcards were sent by the members of our church.

Our thanks go to Shirley Wynne who organized the luncheon of 'finger foods', and to the members of the MOE Committee who made the event run smoothly. A very big thank-you as well to all those who participated by signing the petition and postcards and by writing letters. Together we have the power to make a change. Contact Janice Elliott (657-7183) or Jane Westmorland (473-1273).

#### **COMFORT QUILTS**

The Comfort Quilts Group meets on the first Monday of every month in the Fireside Room from 9:30 until 2:00. We have just completed our fifth quilt to send to soldiers who have been wounded in Afghanistan. We welcome all quilters, experienced or not, who would like to sew with us.

The finished quilts are brought to Leona Forth, in Strathroy, who has organized this initiative. Our quilts, together with quilts from all over Southern Ontario, are then brought to Ottawa by Bev Shipley, M.P. for Lambton, Kent, and Middlesex. The quilts are then shipped by the Armed Forces to a military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany. It is to this hospital that soldiers wounded while in Afghanistan are airlifted.

Our group was very pleased to receive the following letter from Bev Shipley:

*I would like to extend my thanks and deep appreciation to you, for your part in helping Leona Forth realize her goal of sending quilts to our brave men and women, who have been injured in Afghanistan, through her "Comfort Quilts Campaign"*

*The fifth shipment of quilts has now made its way from my office in Strathroy, ON to Ottawa. From Ottawa I will see that the quilts are deployed through the proper channels.*

*These quilts will have a huge impact on our wounded soldiers, as they will represent a little piece of "home", at a time when home would seem very far away indeed.*

*Thank-you again fro your thoughtfulness and caring.*

Contact Jane Westmorland (473 1273).

#### **GROW-A-ROW CANADIAN FOOD GRAINS BANK**

Our 15th Annual Grow-a-Row Project, carried out jointly with St Marys United was off to a fine start on April 19, Environmental Sunday. Those who were at Church that day enjoyed being greeted

by the 'farmers' and receiving their envelope for this year's Project.

As of April 30 our receipts were just over \$2,000. This is matched by CIDA at a 4-1 ratio, which means right now we are at the \$10,000 mark. Last year, our Campaign, which runs to November, raised an all time high of \$6,400. So let's see if we can surpass last year's total!!!! there are still envelopes on the tables outside the chapel, atrium and in the narthex. Let's do our part to help our friends in the less developed World. Contact Bill Knowles (657-9156) or David Knoppert (668-4063).

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL SUNDAY - GREENING OF THE CROSS**

##### **ENVIRONMENTAL TIPS**

We welcome environmental tips from all congregation members to be printed in the Sunday Bulletin. We would also welcome an "environmentalist" to join MOE. Contact Paul Mansell (472-4078).

##### **OBSERVER**

The United Church Observer is the United Church's national magazine, published 11 times a year. For only \$15 a year you may subscribe through FSA. Contact Mary Vernon (657-7568) or Barb Dalrymple (433-4460).



*Greening of the Cross Sunday*



**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. Contact Jane Hill (641-7199 mark@hilltronics.com ) or Valerie Moretti (642-4896 vvmoretti@hotmail.com).

**MEN'S BROWN BAG LUNCH**

Every Wednesday from 12 to 1, September to May, 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 still 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 the varying

views of Jesus? What do we say when faced with illness—or death? Contact the church office (679-8182).

**SUPPER CLUB SERVINGS**

The Supper Club started as Bi-Focals over 60 years ago. It remains a warm, friendly group, who share a potluck meal and a time of fun and entertainment in January, March, April, May, October and November each year.

In May, Paul Merritt and friends prepared a most enjoyable evening of instrumental music, with guests Kathleen Gahagan, harp; Bruce Richardson, cello, Cameron Bereznick, guitar; Margaret Trethewey, flute; and Paul at the piano. We greatly appreciate the efforts behind this exciting evening, which was our last gathering until the fall.

The energy and enthusiasm are always high, and everyone agrees that the evenings are an exceptional opportunity to have fun and to learn something, to get to know each other better, without any emphasis on fund-raising.

We feel the time has come, however, for a new thrust, and maybe some new ideas for our group. We are looking to the members and others from the congregation for input. Call June McKay (471-5668) or Shirley Wynne (474-4768) with your offer of some time and ideas to keep this vital group going at FSA.

**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 members 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

Convenor June McKay and her contingent of helpers deserve accolades for the preparation and presentation of so much merchandise at the

**Antique and Collectibles sale**, April 25th. Their efforts netted around \$8,000. An additional feature for this year was a bake sale organized by Jan Cram. Members of the congregation responded generously with their best recipes. Shoppers were drawn to this attractive table resulting in an additional \$600 for UCW coffers. Thanks to the many men, women, and young people for making April 25 a day to remember.

The **Spring General Meeting of the UCW** will be held in the church parlour on Wednesday, June 10 at 5pm to transact the necessary mid-year business. At 6pm UCW will join members of the MOE committee and workers at the Hospitality Meals for a potluck supper in Proudfoot Hall and

a tribute of appreciation to Tom and Shirley Wynne for their involvement in the work of these groups during their tenure in London.

With the more relaxed schedule that summer brings we hope that members will take time to make items for the **Holly Bazaar to be held Saturday, Nov. 14**. Your handiwork, attractively displayed, guarantees shopping pleasure for our guests. Contributions will be gratefully received by bazaar convenors Liz Mignotte and Barbara Williamson.

Happy holidays to all!

**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.

**UCW PROGRAMS**

**ANTIQUe AND COLLECTIBLES SALE**

On April 25, Proudfoot Hall was transformed into a market place for the Antique and Collectables Sale. Tables featured a fine selection of silver, glassware, china, linens, jewellery, and memorabilia which kindled memories of times long past. The east wall became an art gallery displaying a variety of paintings, many of them original art works by the late Margaret Manning, a long time member of FSA, and other artists of note. The stage featured an assortment of quality furniture which could tell an interesting story if only they could speak!

The planning committee members—Pat McGregor, Valerie Moretti, Glenda Pennington, Roberta and Paul Wenn, Doreen Gartley and June McKay—distributed posters to churches, libraries and neighbourhood bulletin boards. Many cheery volunteers assisted with carting, unpacking boxes, and pricing on Thursday and

Friday. After the sale, boxes were packed with the more saleable items for our fall Holly Bazaar and others were donated to Orchestra London and the Rotary sale.

A very sincere thank you to all who helped in any way to make this a Red Letter Day. Contact Convenor June McKay (471-5668).

**FUNERAL RECEPTIONS**

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 in Proudfoot Hall, the Church Parlour, Chapel, or Atrium. Our volunteer Funeral Reception Committee works with the family to make the event memorable, attractive and smooth running.

Tea, coffee, juice and water are provided to complement refreshments arranged by the family. 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 to support them. Contact Louise Slater or the Church Office (679-8182).

**HOLLY BAZAAR**

This Fall’s Holly Bazaar which will be Saturday, Nov. 14. Jams, jellies, and pickles are very much in demand by bazaar shoppers. Long summer evenings provide time for handiwork— knitting, crafts or whatever you enjoy making. they will be attractively displayed on the various bazaar tables. Contact co-convenors Liz Mignotte and Barbara Williamson.

**KNIT WITS**

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

**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

community, and prayer shawls for those in emotional or physical crisis. We welcome all who enjoy knitting or anyone who would like to learn. Contact Marion Wilson (434-0530) or Ann MacKenzie (659-5055).

**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).

**WOMEN'S 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 .

**Rummage Sale**

This fall's Rummage will be held Oct. 17. Watch the Church Bulletin for notice of when to bring sale items to the church.

**STEWARDSHIP**

The Stewardship Committee was created at the 2009 Annual Meeting. Its mandate is to respond to the financial needs of the church and to initiate fundraising activities that will assist our church moving forward to meet both congregational needs and mission and service objectives. The programs, projects, and outreach provided by our church are directly linked to our financial contributions.

Thus far, our Committee has supported special envelope campaigns and participated in a fundraising partnership with a local theatre group. The Committee has been successful in these ventures due to the positive and generous response of our congregation.

In the future, our Committee will continue to provide innovative leadership in fundraising efforts while continuing with campaigns that have been successful in the past. In the current economic circumstances, fundraising is a challenge for any congregation. Members and adherents of FSA can be congratulated for their faithful response to the stewardship needs of the Church.



**MEMBERS VOLUNTEERING  
IN PROUDFOOT HALL**