

*An inclusive Christian family encouraging spiritual growth through  
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# 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Congregational Meeting  
21 February 2016



**First-St. Andrew's United Church Staff**

**Rev. Michelle Down** - Minister of Worship & Congregational Life  
**Rev. Tom Hiscock** - Visitation Minister  
**Jane Dockrill** - Youth & Young Families Minister  
**Paul Merritt** - Director of Music  
**Barry Tiffin** - Atrium Steward

**Rev. Dr. David McKane** - Minister Emeritus  
**Brenda McManus** - Church Administrator  
**Tim Miedema** - Facilities Manager  
**Ashley Dwyer** - Administrative Assistant  
**Amanda Ingrey & Breanna Marziali** - Nursery Staff

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# Staff Reports

## From The Minister of Worship & Congregational Life

Dear Friends at First-St. Andrew's United Church.

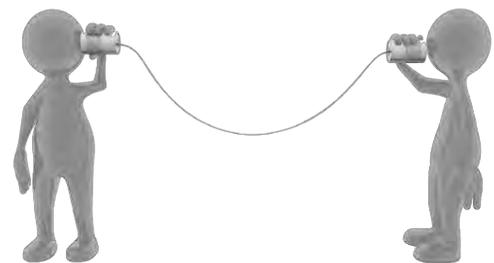


Already 6 months have passed since Joyce, Quincy and I arrived at First-St. Andrew's, and we continue to feel blessed to accept the call to this incredible place of faith. The joy began back in June before we even started, when FSA hosted 9 parties for us. That's right 9 parties! It was great to get to meet folks and feel so welcomed into this family. It is such an honour

to be the minister at the first Affirming congregation in London, and to lead the community in accepting, welcoming, and including all of God's children.

Ministry began officially July 1st, and the opening sermon series over the summer focused on God's Covenant, Adoption, Unity, Affirmation, and Baptism of us. Together we explored the Blessings that God is offering to us through new relationships; community partnerships; and inter-church dialogue.

The fall brought lots of folks back from cottages, and that meant more people to meet! It was such a pleasure, as the main theme I brought forward for this season was communication. How well are we doing? How could we do better? What are the areas of communication that need attention? These were all questions that I engaged with staff, council and committees. Setting communication as a priority meant not just getting our message out more clearly to people, but also to work on our listening! Listening to one another, and to God in faithful and authentic ways, always helps us to grow in genuine discipleship. I believe that God is doing a new thing here at FSA, and we need to listen, so that we don't miss anything along the way!



It is important that we also provide places and spaces for this. So I have offered two town hall meetings, in November and January so that as a community we could have places to come together and share ideas, visions, and set priorities together. Everyone's voice is valued and important, and so I continue to encourage you to use yours in ways that help make First-St. Andrew's a place of grace-filled-gratitude.

There have already been lots of highlights in my ministry. The Pride parade and party on the lawn; our Covenanting Service and Supper; the Red-scarf Sunday in partnership with Regional HIV/AIDS Connection; our Anniversary Service with the Salvation Army Band; the fact that to date we have had more Baptism's than we have had Funerals; Community fun at the Bazaar; and the Remembrance Day, Advent and Christmas Services just to name a few. But my real highlights happen: on the couch in my office; around the table at Sing for Your Supper with the kids; in your living rooms; or next to your hospital beds, because it is in those places, that I get to hear your stories; hear your struggles and celebrations; hear your prayers of Thanksgiving and Lament. When we share our hearts with each other, then we share God's Faith, Hope and Love... knowing that the greatest of these is Love.



This is the very reason that I felt called to come to First-St. Andrew's United Church. To share my heart, in a place that I knew was ready to share its heart with me. The theme for this year's National General Council that both Joyce and I were elected as Commissioners to attend, comes from Revelation 21. "Behold, God is doing a new thing." Behold indeed. As we travel through all that is yet to come, may we hold onto the joy and delight that is evident in both young and old; and have faith that we have all the resources within us that we need to travel the journey ahead. Together we shall shout Hosanna from the mountain tops or from the depths of the valleys, for wherever we are, we are not alone, God is with us. Thanks be to God.



May you go out into the world to be a Blessing  
... and when you do  
... may you be Blessed.

Yours, In Faithful Service  
Rev. Michelle P. Down

*Respectfully submitted by*  
*Rev. Michelle P. Down*  
*Minister of Worship & Congregational Life*

## From The Visitation Minister

The year 2015 was yet another year of transition here at First-St. Andrew's United Church. Transition seems to be the norm lately in our church, which has once again proven to be a good thing. Churches that do not experience, or welcome change, would probably cease to exist and so we move on into a new and unexplored future.



Your Visitation Minister had accepted the challenge of serving as the only formal ministry staff for the first six months of 2015. This was truly made possible with the help of Rev. David McKane, Kerry Stover, Jo Ann Silcox and each and every volunteer in the church.

With the arrival of Rev. Michelle Down in July, your Visitation Minister was able to resume his regular role and hours. Transition still consumed a significant part of the fall months with extra scheduled meetings and the additional duties of transferring roles from one minister to another. As the year has come to an end, we have found a new norm with visitation as the central and most important part of the job description.



Throughout this extensive transition, special attention and diligence was paid to

ensure that the congregation was being well visited. When informed, hospital visits were always made in a very timely manner to ensure our members and their loved ones knew that they were being taken care of. In addition, everyone on the visitation list was also contacted several times. And most importantly, emergent pastoral needs were always attended to.

Teamwork is of the utmost importance in a congregation like First-St. Andrew's and we have worked very hard this year to improve our teamwork and cooperation. As we enter 2016, the visitors at FSA are eager and ready for the transitions to be seen in the year ahead.

*Respectfully submitted by  
Rev. Tom Hiscock  
Minister of Visitation*

## From The Youth & Young Families Coordinator

Here we are, a full year gone by already! What a wonderful gift it has been for me to share in the faith journeys, growth and development of the children, youth and young families at FSA. I thank you: the congregation, council members, faith leaders Michelle and Tom, and the CD committee in particular for your valuable time over the last year and your ongoing guidance and support. Happy New Year!



In the winter of 2015, the **FSA Church School** (both children and youth) joined the Brown Bag Men's group to host a Mardi Gras Pancake Supper. Great fun was had by all! In the spring the church school enjoyed the last few months together with the **Seasons of the Spirit** lectionary curriculum. With summer time approaching the children and youth and many families prepared for Spirit Camp at Kee-Mo-Kee! We had a beautiful weekend complete with guitar and s'mores by the campfire. There were many games and crafts and a family work project of planting dedicated to the camp. On Sunday the youth led a worship service at the campfire with Rev. Tom. We celebrated the service together with many folks from the congregation. You won't want to miss out on this in 2016.

Sunday mornings in the summer months were focused around the Fruits of the Spirit! It was a tasty and educational time as the children unpacked the meaning of love, joy, peace patience, goodness, kindness, thoughtfulness, gentleness and self-control together. Also, in July, FSA **Vacation Bible School** was a great success thanks to snack support from the council and the fabulous youth leadership team (**Summer Adventure Leadership Team**) from Middlesex Presbytery. Together with the S.A.L.T. team, 20 children enjoyed 5 full days of indoor and outdoor summer fun & learning with a focus on discovering their gifts (**as a secret agent**) and using those gifts to serve God. Our own Riley Langley was employed by the leadership team this summer and hopes to return for the summer of 2016.

A few children from FSA (Rebecca Skelly, Erik and Abby Moeller) attended **London Interfaith Peace Camp** in August. A rippling effect of understanding was realized as the children and youth shared with others what they learned at camp. Jewish, Christian and Muslim families may celebrate differently, some even dress differently, but the children discovered



that many teachings are shared or are similar in The Holy Bible, The Torah and Holy Quran. It was fun to get to know new friends from different faiths, celebrating faith, love, charity and joy during their time together. The campers visited and explored a Mosque, a Temple and a Catholic Church. One day, a Doctor of the Muslim faith came from the hospital to share many stories and then showed x-rays of various bones and body parts. Guess what? No one could tell which of the pictures belonged to Jewish, Muslim or Christian bodies! We also had guests from City Hall (Mayor Matt Brown, and Councillor Mo Mohamed Salih and Councillor Jared Zaifman). Mo and Jared heard about the camp and asked if they could come and visit. We asked them to bring a representative of each of the Abrahamic faiths. So, they grabbed Mayor Matt Brown and came right over to Kings College where the camp was set up for the week. The guests shared their personal and professional stories and it was inspiring for the kids to see representation from these faiths, working together as a team, sharing goals for a safe and successful city.

Sunday school got off to a great start in September with the new **Rotational Model** curriculum from Spark. The kids are really enjoying the stories and are discovering many new ways to engage in them (including science and computers, food, drama, music, bible games and video productions). It's been fun! Stories to date have been Daniel, Ruth and Jonah! Sunday teachers have been wonderful to dive into the new material and we are all enjoying the outcomes. Many thanks to Ann McPhail, Kathryn and Jake Skelly, Heather Lake, Chris Silcox, Pam Bere, Kes Sebborn, Susan McKane, Jacob Tufts and Allyson Watson.

The children and teens both enjoyed re-creating the Christmas Story this past December with **T'was the Light Before Christmas**. Fun was had by all involved, including the congregation who got to see for themselves just how bright the future is here at FSA! Our FSA Family Christmas Eve service was very well observed and many of the excited young people joined Jane and Michelle on the steps to be part of the Christmas story retold with lots of energy, candlelight and music.



### **Sing for your Supper**

This is a dinner and music program held on Wednesday nights from 5:00-7:00 pm. Children from new-born to grade eight and their families come together, take care of one another, and after an hour of really valuable community building and festive eating, the choirs head off to practice. The evening's awesome Leadership mustn't go unnoticed: Allyson Watson (chief cook) and her helpers in the kitchen (keen parents and more) Paul and Enid Merritt and helper Shelly Kostecky, Marion Wilson, Jean Wuensch, (Joanne Richardson and Margaret Trethaway - early 2015), and now Gabriela Ocady (2015/16). FSA'S cup is overflowing with love. Not just a love for music, but a love for good food, good neighbors, clothes swaps, recipe swaps, crafting, celebrating, sharing and just plain good old community. It's loud, it's fun (sometimes funny) and it's really special! A wonderful ministry of young families at FSA! Bravo!

### **TNT (Teens in Transition)**

TNT is a grade seven and eight group of mostly girls this year. Re-development of this group began in September in order to meet the needs of this age group. These young ladies are too old for Sunday school and not quite ready for the high school scene although many are keen to attend Youth Group on Friday nights. The CD committee is working hard to find the most meaningful way for this dynamic age group to express themselves at FSA. Currently this group meets in the Fireside room, has their own curriculum and takes part in all children and youth activities and has a variety of energetic leaders (the best of both worlds).

### **God Squad**

God Squad had a busy year last year. The program has continued to be unique and has offered many different avenues for discussion and learning through scripture and



current events. The time spent together is often filled with laughter, thoughtfulness and compassion for each other. Many thanks go to Chris Lindsay and Michael Feeney who help to spur on discussions of life and faith on Sunday Mornings. In February a group attended **Worshiplude** in Ottawa accompanied by over 100 other youth and their leaders from around the London area. They enjoyed the wintery activities of Ottawa's Winterlude and attended a youth-oriented worship service in the church they were

billeted at. They met and reacquainted with many friends from other congregations around London. This event was instrumental in forming strong bonds and also

strengthened our newly formed Youth Group that meets every second Friday night, Sept – June.

In April, Hannah Snyder, Riley Langley and Joseph Pin attended **Youth Forum**; a conference wide high school event that engages the mind, body and spirit with lots of fun, games, activities and faith building discussions. They are encouraging more friends to join them this year in April.

Karol Boyd and Chris Lindsay and myself work together to create faith-building fun and activities for Youth group. I'm happy to be a part of this dynamic leadership team! FSA youth (TNT & High School) were keen volunteers/hosts at the at the Pancake Supper, The Big Circle Breakfast, Food Bank Drive, Pride Parade, Rally Day and Community Christmas Party and Holiday Services - an energetic and giving group of young people! They enjoyed workshops and activities together during a number of retreats both in the church and at Camp Kee- Mo-Kee in June where they prepared the worship service after a meaningful weekend of campfires and building faithful friendships. They also eat a lot: chips, ice cream sundaes, home-made pizza etc. They are not afraid to cook or clean-up – they play lots of games and you couldn't ask for a better group of young people.



Looking ahead, God Squad is hosting a Labyrinth Evening in March 2016 for youth across Middlesex Presbytery. This upcoming August, six FSA youth will be embarking on a mission/exposure trip to Nicaragua. They have been working hard to raise funds to cover their expenses and to collect a number of helpful items to leave with their hosts in Nicaragua. Both George Jolink and I will accompany the youth. We can't wait to share this life changing event with the congregation as we prepare and upon our return. You will be sure to learn more about the trip over the next few months as we get ready to go!



Also coming up is the Pancake Supper, Big Circle Breakfast in the spring, Kee-Mo-Kee Spirit Camp in early June, Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July and Peace Camp for August! There's lots to do on top of Sunday mornings at FSA!

Again, it is my pleasure and my honor to work with so many passionate people here at FSA, young and old. I look forward to another year of continued growth and success on a lot of levels with God's love guiding us onward.

*Respectfully submitted by*  
*Jane Dockrill*  
*Youth and Young Families Coordinator*

## **From The Director of Music**

As I begin to write what will be my final Annual Report, my mind is flooded with memories from the past 32 years during which it has been my privilege to serve as your Music Director. Every year has been memorable and 2015 was no exception. It takes many dedicated people to provide the musical rides we experience week after week at First-St. Andrew's. Here are the groups and leaders that filled our Sanctuary with glorious sounds in 2015:



Tots & Tunes and Teddies Too:	Margaret Trethewey, Director, Spring
The Junior Joyful:	Joanne Richardson, Director, Spring Jean Wuensch, Accompanist Marion Wilson, Accompanist
The Joyful Singers:	Enid Merritt, Co-Director Paul Merritt, Co-Director Shelly Kostecki, Choir Helper
The Laudamus Bells:	Paul Merritt, Director
Senior Choir Soloists:	Sonja Gustafson, Soprano Ross Dodington, Bass
First-St. Andrews Strings:	Bruce Richardson, Conductor
Music Committee:	Paul Cooper, Chair
Eberhard Vocal Scholar:	Jordan Baldwin
FSA Choral Scholars:	Janine Herrmann-McLeod Imogen Wasse, Spring Sarah Longland
Concert Series:	Enid Merritt, Publicity Friends of Music Donors

Of the many memorable moments in 2015 the following were particularly noteworthy:

- 1) Without a doubt, the Senior Choir's performance of Will Todd's MASS IN BLUE, under the composer's guidance, was the musical highlight of 2015 and one of the most exciting concerts our choir has given during my time. This challenging piece took hours of hard work to learn but resulted in a thrilling, never to be forgotten event.
- 2) THE JOYFUL SINGERS' presentation of the musical "ONCE UPON A PARABLE".
- 3) The arrival of our new minister, Michelle, who is a blessing to us all at FSA and an indefatigable supporter of the music here.
- 4) The performances given by the First-St. Andrew's Strings under Bruce Richardson's expert direction. How fortunate we are to have such a group in our church.
- 5) The vitality of our Joyful Children's Choir program. Thank you to Joanne Richardson for her years of "Joyful" service and to parents and Allyson Watson and Jane Dockrill who have kept the Junior Joyfuls singing after Joanne's well deserved retirement. Thank you, too, to Margaret Trethewey for her work with the youngest members of FSA through her TOTS, TUNES and TEDDIES TOO! Group



All of our musical volunteers deserve thanks and praise but none more than my dear wife, Enid, who does so much in every aspect of the music program to make it the success it is.

How fortunate I have been to have served as your Director of Music for 32 years. First-St. Andrew's has provided incredible opportunities for me beyond anything I ever could have hoped for or dreamed of. It has been my second home and you my second family. Thank you!

*Respectfully submitted by*  
*Paul Merritt*  
*Director of Music*

# Town Hall Meetings - 2015

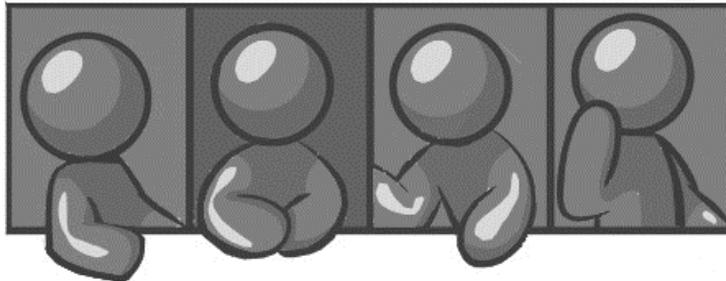
Town Hall meeting  
 May 19, 2015  
 MATTER OF RECORD

<b>Introduction</b>	
These remaining items from the Town Hall meeting on May 19, 2015 are a Matter of Record, to be introduced at a later date when appropriate.	
<b>FSA Townhall Meeting May 19, 2015</b>	
<b>Reduce Expenditures</b>	
<b>Immediate Suggestions</b>	
1. Reduce Each Budget Line by Fixed Percentage ****	
2. More Use of Volunteers	
3. Close church one day /week	
4. Contract Custodial Services	
5. Reduce Music Position and/or Costs	
<b>Long-term Suggestions</b>	
6. Invest in LED Lighting	
7. Retrofit Heating to HVAC ***	
8. Cut Programmes	
9. Use Volunteers More	
10. Amalgamate	
11. Sell FSA to a Developer	
12. Invest in and Involve Young Persons and Families	
<b>Increase Congregational Revenue</b>	
<b>Immediate Suggestions</b>	
13. Focus on Good Deeds	
14. Fee for Coffee and Conversation	
15. Promotion of church through social media	
16. Pub Theology (for student participation)	
17. Broader Bazaar Sales to Include Men	
18. Once a month Games Night	
19. Rummage/Yard Sale 2-3 times per year	
20. Increased Stewardship Emphasis	
21. Fund-raising Breakfasts	
22. Increased Promotion of Volunteers	
23. More Fellowship Meals with Local Community with Fee Attached	
24. Gift Shop on Site Open to Outsiders as wells Members	
25. Soup and Sandwich Lunches After Church	
26. Increased Emphasis on Pastoral Care/Welcoming	
27. Increased Education re Stewardship	
28. Neighbourhood Blitz	

**Town Hall meeting  
May 19, 2015  
MATTER OF RECORD**

29. Regular Stewardship/tithing Sermons	
<b>Long-term Suggestions</b>	
30. Mass Mailing to Attract New Members	
31. Buy adjoining properties and use as rental income	
32. Second level parking garage with rent attached	
33. Share resources with other downtown UCC churches	
34. Amalgamate with Other Downtown UCC's	
35. Reduce Music Budget ****	
36. Increased Outreach to Fanshawe & UWO	
37. Broader Range of Music	
38. Explore Becoming a Foundation	
39. Invest in Outdoor Electronic Sign to Promote Events	
40. Revise Farquhar House for Senior Housing	
41. Sell Church Property to a Developer to Include a Sanctuary	
42. Share Sanctuary with Another Church	
43. Increase and Diversify Programming Through the Week	
44. Broaden SS Curriculum to Appeal to Emerging Church	
45. Special Sundays for Particular Groups to increase investment	
Note:	
1. The number of asterisks beside the idea represents the popularity of that idea.	

# Town Hall Meeting



**Town Hall meeting  
May 19, 2015  
SUPPLEMENTAL PLAN**

<b>Introduction</b>	Church Committee	
A Town Hall meeting was held prior to Council's May 19 meeting at the request of several FSA members who wanted input into the current projected budget deficit for 2015. About 40 participants attended a meeting facilitated by George Jolink and Allyson Watson to discuss two topics: Reducing Expenditures and Increasing Revenue. These ideas were subsequently documented and distributed to the participants.		
At the May 19 Council meeting, an Eleven Point Plan was presented by the Board of Trustees, with the support of Finance. This Plan was approved and modifications to the Plan were to be considered based on ideas coming from the Town Hall meeting held prior to Council.		
The following ideas are from the Town Hall meeting, now called the Supplemental Plan, have been approved by Council as modifications to the Eleven Point Plan.		
<b>FSA Townhall Meeting May 19, 2015</b>		
<b>Reduce Expenditures</b>		
<b>Immediate Suggestions</b>		
1. Increase Use of Projection vs. Paper Bulletin	Worship* with Property	
<b>Long-term Suggestions</b>		
2. Share Staff with Other Churches ***	M&P*	
<b>Increase Congregational Revenue</b>		
<b>Immediate Suggestions</b>		
3. Run the Church for a Day Campaign *****	Stewardship*	
4. Monthly Budget Bulletin to Keep Awareness Up *****	Finance*	
5. Home Groups to Greet New Minister	no assignment required	
6. Increase Rentals to Outside Groups *****	Property*	
7. Increase rental rates *****	Property*	
8. Outreach to Lapsed Members	M&N*	
<b>Long-term Suggestions</b>		
9. Increased Legacy Giving Emphasis	Trustees*	
10. Dinner Theater with Appropriate Pricing	George Jolink*	
11. Restore Proudfoot Lectures	CD* with Worship	
12. Gala Dinners	George Jolink*	
Note:		
1. The number of asterisks beside the idea represents the popularity of that idea.		
2. Asterisk beside the committee indicates the primary church committee responsible for implementing the idea.		

**TOWN HALL MEETING –  
NOVEMBER 30, 2015**

**SUCCESES:**

Sing for Your Supper  
Mission and Service givings  
Music Program  
Supper Club  
Grow-a-Row  
Kum Join Us  
Gone Fishing  
Hospitality  
Bridges Out of Poverty  
Proudfoot Lectures  
ELUCO  
Musical Theatre  
St. Paul's Daily Bread  
Quilting  
Proudfoot House  
Bazaar

**STRUGGLES:**

Programs – Young Adults  
Couples Club  
Attracting Amalgamated congregation  
Attracting New Members  
Raise \$7M for repairs  
Parish Nurse  
2 CE Staff down to .75

**POSSIBILITIES:**

Attract New Members  
Open the doors to the community  
Maintain Music program  
Transportation for members  
Parish Nurse  
Youth Program  
Inreach and Outreach  
Performing Arts Centre  
Sell Building/Property and become environmentally responsible Christians  
Join with congregations in one building, not 2 or 3  
St. Andrews build 20 stories up for housing  
Farquhar House and Parking Lot development  
Redevelop site and maintain heritage  
Sign on the front lawn – electronic  
Spend dollars on marketing  
Woodfield Fair  
Long-term Planning Committee  
Short-term Planning Committee  
Define communities that we want to attract  
Social Media  
"GROWING DISCIPLES"  
Better Parking  
Property Management Company  
Sharing staff with congregations  
- One central office  
- 1.5 CD/CD in all buildings

- 1.0 Parish Nurse
- Share mission and ministry

**DESIRES FOR WORSHIP:**

Use Projection – can't find glasses for hymns, etc.  
- Words for choir

**COMMENTS RE MEETING  
STYLE/CONTENT:**

Intelligent comments  
Respectful listening  
Talking openly – not behind closed doors  
Good Ideas  
Patience - concerns  
Laughter  
Hope  
Opportunity to be together  
Common good  
Giving  
Pride and Love  
- Church  
- Building  
- Community  
- people

**Town Hall Meeting – Tuesday Jan 26, 2016**

**What are your priorities for FSA for 2016?**

Removal of pews for middle “walkway”

Create Short-Term and Long-Term Planning Teams

Communication

Director of Music Position

Renew Proudfoot Lecture Series

Provide Seniors Programming; Yoga + Bus Trips

Engage with Downtown Re-Think London

Provide Transportation for shut-ins + seniors (buses/drivers)

Increase use of Technology to Livestream services/events etc.

Inquire about copyright for broadcasting capabilities

Unlock the doors to the building

Have staff/volunteer in the office everyday

Interfaith activity

Community events of the lawn of FSA – Music/Food/BBQ's/Movies/Services



## From The Chair of Council

Three years as Chair of Council at First-St. Andrew's have left me daily more and more grateful to God and to each of you for the privilege of learning to grow together in this wonderful family of God.

These have been years of significant change both in Staffing and in Membership—and yet through it all each and every one has given her/his best to not only individual position fulfillment but also to reaching across the gaps to assist others in doing their jobs so that the whole has been so much more than the sum of its parts.



Council has convened not only in person, but by phone and e-mail constantly through this time to improve communication, both in listening and in speaking, not just with one another, but with the congregation whom it is our privilege of serve.

Like most mainline churches, we are working through a time of diminished weekly attendance and reduced annual givings—counter-positioned against the needs of rising costs within and greater social need without. Committees have both tightened their belts and simultaneously worked to create new fun-filled, fund-raising initiatives and the family of First-St. Andrew's is responding with unparalleled generosity in time, talent and treasury.

In the wake of the request for a change in pastoral relationship by the Rev. Dr. Kate Crawford, we worked hard on a new Ministry and Mission Profile for the church last Fall and through the Spring a Joint Search Committee surveyed candidates from across Canada whose gifts paralleled those needs.

In July we welcomed with great joy, the Rev. Michelle Down as our new Minister of Worship and Congregational Life—and it is fair to say that the celebration has grown



in quantum leaps over the succeeding six months as we work together to communicate the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ at every level of our corporate and community work. BELONGING is the most central of human needs—and First-St. Andrew’s is working hard to ensure that those who have the courage to come through our doors receive

that kind of unconditional welcoming which Jesus himself offered. *Come unto me all you who labour and are heavy-laden and I will give you rest!*

I am so grateful to each and every one of you for the privilege of belonging to the family of First-St. Andrew’s!

Yours in Christ,  
Jo Ann Silcox

*Respectfully submitted by,*  
*Jo Ann Silcox*  
*Chair of Council*

# Committee Reports

## Christian Development Committee

The Christian Development Committee is responsible for the care and feeding of the development of Christianity for three demographics within FSA: Children, Youth and Adults. This group is very broad and we have offered many exciting programs again this year. Hopefully, you were able to participate in a program offered this year. Here are the things we have done in 2015:

Our youngest children were cared for in the nursery by Amanda Ingrey.

Children - JK to Grade 8 - enjoyed church school on Sundays (under the leadership of Jane Dockrill, Pam Bere, Kathryn Skelly, Chris Silcox, Kes Seeborn, Ann MacPhail, Allyson Watson, Heather Lake, Susan McKane, Marion Wilson, Karol Boyd, Jacob Tufts, Joanne Richardson), vacation bible camp, Peace Camp, the Christmas Pageant with the youth, Sing For Your Supper, Pancake Supper – Mardi Gras, Big Circle Breakfast, and Spirit Games.

High School Youth - participated in Worshiplude (Chris Lindsay and Jordan Baldwin), bi-weekly youth group (Jane Dockrill, Karol Boyd, and Chris Lindsay), youth Sunday School (Michael Feeney, Chris Lindsay and special guest speakers Michael Bancroft and David McKane), helpers at the bazaar, the Christmas Pageant, several retreats including the Camp Kee-Mo-Kee weekend. This fall a group of 6 youth have been fundraising for a mission trip to Nicaragua in the summer of 2016. Last year 9 youth were confirmed and formed lasting relationships with their mentors. (Rudy, Bronwyn, Ella, Naomi, Andrew, Jordan, Izzy, Isaac, Robyn)



Adults - In 2015, the FSA Film Series completed its third year as a committee of volunteers from the congregation. Under the auspices of the Christian Development Committee, the purpose of this self-sustaining series is to provide adult Christian

development around issues of social justice. From September to April each year, seven films are shown and discussed on themes such as race, disability, sexual orientation, aging, moral and ethical dilemmas. After each film is shown, it is put in the church library for members of the congregation to check out and view at home. The following films were shown in 2015: The Hundred-Foot Journey, The Book Thief, Pride, Elsa and Fred, The Theory of Everything, Woman in Gold, and the Imitation Game. The members of the Film Committee are: Anne Cummings, Michael Feeney, David and Deanne Pederson, and Glenda Robinson. Adults had the opportunity to attend bible study on Thursday and Sunday mornings (Jo Ann Silcox, Tom Hiscock, David McKane, Michelle Down), a Lenten series led by David Pederson and David McKane, book club, an Advent series led by Michelle Down.



For all ages - We hosted our 2nd annual Camp Kee Mo Kee weekend, where the youth had a retreat for 2 nights and families and children joined for the second night. All were welcome for the worship service on the Sunday morning followed by a catered lunch by Simply Kept Caterings. We ran a children's section at the UCW Rummage Sale. Freezer meals were made to provide a service to the FSA community and help contribute to the operating fund of the church. We in partnership with the London Muslim Mosque sponsored a river clean up in the fall. The Jean Brown Fund helps support the youth and children's activities at the church. In 2015, funds from Jean Brown helped to support: Sing For Your Supper, choirs for children, youth at Worshiplude, Youth Forum, and camp subsidies, nursery staff, Peace Camp, supplies for youth group event, Camp Kee Mo Kee weekend, church picnic to name just a few.



Thank you to all the people that made 2015 programs possible. We are looking forward to another exciting year.

*Respectfully submitted by,  
Allyson Watson  
Chair of Christian Development Committee*

## Communications and Marketing Committee

2015 marked the fifth year since we were born as committee and, for a five-year-old, we have accomplished a lot and seem to have become a well-integrated “youngster” in the Council family. “Collaboration” is this kid’s middle name. With the Music Committee we developed a new logo which integrated the old “Music at First-St. Andrew’s” Logo along with the more recent FSA logo to give all Music publications a distinctive look. With Christian Development we developed publicity for the Kee-Mo-Kee camp event in June. With the Affirm committee we created signature signage for several public places around the church. With the UCW we helped promote the Rummage Sale and the Bazaar. We like to think we had a hand in making those two events such a success this year. With the Welcoming Committee we helped to implement their big project of providing name tags for all FSA folks to wear on Sunday mornings. We also helped them design new Pew Cards which let all who come to us that “You Are Welcome Here.”



At mid-year we linked arms with the Worship Committee to revamp how announcements are produced and distributed. A Sunday Slide Show was developed in late April and, when the congregation retired to the cooler Proudfoot Hall for the summer, we combined that with a slide show that took the place of the paper “Order of Service” for two months. Folks seemed to appreciate the informality that it provided during those warm months. Come Fall we took over the compilation of announcements for the weekly “email blast” and the paper insert for the Order of Service. It remains a work in progress but with lots of congregational feedback we feel we’re making progress.



Outside, we have provided weekly fresh messages on our lawn sign that we hope will make people take notice as they pass by. We continue to pine for an outdoor electronic sign that would allow even more flexibility and “pizazz” but these things take time, money and lots of thought. At year’s end we were part of a new ad hoc tech committee which will look at all of the church’s evolving tech needs.

We are indeed a sturdy five-year-old with lots of potential. Watch us grow in 2016!

*Respectfully submitted by*

*Doug Gonder*

*Chair of Communications and Marketing Committee*

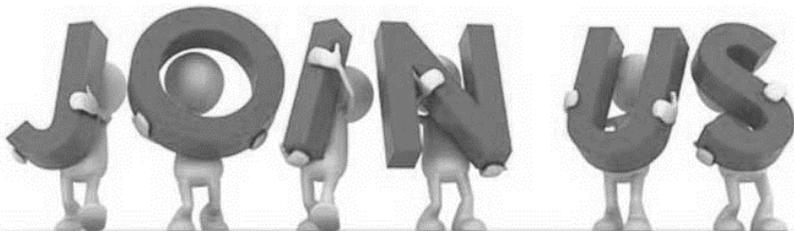
## Membership and Nurture Committee

Committee meetings were held monthly, except for the summer months and the month of December.

Committee profile:

Worship	Dr. Jo Ann Silcox
Archives	Barbara Williamson
Care for the Caregiver	Dr. Jo Ann Silcox
Caring Callers	Annabelle Logan
Congregational Visiting Team	Audrey Coulthard
Welcoming Committee	Heather Locking-Cusolito
Coffee and Conversation	Karen Reece
Roll	Dr. Jo Ann Silcox
Staff Representative	Rev. Tom Hiscock
Members at large	Glenna Hall, Jan Hendry, Jay Snyder, Barry Tiffin, John McDonald and Bob Swartman, Chair Elect of Council

Membership and Nurture continues to support specific projects of the various sub-committees and extends their thanks to the congregation for making it all happen. Thank you to the pastoral care team; Rev. Tom Hiscock and Dr. Jo Ann Silcox for their devoted



efforts to support the ill, bereaved and others in the congregation and the community as requested. As well as a special thank you to the contribution of the UCW, which supports a small gift taken by the Visiting team to our confined members who can no longer get out to worship is gratefully acknowledged.

Several subcommittees have initiated new projects this past year. Heather Locking-Cusolito and the Welcoming Committee completed the Time and Talent survey, sharing the information collected with Council Committee Chairs and church staff. Name tags for all members and visitors were initiated this past year and plans are underway to refine the process of introducing potential new members and keeping the Church Roll current in the data base with staff support. Thanks to Heather and her team for their

dedicated effort to identify specific needs within the congregation and liaise with members and Council committees.

Karen Reece who coordinates Coffee and Conversation has streamlined the process and recruited volunteers. Thanks to everyone who helps prepare and serve and to our new volunteer Mason Robichaud, who cleans up every Sunday.



Caring Callers and the Congregational Visiting Team continue to work together to ensure calls and visits are coordinated. Caring Callers mourned the death of Dawn Mahabir, a member of the team for many years.

The Affirm Committee, under the leadership of Anne Cummings, organized a hot dog lunch on the church lawn during the July Pride Parade. Membership & Nurture were pleased to donate resources for the event. Thanks to everyone who donated and volunteered, including our young people who handed out the refreshments. Profits were donated to the Regional HIV/AIDS Committee of London. FSA plans to participate in 2016 "In a bigger, better way!" (Quote by Anne Cummings in London Conference section of the United Church Observer). The Red Scarf project was supported enthusiastically by FSA during HIV/AIDS Awareness week to spread awareness in the congregation and community. Many Red Scarves, which were crafted by our talented knitters, were dedicated and distributed during a Sunday service prior to their journey under the direction of the Regional HIV/AIDS Connection London area.



Membership and Nurture continues to host a reception for new members after the service and this past fall supported the Worship committee for the Covenanting dinner for Rev. Michelle Down.

New members who joined our congregation in 2015:

- Susan and Peter Tindall
- Jess Hubert
- Lynn Robinson
- Joyce Payne

Nine confirmands who joined the congregation by profession of faith were:

Isaac Stewart	Robyn Swartman
Ischmael (Izzy) Stewart	Bronwyn Tufts
Jordan Wood	Ella Tufts
Andrew Wood	Naomi Tufts
Rudy Pin	

Five Baptisms:

Paige Deacon	Adele Matthews
Weston Randall	James Gentile
Holden Burgoyne	



We held seven Marriage Ceremonies in 2015:

Troy Storm to Keri-Ann Spencer  
Alex Danayan to Nare Stamboulia  
Kyle Walling to Stacey Souchard  
Hayden Mulholland to Hillary Bingham  
Robert Jordan to Heather Mabee  
James Deacon to Gail Jamieson  
Gene Mercer to Elyse Ross

In Memoriam:

Jim Swartman	Dr Ramsey Gunton
Marilyn Johnton	Clint Walker
Winnagene Hatch	Mary Round
Grace Potter	Dr James Ballantyne
Frederick Eggett	Cecil Jonnston Jr.
Dawne Mahabir	

At the end of 2015 we had 338 Active Members and 33 Adherent Members

*Respectfully submitted by*  
*Audrey Coulthard*  
*Chair of Membership and Nurture Committee*

## Ministry and Personnel Committee

The role of the Ministry and Personnel Committee (M&P) is to provide support and assessment for all staff at First-St. Andrew's, aiming to maintain positive working conditions and relationships for the staff team in their various capacities within the church congregational life.

2015 began with **Rev. Tom Hiscock** taking over the role of senior clergy at FSA while the search for a new full-time minister for the church got underway. Rev. Hiscock, although still technically part-time, doubled his time commitment, and with stellar support from the Worship Committee (in particular Kerry Stover, who preached several Sundays), enabled the church to celebrate Sunday services with minimal dislocation. In the latter part of this period, Rev. Hiscock preached a number of sermons which reflected on how the congregation might prepare for its new leadership, and these sermons, combined with his moderating influence behind the scenes, were effective in smoothing the transition to the arrival of our new minister. Rev. Hiscock returned to his role as Minister of Pastoral Care in July, and continues his outreach to members of our congregation not able to be at church due to illness or infirmity.



At the annual meeting in February, the church adopted a deficit budget, with a commitment by Council to work towards erasing this deficit through a series of actions and activities on the part of all Committees. The M&P contribution to this effort was a decision to eliminate the administrative assistant position during the summer period, and reduce the number of hours for the position in the fall. We said farewell to **Katrina Stolk** at the end of June, and were happy that she was offered another position elsewhere almost immediately. Throughout the summer, reception was covered on a volunteer basis, and, along with her innumerable other contributions, we recognize **Dr. Jo Ann Silcox** for her outstanding service and commitment to this role throughout the summer.



In July, **Rev. Michelle Down** became the Minister of Worship and Congregational Life at First-St. Andrew's, bringing her energy and optimism to the role. Welcomed at numerous social events throughout June and July, Rev. Down was able to meet informally with many in the congregation during this period, impressing us with her warmth and humour. In the case of M&P, our introduction to Rev. Down was more formal, with her attendance by invitation at our September and some subsequent meetings, and the invitation in return for M&P members individually to attend staff meetings as they are able. The goal is to increase communication between the committee and staff, gaining in the process a better understanding of the challenges facing all of the staff.

And the challenges for staff can be significant. **Barry Tiffin** has had a most difficult year for health reasons, but when able to return to his position as Atrium Steward, has been as cheerful and welcoming as ever. **Ashley Dwyer**, returning to the administrative assistant position in the fall, has had to cope with balancing her reduced hours and family commitments, and manages to remain positive and helpful nevertheless. Our church administrator, **Brenda McManus**, was an integral part of dealing with the extraordinary budgeting issues throughout the spring, and some of these continued to be problematic throughout the year. In some contrast, **Jane Dockrill**, Youth and Young Family Coordinator, has seen growth in programs for which she is responsible, and **Tim Miedema**, Facilities Manager, has met operational issues with his usual aplomb.



Perhaps the most significant challenge faced by M&P this year was **Paul Merritt's** announcement of his retirement as Director of Music. Although his decision was not a complete surprise, finding a suitable replacement for someone who has served with such distinction for over 30 years will be a significant and critically important task for M&P in 2016. The reputation that First-St. Andrew's has for its music programs is due in no small part to his contributions throughout his career at the church, and he will be missed.

The M&P Committee in 2015 had the following members:

Bruce Moor – Chair  
Barb Plante – Vice-chair  
Linda Badke  
Jane Eberhard  
June McKay  
Kathryn Patton  
David Wake

*Respectfully Submitted*

*Bruce Moor*

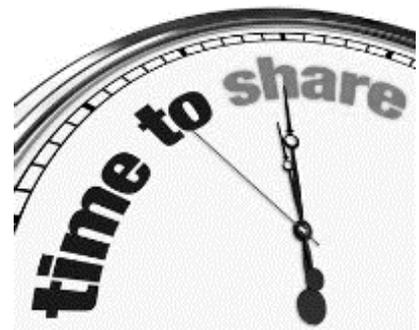
*Chair of Ministry and Personnel Committee*

## **Mission Outreach and The Environment Committee (M.O.E.)**

The MOE committee and friends have continued to be active at FSA, the wider community and the world. Janice and Jim Elliott and Linda Badke made a return trip to Nicaragua with Companeros in January of 2015. This year we were directly involved in Los Quinchos which was very exciting. Janice and Linda gave workshops to the teachers at the school for 4 mornings which were extremely well received. Jim was involved in house building in the Los Judas Barrio where the children from the school live. The teachers had been involved in helping to choose the families who most needed new housing. Our youth are now involved in planning a trip to Nicaragua for the summer of 2016.

### **Mission and Service Fund**

Fundraising for the M&S fund is done primarily through envelope givings/PAR. Currently our congregation gives 18% of our givings to the M&S fund. Part of the role of the MOE committee is to promote the M&S fund to the congregation. This is done through monthly Minutes for Mission, ordering Mandate magazines for the church and through Barb Dalrymple's ongoing work as our mission enthusiast. We spearhead two special appeals a year for World Development and Relief which this past year have been for Nepal and Syrian Refugees. We launched a campaign for Syrian refugees



raising money that was channeled through Byron United Church. A cheque for over \$3,000 was presented to a member of the refugee committee from Byron.

### **Bridges Out of Poverty**

Joanne Girvan and Katherine Wonfor coordinated the FSA part of the Bridges Out of Poverty program. Three meal teams provided meals for the participants on Monday evenings. Participants in the program have had good success in finding jobs and leaving Ontario Works.

### **East London United Church Outreach (ELUCO)**

First-St. Andrew's has been an active partner church in ELUCO for many years.



Our three board members are Martha Elliott, Janice Elliott and Linda Badke. Nancy Howard, our community worker continues to do an outstanding job of advocating for members of the Marconi community and assisting wherever people

need her to. Cheryl Bolton, our student intern continued her placement last winter and spring until her ordination. The ELUCO community was again the recipient of our White Gift gift cards. They were much appreciated by the folks who received them.

### **St. Paul's Daily Bread**

FSA collects both food and money for the St. Paul's foodbank. Jean Knowles has recently joined their board and David Knoppert chairs it. Both Jean and Bill continue to volunteer at the foodbank on a weekly basis. St. Paul's Daily Bread received money from the golf tournament as well as the loose offering from the Christmas Eve services.

### **Los Quinchos School/Fair Trade Coffee**

The MOE committee sold Las Chicas fair trade coffee through the end of the summer. At that time it was decided to discontinue weekly sales and sell at the bazaar and then through the remainder of the fall until Christmas. The Las Chicas business was moved to St. Thomas so with the cost of delivery and the time involved we felt doing it for only the couple of months made sense.

### **Grow a Row/Canadian Foodgrains Bank**

FSA ran the Grow a Row program in conjunction with St. Mary's United Church for our



20<sup>th</sup> year. A total of \$ 10,260 was raised by the two churches in this year's campaign which was matched 4:1 by CIDA to become \$51,300.

### **Mission Sunday**

Our mission speaker for 2015 was Sr. Joan Atkinson who spoke on poverty in London.

### **White Squirrel Golf Tournament**

Diane Knoppert and Margo Christodoulou headed up another very successful golf tournament. We had the largest number yet for the dinner. The silent auction was for a Dinner at Versailles catered by Margo. We had 2 successful bidders for the dinners. This year the proceeds from the golf tournament went to ELUCO, Daily Bread, a Companeros scholarship and Los Quinchos School. We also made a donation toward the operating fund at FSA.

The MOE committee would welcome new members with an interest in outreach. Pat Pettit and Barb Dalrymple are taking over as cochairs of the committee.

*Respectfully submitted by*

*Linda Badke*

*Chair of Mission Outreach Environment Committee*

### **Music Committee**

*"Music is an agreeable harmony for the honour of God and the permissible delights of the soul."*

*— Johann Sebastian Bach*



The 2015 musical year began with the 13th Annual ***A Taste of Burns*** on 23rd January with entertainment provided by "Haggis Stew" directed by Sharon Jones. Once again, Bruce Richardson was our piper and David McKane did "Immortal Memory" as Robbie Burns.

On 1st February, Amanda Perera, Soprano and Fiona Robson, Cellist—two of London’s finest young musicians, both of whom have a connection with First-St. Andrew’s—gave a wonderful concert show-casing their talents.

Lent began in February this year. On the 20th the Laudamus Bells gave a concert, followed by an organ concert by Paul Merritt on the 27th and the First-St. Andrew’s Young Performers on the 6th of March to conclude the Friday Lenten Noon Recitals.

The senior choir performed ***Mass in Blue*** on Sunday, 19th April—a London premier of a very challenging work by British musician and composer Will Todd.

In September, Dr. Darryl Edwards returned to London with the Concert Opera Group to perform Gilbert and Sullivan’s ***Yeoman of the Guard*** with soloists and sing-along choruses.

The highlight of the musical year, for the senior choir, was the performance of ***Mass in Blue*** in a concert in which Will Todd came from Britain, and rehearsed with us as well as accompanied us on the piano. The concert also featured several of his other pieces of music. This delightful gentleman was a pleasure for the choir to work with and it was a wonderful sharing of his talent with us.

Musically the ***Advent Noon Recitals*** concluded the year. Lynda (piano) and Bob (clarinet) Kennedy did the first concert on 27th November, Paul Merritt did an organ concert on the 4th of December and the series concluded with the Laudamus Bells on the 11th of December.

The Salvation Army Citadel Band played for our anniversary service and the senior choir sang with them at their annual Christmas Concert in December at Centennial Hall—carrying on a close relationship that has been going on for decades.

The First-St. Andrew’s Strings, under the able direction of Bruce Richardson, accompanied the senior choir on several occasions. Probably the most popular is the annual Christmas Eve service in which the strings take a prominent role.



Our long-serving (32 years) Director of Music informed the congregation that he would be retiring in the summer of 2016. Planning started for the search for a new Director of Music as well as how to honour Paul Merritt for his many years of service.



The Music Committee, once again this year, made a donation from the *Friends of Music Fund* to the general operations of the church in recognition for the support that the congregation provides to the music programmes.

In closing I should like to acknowledge the gift of time and energy that is given by the members of the committee: Paul Merritt, Jane Smith, Anne Cummings, Ann MacPhail, Jordan Baldwin, Cheryl Samson, and Merran Neville. Without their able assistance, my job would have been impossible.

*Respectfully Submitted*  
*Paul Cooper*  
*Chair of Music Committee*

## **Property Committee**

First-St. Andrew's United Church is an historic structure which requires regular care to ensure its viability for generations to come. The Property Committee meets monthly on the third Monday in an effort to address ongoing maintenance issues, Avis Report deficiencies and unexpected occurrences. The committee is dedicated to both maintenance of, and improvements to our church home. This year we encountered a number of unexpected issues which required immediate attention. Namely:



### **Atrium Entrance**

Our automatic entry system failed early in the year and required a complete retrofit of door hardware since the existing system had become obsolete.

## **Organ**

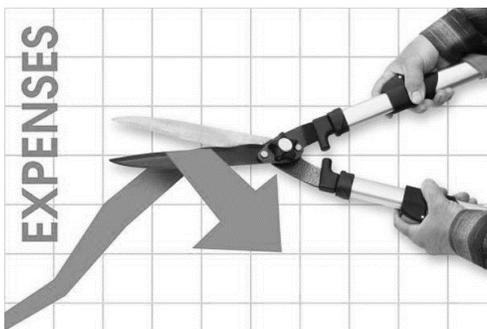
The organ pipe repairs were completed in February to the tune of \$90 000.00. Although our insurance covered about 30% of the expenses, our Trustees were called upon to cover the remainder. This is just one of those incidents which points to the necessity of maintaining our trust funds in such a way that emergencies can be addressed in a timely manner.

## **Boiler**

As a result of recent repairs to the gas supply valves the boiler has become more dependable. We are progressing with corrections to heat distribution issues as they arise. Several such corrections were made over the course of this past year. Maintaining our current heating system has become a priority in order to defer a very costly conversion to an HVAC system. We are still investigating the possibility of changing some areas of the building to improve efficiency and comfort levels.

## **Sanctuary Lighting**

Over the summer our current dimmer system failed after an electrical storm. The immediate fix meant that we no longer have dimming capabilities in the sanctuary. The existing system is now obsolete and we are investigating upgrades including a conversion to LED lighting. This would result in energy efficiencies, cost savings, and would address another of the Avis recommendations.



As a result of these unexpected expenses, our planned capital improvements had to be reassessed. We did however complete all of the high level exterior painting which was an Avis recommendation. Once again the Property Committee extends thanks to the Trustees for their support of the ongoing maintenance and improvements to our facility.

We are grateful for our hard-working volunteers who joined us during Spring Clean-up Day and throughout the 'green' months, particularly David Beech and Audrey Coulthard. Similarly we are grateful to our volunteer, Ron Bradley, who completed interior paint repairs over the course of the summer

## Rentals

Rental income continues to be an important source of revenue to support operating costs. Close to \$50 000 was generated in 2015. A significant portion of that comes from our long-term tenants: Meals On Wheels, Deborah Carter and Deva Tree. In addition FSA is a sought after facility for community groups particularly for musical events.



## Committee Members

George Jolink (Co-Chairperson); Heather Vouvalidis (Co-Chairperson); Bill Guthrie (Secretary); Willis Buckingham, Donna Travis, Peter Ross, Tim Miedema (Facilities and Maintenance Coordinator).

*Respectfully submitted by  
George Jolink and Heather Vouvalidis  
Co-Chairs of the Property Committee*

## Stewardship Committee



### Campaign Structure

This year, it was decided that a multi-pronged approach would replace the single fall stewardship campaign. The initial appeal was made October 25, 2015. The entire service was coordinated at every level to reflect our recognition of all that is done at FSA to make the lives of our congregation – and our larger community – better. The message was 1) If you're not on Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR), please consider it, and 2) If you can give more this year, please do so.

### The "Ask"

Due to FSA's current deficit position, the ask for this year was increased. (Last year, we asked our congregation to simply give the same as they had the year before.) This year, however, we asked for an additional \$20.00 per month in order to help bridge the deficit gap. Harold Jackson (Finance) created graphic illustrations outlining our deficit situation, with reference to past givings, in order to help clarify the financial picture.

## The Mailing

The mailing this year included a brochure which provided a snapshot FSA's current financial position, historical figures on givings, a reminder of why we give, and information on PAR. Also included in the mailing were the pledge forms, a letter of appeal, and the Christmas drive envelope. Although it was discussed that it might be asking a bit much at once to include the Christmas appeal envelope, it was decided that the savings generated by only one mailing were substantial enough to rationalize this approach.



## Looking Ahead to 2016

Several different fundraising campaigns are being planned. We will also include a spring Easter drive.

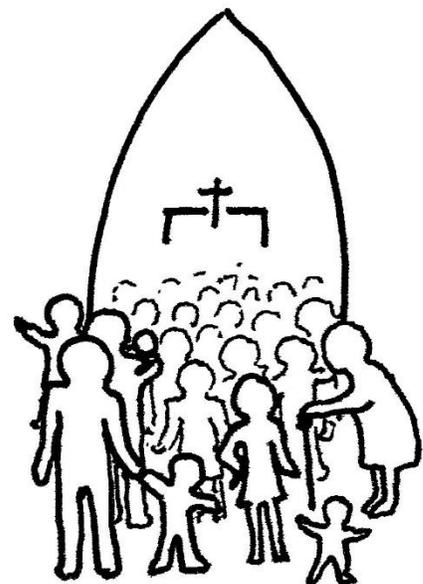
The committee will also need new members to meet FSA's constitutional requirements. This will be finalized by the end of January 2016.

*Respectfully submitted by*  
*Tara Gonder*  
*Chair of Stewardship Committee*

## Worship Committee

"It is in the gathered community at worship that we celebrate our life together and affirm our identity as children of God and followers of Jesus." (The Web of Creation)

It has been an eventful year with Worship this year. As a result of being without a Minister of Worship and Congregational Life for six months, we were treated to a variety of preachers. As arranged by Kerry Stover, the Rev. Dr. David MacKane, the Rev. Tom Hiscock, and Kerry Stover covered the services for the six months with the help of some of the committees in the church.



In January, the MOE committee led a service with Sister Joan Atkinson preaching. Then in February, the Worship Committee led a service where Barbara Cunningham and Jacqueline Davis spoke. The Children's Musical inspired and entertained us in April. In June, the Christian Development Committee arranged a service and meal at Camp Kee-Mo-Kee at which Barbara Cunningham preached.

The season of Lent was observed with an Ash Wednesday Service, the Lenten Festival of Carols, a Tennebrae service on Maundy Thursday, and a Good Friday Service at Metropolitan, and then an Easter Sunday Communion service.

Earth Sunday, when Kerry Stover gave a sermon about water sustaining us, we celebrated life resurrected in Spring time with the Greening of the Cross.



In July, we welcomed the Rev. Michelle Down (with cake). With summer services in Proudfoot Hall, Michelle used slide shows to enhance her sermon series. When Michelle attended General Council, the Rev. Dr. Barry Moore and Jay Snyder led us in worship.

During the Fall, we observed Friendship Sunday in partnership with the Welcoming Committee. The UCW led us in Worship and presented their "Bread Not Stones" initiative. The Worship Committee organized a dinner in conjunction with a very special Covenanting Service for Michelle. The Rev. Nancy Knox, a minister in Bracebridge and Michelle's aunt gave the message at that service. At our Anniversary Service, we welcomed the Salvation Army Band and the Rev. Dr. Cheri Dinovo, a former United Church minister, and now Member of Provincial Parliament.

The time of Advent was celebrated with the Advent Lessons and Carols service; a children and youth led service with a Christmas pageant; a Christmas Sunday service with special music, and a Christmas Eve Family Service followed by a Candlelight and Communion Service.

The Worship Committee said good bye to its co-chairs, Kerry Stover and Joan Bancroft in February, and welcomed the new chairs, John McDonald and Jane Westmorland. John has since taken a leave of absence from the position. The members of the committee have undertaken various responsibilities. Jim Silcox is in charge of the banners, organizing communion, and recording the minutes of the meeting. Joan Bancroft is in charge of organizing the Scripture Readers, liaising with Charlotte Oldham who organizes the Welcoming Greeters, and with Pam Salmoni who organizes the candlelighters. Stephen

Adams is writing the Tidings Articles for the committee. Barbara Cunningham has undertaken the task of determining where the Sanctuary Decorations are all located, and who is responsible for decorating for the various seasons. Jane Westmorland is responsible for organizing Baptisms and scheduling the Liturgists.



Following Michelle's initiative, we are working on communication. Michelle has invited people to fill out surveys about Worship which she has shared with the committee. We have a Worship Committee mailbox where people are invited to share thoughts on the services. We have also attempted to contact each person who indicated interest in Worship on the Time and Talent survey. We found that people are very interested in participating, either by lighting candles, reading scripture or greeting at the door.

*Respectfully submitted by  
Jane Westmorland  
Co-chair of Worship Committee*

## U.C.W



### U.C.W Purpose

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.

First-St. Andrew's U.C.W is one unit and members usually meet monthly for worship, fellowship and programs on various topics. All women of the congregation are warmly welcomed.

Some of the services provided to the congregation by the U.C.W:

- Corresponding secretary has sent many thoughtful letters to bereaved families, persons in hospital or sick at home and to church members who have made a special contribution to the church or our community.
- Care of the three church kitchens
- Provision and funding for floral arrangements and supplies at each Sunday service and decorating the church for the special seasons on Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- Funding for supplies for the Isabelle Getliffe Sewing Group which meets weekly from April through to November to prepare items for sale for the bazaar.
- Financial and contribution to the Knitwits who also knit items for the bazaar (See Annual Report on final Page).



Money raising projects were:

- Spring Rummage Sale convened by Jan and Jim Hendry
- Boutique Bazaar convened by Glenda Robinson and Shelly Kostecki
- Phantom Tea envelopes with an invitation poem composed by Millie Bates
- The use of Green Envelopes available to all members for personal donations



In addition to our donations to several organizations under priority I and II (for details see U.C.W budget), funding was provided to send two children from ELUCO to Camp Kee-Mo-Kee.

## Meetings:

- In January, Barbara Dalrymple conducted a delightful interview with Carol Ristine, the new retired head of volunteer services at Mission Services.
- Many members attended Middlesex Presbyterial U.C.W. Annual Meeting in February at Richards Memorial United Church when Laurel Kenney was named the “Woman of Distinction”.
- We supported and participated in the World Day of Prayer Service at St. George’s Anglican Church in March.
- In April, many women worked diligently for three days to produce a successful Rummage Sale under the direction of Jan and Jim Hendry.
- Jan Watt, president of Komoka U.C.W spoke to our April meeting about her volunteer work in Nicaragua. We donated boxes of material to that work.
- Eva Archibald was our delegate to London Conference Annual hosted by Algoma Presbyterial at St. Andrew’s United Church in Sault Ste. Marie.
- In May we attended a performance “A Second Helping – The Church Basement Ladies” in Victoria Playhouse, Petrolia. We enjoyed the hospitality and friendship of Petrolia U.C.W with a delicious Lunch before the performance.
- June was Camp Kee-Mo-Kee Day arranged by Middlesex Presbyterial U.C.W.
- In September, Bob Ripley was our guest speaker in the Chapel meeting. He is the former Minister of Metropolitan United Church. He spoke on his life experiences.



- Annabel Logan hosted a pot-luck luncheon in October at her home.
- Our Boutique Bazaar was an outstanding success on November 14<sup>th</sup> under the leadership of Glenda

Robinson and Shelley Kostecki.

- Under the guidance of Rev. Michelle Down, we presented a church service on November 18<sup>th</sup> based on our mission study “Bread not Stones”.
- The church staff members were our guests at a catered noon luncheon on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our musical program was presented by a ladies quartet SPLICE.

We look forward to hosting a Strawberry Social in June 2016 to honour the Retirement of FSA director of Music, Paul Merritt.

Many sincere thanks to the executive of our U.C.W. and to all the women of the congregation who have contributed in a myriad of ways. It is deeply appreciated.

- |                                                                |             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| ➤ Total National Mission & Service U.C.W. giving's for 2014    | \$1,482,840 |
| ➤ London Conference Mission & Service U.C.W. giving's for 2014 | \$242,000   |
| ➤ First-St. Andrew's U.C.W. giving's for 2014                  | \$15,000    |

*Respectfully submitted by*  
*Laurel Kenney*  
*U.C.W*

## First-St. Andrew's United Church Women

### Unaudited Statement of Financial Position

(expressed in Canadian dollars)

	Year-to-Date December '15	
	Actual	Prior Year
<b>Assets</b>		
Bank	23,964	25,341
Petty Cash	0	0
Investments	27,000	27,000
Accounts Receivable	0	0
HST/GST Federal Portion	0	0
HST/GST Provincial Portion	0	0
<b>Total Assets</b>	50,964	52,341
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>50,964</b>	<b>52,341</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	39	498
Due to/from UCW 50th Ann. Special Gift	0	0
Due to/from FSA	(2,074)	(3,503)
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	(2,035)	(3,005)
<b>Equity</b>		
A. Webster Fund - Principal & Interest	2,226	2,226
F. McFarlane Fund - Principal	0	0
Retained Earnings	50,773	53,120
<b>Total Equity</b>	52,999	55,346
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>50,964</b>	<b>52,341</b>

# First-St. Andrew's United Church Women

## Unaudited Statement of Operations

(expressed in Canadian dollars)

	Year-to-Date December '15	
	Actual	Budget
<b>Donations</b>		
Green Envelopes	2,905	2,465
Bequests	0	0
Thank offering	0	0
Flowers	1,080	1,630
Phantom Tea	1,892	1,046
Prayer Shawl Ministry	738	470
Miscellaneous Donations	0	300
	<u>6,615</u>	<u>5,911</u>
<b>Earnings</b>		
Unit Contribution	0	0
Bazaar	17,375	11,778
Pie Sales	637	10,338
Rummage Sale	2,834	2,996
Catering/Meals	490	1,367
Misc. Fundraisers	0	0
Investment Income	0	0
Bank Interest	240	240
Miscellaneous Earnings	683	70
	<u>22,249</u>	<u>26,789</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>28,864</b>	<b>32,701</b>
<b>Outreach</b>		
Priority I Outreach (January)	4,300	4,400
Priority II Outreach (December)	583	700
Mission & Service - U.C. of Canada	15,000	15,000
Congregational	1,000	624
Prayer Shawl Ministry	392	146
Camp Kee-Mo-Kee	630	500
Gifts to Shut-Ins	350	150
Other Outreach	0	0
	<u>22,255</u>	<u>21,520</u>

# First-St. Andrew's United Church Women

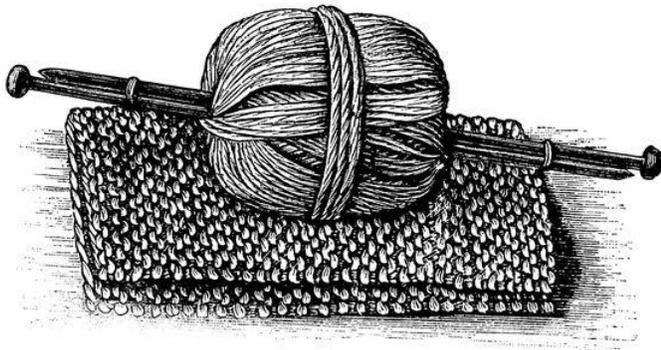
## Unaudited Statement of Operations

(expressed in Canadian dollars)

	Year-to-Date December '15	
	Actual	Budget
<b>Miscellaneous Expenses</b>		
Bazaar	4,043	1,537
Pies	141	4,011
Rummage Sales	164	0
Misc. Fundraisers	0	0
Flowers	1,024	1,334
Catering / Meals	789	1,346
Middlesex Presbytery Resource	0	0
Middlesex Presbyterial	320	324
Workshops / Seminars	870	40
Subscriptions / Journals	27	27
Banners	0	0
Speakers / Courtesy	300	100
Purchases - Kitchen Equipment	38	0
Other Misc. Expenses	0	966
	<u>7,716</u>	<u>9,687</u>
<b>General &amp; Administrative Expenses</b>		
Advertising & Promotions	0	0
Postage / Copying	20	0
Interest & Bank Charges	0	29
Office Supplies	0	0
Kitchen / Cleaning	560	1,386
Misc. General & Admin	660	752
	<u>1,239</u>	<u>2,167</u>
<b>Total Surplus (Deficit) from Operations</b>	<b><u>(2,347)</u></b>	<b><u>(672)</u></b>

## The Knitwits

The Knitwits had a very productive 2015. Over the year, the group produced 80 prayer shawls to be distributed throughout the congregation, community, and world to



people who would benefit from their loving warmth and prayer, often because of illness or loss. The group also knitted 55 red scarves for the Red Scarf Project at London's Regional HIV/AIDS Connection. These scarves were first blessed by Rev. Michelle in the November 15 service while they were worn by members of the congregation. The scarves were then

presented to Martin McIntosh, the project coordinator to take into our community to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS.

Other projects for the Knitwits included knitting scarves, mittens, and hats for the Mitten Tree in the Atrium to be distributed to London's needy, purple hats for newborn babies at the Children's Hospital, baby blankets for Project Linus, afghans for homeless women at My Sister's Place, and a wide variety of items for FSA's Boutique Bazaar. We are very grateful for the financial support from the UCW and congregational donors to help us purchase a portion of the yarn for these worthwhile projects.

*Respectfully submitted by  
Anne Cummings*

# Finance and Trustees

## Finance Committee

*“Our lives are not determined by what happens to us, but by how we react to what happens; not by what life brings to us, but by the attitude we bring to life. A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events and outcomes. It is a catalyst, a spark that creates extraordinary results.”*

*-Anon.*

Such a life credo can provide rewarding fulfillment as we serve to keep our promise to be **At the Heart**. Liberal theology meeting the best of tradition in conjunction with a wide variety of local and outreach programmes provide the base that keeps this congregation growing in so many different ways. The physical space we call First-St. Andrew’s United Church (FSA) is the home to our church community. Not only is it a sacred space, but a place of coming together in welcome for all. We seek to experience spiritual stimulation, moral guidance and celebrate the many opportunities for personal and corporate ministry offered here. This special home allows us to facilitate ministry which reaches out, brings pastoral care, prayer and God’s praise through song.



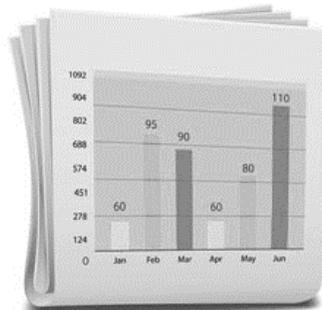
The operational budget approved by the Annual Congregational Meeting in February forecast a deficit of \$57,025 for 2015. However, a fiscal management strategy which seeks sources of revenue that balance organizational expenses is the key to sustainability. This led to a Church Council review of measures to develop a balanced 2015 budget with leadership from the Finance Committee and the Board of Trustees. FSA currently manages its operational budget with revenues coming from a combination of locally raised funds (congregational givings, rental income, special appeals/designated projects and miscellaneous donations), and support from trust funds managed by our Board of Trustees. Support from additional trust funds support, along with gains from staff vacancy, provided the basis for a balanced 2015 June-Revised budget plan.



As a result, 2015 revenues benefited from unrestricted trust funds in the amount of \$100,000 (original budget plan of \$80,000 + **\$20,000 additional support in the June-Revised budget plan**) in support of church operations including comprehensive insurance. Further, the Christian Development programme was supported from the Jean Brown Trust Fund in the amount of \$21,617 (executed plan of \$11,617 for programme + **\$10,000 additional support to staffing support in the June-Revised budget plan**). By year end 2015, the financial support received from local church revenue sources and June-Revised budget trust funds transfers, along with gains from staff vacancy was sufficient to meet the revised plan. Financial details can be found in the **Review Engagement Report** of our Auditor Gary E. Mason, Chartered Professional Accountant, contained in the 2015 Annual Report.

The budget forecast for 2016 has been prepared to clearly identify the sources of revenue available and forecasted expense plans. With the agreement of Church Council, a balanced budget forecast has been developed. Income estimates reflects local revenue experience from 2015 and continued trust funds support at 2015 levels. Programme expenses use estimates submitted by spending committees, while other expense estimates reflect 2015 experience. To achieve a balanced budget, the congregational M&S Fund contribution has been reduced to 12% of givings. Importantly, our challenge remains to set in place realistic plans that can result in a stabilizing impact on the financial position for 2017 and succeeding years.

With declining revenue from congregational givings and plans that reflect increased operational expenses, a key principle of our current fiscal strategy requires continuing support from trust funds managed by the Board of Trustees. **In 2015, trust funds provided revenue support of \$175,287 (\$121,617 general operations and \$53,670 organ pipe repairs) to church**



**operations and \$88,025 in capital spending.** Recognizing the need to manage trust fund principal and its growth, the CAP process instituted in 2002 was given careful review by the Finance Committee and the Board of Trustees in 2015. A new management strategy was approved in November by Church Council. The new process recognizes 2 major allocations of trust

funds, restricted and Proudfoot Legacy. Importantly, the Proudfoot Legacy allocation is further managed as restricted and unrestricted. The restricted portion reserves a principal amount judged sufficient to generate revenue, based on historical performance, sufficient to fund the current year budget allocation. The unrestricted

portion is available to support approved church capital projects. FSA is the fortunate beneficiary of many generous legacies. Ongoing prudent stewardship of legacies left to FSA is essential to allow for this strategy to continue.

The involvement of us all, whether through **Time, Treasure and/or Talent**, will be fundamental to our continuing sustainability. The support and cooperation of all committees in their delivery of programmes is essential. An innovative and imaginative FSA community will surely be the means by which 2016 plans can be managed. Importantly, the support and leadership from our paid staff is significant for plan achievement. To them we must pay particular recognition. We are truly blessed by their talents and dedication to sustaining our congregation **At the Heart**.

We are indeed fortunate to have a well-qualified and dedicated Finance Committee. Our members in 2014 included: Catherine Charlton, Harold Jackson (Chair), Doug Jones, Brenda McManus (Church Administrator), Don Reid and Donna Travis. With regret, we received the resignation of Dr. Don Reid in June from the Finance Committee. We extend our thanks for his dedicated and concerned contributions to the Finance Committee's work since November 2010. Brenda McManus, our fulltime Church Administrator, plays a very critical management role for the church. Her accumulated training and work expertise brings substantial innovation to financial reporting, analysis and management. The continued focus on GAAP financial data reporting/recording and attention to management priorities within her purview during 2015 is significant. The Finance Committee wishes to recognize and extend their thanks to her for the many contributions to managing the financial and supervisory responsibilities of this important staff position at FSA.



The foregoing narrative report is respectfully submitted on behalf of the Finance Committee by its Chair.

*Respectfully submitted by*  
*Harold Jackson*  
*Chair of Finance Committee*

**First-St. Andrew's United Church  
Index to the Financial Statements  
As At December 31, 2015**

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C1.	Review Engagement Report
C2.	Statement of Financial Position
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C4.- 6.	Statements of Operations and Changes in Restricted Fund Balances
C7.	Statement of Cash Flows
C8.- 10.	Notes to the Financial Statements

# GARY E. MASON

Chartered Professional Accountant

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## Review Engagement Report

To The Members of First-**St. Andrew's United Church**

I have reviewed the statement of financial position of First-**St. Andrew's United Church as at** December 31, 2015 and the statements of operations and changes in fund balances and cash flows for the year then ended. My review was made in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements and accordingly consisted primarily of enquiry, analytical procedures and discussion related to information supplied to me by management.

A review does not constitute an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Note 3 to the financial statements indicates that capital assets, including land and buildings, have been recorded at a nominal value of \$1 and that the purchase of capital assets are expensed in the year of acquisition. Canadian generally accepted accounting principles require not-for-profit organizations with revenue greater than \$500,000 to capitalize and amortize capital assets. The effects of this departure from Canadian generally accepted accounting principles on the unaudited financial statements have not been determined.

Except for the policy as described in the preceding paragraph, not to record and amortize capital assets, based on my review, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that these financial statements are not, in all material respects, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

London, Ontario  
February 5, 2016



GARY E. MASON, CPA, CA  
Licensed Public Accountant

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First-St. Andrew's United Church  
Statement of Financial Position  
As At December 31, 2015  
With 2014 Comparatives  
"Unaudited"

ASSETS

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
Cash	\$ 10,016	\$ 743
Guaranteed Investment Certificates	25,106	25,106
Amounts Receivable	31,645	25,298
Prepaid Expenses	10,437	44,595
Inventory	<u>2,500</u>	<u>3,075</u>
	<u>79,704</u>	<u>98,817</u>
 <u>RESTRICTED ASSETS</u>		
Cash	22,664	45,633
Guaranteed Investment Certificates	6,548	6,432
Due from Trust Funds (Note 4)	<u>21,617</u>	<u>3,117</u>
	<u>50,829</u>	<u>55,182</u>
 <u>CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 3)</u>		
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
 <u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	 <u>\$ 130,534</u>	 <u>\$ 154,000</u>

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$ 39,599	\$ 38,781
Deposits	720	500
Due to Trust Funds (Note 4)	<u>844</u>	<u>36,911</u>
	<u>41,163</u>	<u>76,192</u>
 <u>FUND BALANCES (Note 2)</u>		
Restricted Funds		
Music	18,984	20,346
Other	<u>31,845</u>	<u>34,836</u>
	50,829	55,182
Operating Fund	<u>38,542</u>	<u>22,626</u>
	<u>89,371</u>	<u>77,808</u>
 <u>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCES</u>	 <u>\$ 130,534</u>	 <u>\$ 154,000</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

First-**St. Andrew's** United Church  
 Statements of Operations and Changes in Operating Fund Balances  
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2015  
 With 2014 Comparatives  
 "Unaudited"

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
<u>REVENUE</u> (Note 3)		
Envelope Givings	\$ 454,587	\$ 474,461
Rental Income - Farquhar House	30,210	29,610
- Other	51,889	48,308
Designated Income	39,012	42,567
Miscellaneous Donations & Income	22,680	10,547
Special Projects	10,271	12,217
Gift Cards	<u>4,024</u>	<u>3,836</u>
	<u>612,673</u>	<u>621,546</u>
 <u>EXPENDITURES</u>		
Staffing - Ministry & Personnel	366,111	389,300
Program Services		
- Christian Development	1,571	2,977
- Jean Brown CD Sub-committee	11,617	13,980
- Marketing & Communications	2,785	4,805
- Membership & Nurture	911	683
- Music	16,916	15,940
- Special Projects	7,529	10,828
- Worship	6,220	3,209
- Search Committee	200	-0-
Outreach - M & S Fund Commitment	79,419	81,721
- Mission, Outreach & the Environment	385	199
- Designated Expense	39,012	52,067
Operations - Office & Administration	44,355	38,254
- Operations Contingency	-0-	1,543
- Presbytery Fees	11,350	10,793
- Property Repairs, Maintenance & Security	123,976	55,836
- Property Insurance	18,968	18,269
- Farquhar House	5,850	7,924
- Utilities & Taxes	<u>34,869</u>	<u>38,417</u>
	<u>772,044</u>	<u>746,745</u>
 <u>SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FROM OPERATIONS</u>	 (159,371)	 (125,199)
 <u>FUND BALANCE</u> - Beginning of the Year	 22,626	 44,345
 <u>TRANSFERS FROM TRUST FUNDS</u> (Note 4)	 175,287	 108,980
 <u>TRANSFER TO CAPITAL RESERVE FUND</u>	 <u>0-</u>	 <u>(5,500)</u>
 <u>FUND BALANCE</u> - End of the Year	 \$ <u>38,542</u>	 \$ <u>22,626</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

**First-St. Andrew's United Church**  
**Statements of Operations and Changes in Restricted Fund Balances**  
**For The Year Ended December 31, 2015**  
**With 2014 Comparatives**  
**"Unaudited"**

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
<b><u>RESTRICTED FUNDS - MUSIC</u></b>		
Bray Fund		
Balance - Beginning of the Year	\$ 2,284	\$ 2,493
Revenue - Donations & Concert	581	260
Expenditures - Music & Other	<u>(1,135)</u>	<u>(469)</u>
Balance - End of the Year	\$ <u>1,730</u>	\$ <u>2,284</u>
Cram/King Fund		
Balance - Beginning of the Year	\$ 12	\$ 12
Expenditures - Music Recognition	<u>(12)</u>	<u>-0-</u>
Balance - End of the Year	\$ <u>-0-</u>	\$ <u>12</u>
Eberhard Memorial Music Scholarship Fund - Principal		
Balance - Beginning of the Year	\$ 2,477	\$ 22,308
Revenue - Donations	4,610	2,477
Transfer to Trust Funds (Note 4)	<u>(2,477)</u>	<u>(22,308)</u>
Balance - End of the Year	\$ <u>4,610</u>	\$ <u>2,477</u>
Eberhard Memorial Music Scholarship Fund - Interest		
Balance - Beginning of the Year	\$ 1,121	\$ 2,066
Revenue - Interest	-0-	509
Expenditures - Music Apprentice	(1,369)	(1,454)
Transfer from Trust Funds (Note 4)	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-0-</u>
Balance - End of the Year	\$ <u>752</u>	\$ <u>1,121</u>
Inch/Petts Fund		
Balance - Beginning of the Year	\$ 622	\$ 1,188
Expenditures - Music & Other	<u>(622)</u>	<u>(566)</u>
Balance - End of the Year	\$ <u>-0-</u>	\$ <u>622</u>
C. Wilson Trust Fund - Interest		
Balance - Beginning of the Year	\$ 305	\$ 305
Expenditures - Music	<u>(102)</u>	<u>-0-</u>
Balance - End of the Year	\$ <u>203</u>	\$ <u>305</u>
C. Wilson Trust Fund - Principal		
Balance - Beginning of the Year	\$ -0-	\$ 1,179
Revenue - Donations	1,000	-0-
Transfer to Trust Funds	<u>-0-</u>	<u>(1,179)</u>
Balance - End of the Year	\$ <u>1,000</u>	\$ <u>-0-</u>

**First-St. Andrew's United Church**  
**Statements of Operations and Changes in Restricted Fund Balances**  
**For The Year Ended December 31, 2015**  
**With 2014 Comparatives**  
**"Unaudited"**

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
<u>MUSIC - CONTINUED</u>		
Friends of Music Fund		
Balance - Beginning of the Year	\$ 12,993	\$ 11,830
Revenue - Concert Series Sales	16,901	10,235
- Donations	6,869	6,720
- Interest	116	114
Expenditures - Concert Series	<u>(27,322)</u>	<u>(15,906)</u>
Balance - End of the Year	\$ <u>9,557</u>	\$ <u>12,993</u>
Wm. & I. McKane Bursary Fund		
Balance - Beginning of the Year	\$ 532	\$ 1,194
Revenue - Donations	600	400
Expenditures - Music	<u>-0-</u>	<u>(1,062)</u>
Balance - End of the Year	\$ <u>1,132</u>	\$ <u>532</u>
 <u>TOTAL - MUSIC FUNDS</u>	 \$ <u>18,984</u>	 \$ <u>20,346</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

First-**St. Andrew's United Church**  
 Statements of Operations and Changes in Restricted Fund Balances  
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2015  
 With 2014 Comparatives  
 "Unaudited"

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
<u>RESTRICTED FUNDS – OTHER</u>		
Discretionary Fund		
Balance - Beginning of the Year	\$ 508	\$ 2,747
Expenditures	-0-	(313)
Transfer to Benevolent Fund	-0-	(1,129)
Transfer to Hospitality Meals Fund	-0-	(797)
Balance - End of the Year	<u>\$ 508</u>	<u>\$ 508</u>
Benevolent Fund		
Balance - Beginning of the Year	\$ -0-	\$ 726
Revenue - Donations	400	120
Expenditures - Benevolent Gifts	-0-	(1,975)
Transfer from Discretionary Fund	-0-	1,129
Balance - End of the Year	<u>\$ 400</u>	<u>\$ -0-</u>
Clark Fund - Interest		
Balance - Beginning of the Year	\$ 10,640	\$ 10,965
Expenditures	(600)	(325)
Transfer to Trust Funds (Note 4)	(8,500)	-0-
Balance - End of the Year	<u>\$ 1,540</u>	<u>\$ 10,640</u>
Hospitality Meals Fund		
Balance - Beginning of the Year	\$ 10,730	\$ 6,835
Revenue - Donations	396	9,821
Expenditures- Meals	(2,532)	(6,723)
Transfer from Discretionary Fund	-0-	797
Balance - End of the Year	<u>\$ 8,594</u>	<u>\$ 10,730</u>
Capital Building Fund		
Balance - Beginning of the Year	\$ 12,436	\$ 52,259
Revenue - Donations	1,000	420
Expenditures- Renovations	-0-	(40,243)
Balance - End of the Year	<u>\$ 13,436</u>	<u>\$ 12,436</u>
Capital Reserve Fund (Note 3)		
Balance - Beginning of the Year	\$ 522	\$ 13,225
Expenditures- Capital Expenditures	(81,180)	(18,203)
Transfer from Trust Funds (Note 4)	88,025	-0-
Transfer from Operating Fund	-0-	5,500
Balance - End of the Year	<u>\$ 7,367</u>	<u>\$ 522</u>
<u>TOTAL - OTHER RESTRICTED FUNDS</u>	<u>\$ 31,845</u>	<u>\$ 34,836</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

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First-**St. Andrew's United Church**  
**Statements of Cash Flows**  
For The Year Ended December 31, 2015  
With 2014 Comparatives  
"Unaudited"

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
<b><u>CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES</u></b>		
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Operating Fund	\$ 612,673	\$ 621,546
Music Funds	30,677	20,715
Other Restricted Funds	<u>1,796</u>	<u>10,361</u>
	<u>645,146</u>	<u>652,622</u>
 <b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Operating Fund	772,044	746,745
Music Funds	30,562	19,457
Other Restricted Funds	<u>84,312</u>	<u>67,782</u>
	<u>886,918</u>	<u>833,984</u>
 Net Surplus (Deficit) from Activities	 (241,772)	 (181,362)
Transfer to Trust Funds (Note 4)	(10,977)	(23,487)
Transfers from Trust Funds (Note 4)	264,312	108,980
Decrease (Increase) in Amount Due from Trust Funds	(18,500)	76,654
Increase in Amounts Receivable & Inventory	(5,772)	(920)
Decrease (Increase) in Prepaid Expenses	34,158	(37,083)
Increase (Decrease) in Current Liabilities	<u>(35,029)</u>	<u>32,673</u>
 DECREASE IN CASH	 (13,580)	 (24,545)
CASH – Beginning of the Year	<u>77,914</u>	<u>102,459</u>
CASH – End of the Year	\$ <u>64,334</u>	\$ <u>77,914</u>
 <b><u>COMPRISED OF</u></b>		
Current Assets - Cash	\$ 10,016	\$ 743
- Guaranteed Investment Certificates	25,106	25,106
Restricted Assets - Cash	22,664	45,633
- Guaranteed Investment Certificates	<u>6,548</u>	<u>6,432</u>
	\$ <u>64,334</u>	\$ <u>77,914</u>

First-St. Andrew's United Church  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
For The Year Ended December 31, 2015  
"Unaudited"

**1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

These financial statements report the activities related to the operations and administration of the Church. They do not report the assets or activities of the Board of Trustees or the UCW.

**2. BASIS OF PRESENTATION**

The financial statements have been prepared using Canadian standards for not-for-profit organizations.

The financial statements are presented on a fund basis. The income, expenses and activities of the funds are reported directly within each fund. The funds are restricted to their intended use as described below:

***Operating Fund***

To be used to operate the general activities and administration of the Church.

***Restricted Funds***

**Music Funds – Administered by the Director of Music**

*Bray Fund*

To provide support for undesignated music programs.

*Cram/King Fund*

To provide support to Children's music programs.

*Eberhard Memorial Music Scholarship Funds*

To provide support for vocal music scholarships. The Principal Fund must be retained while the Interest Fund may be spent.

*Inch/Petts Fund*

To provide support for undesignated music programs.

*C. Wilson Trust Funds*

To provide support to organ apprentice music programs.

*Friends of Music Fund*

To provide support for special music concerts and events.

*Wm. & I. McKane Bursary Fund*

To provide financial assistance in the form of bursaries to musicians.

***Other Restricted Funds***

*Discretionary Fund*

To provide funding for non budgeted expenditures as directed by the honourees.

*Benevolent Fund*

To provide support for discretionary benevolent purposes. Administered by Ministerial staff.

First-St. Andrew's United Church  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
For The Year Ended December 31, 2015  
"Unaudited"

**2. BASIS OF PRESENTATION (continued)**

***Other Restricted Funds (continued)***

Clark Fund – Interest

To provide support for continuing education. The principal of the Fund is maintained by the Trustees and interest is transferred to the Church to provide income for the Fund. Administered by the Ministry & Personnel Committee.

Hospitality Meals Fund

To support the weekly hospitality meal program under the direction of the Mission, Outreach & Environment Committee.

Capital Building Fund

To be used for infrastructure renewal as outlined in the Avis Report under the direction of Council.

Capital Reserve Fund

To be used for capital expenditures under the direction of Council.

**3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

***Revenue Recognition***

Revenue is recorded in the period to which it relates on an accrual basis.

***Capital Assets***

Capital assets consisting of land, buildings, furniture and equipment have been recorded at a nominal value of \$1. Current purchases of capital assets including renovations are expensed in the year of acquisition through the Capital Building and Capital Reserve Funds.

***Contributed Services***

The Church is dependent upon the many hours of volunteer work contributed by its members, the fair value of which cannot be estimated. Contributed services are not recognized in these financial statements.

***Use of Estimates***

The preparation of the financial statements that are in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires Council to make estimates and assumptions that are based on currently available information. Such estimates and assumptions may affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities and fund balances as at the reporting date, and the reported amounts of revenue and expenditures during the fiscal period. Actual results could differ from the estimates and the assumptions used.

First-**St. Andrew's United Church**  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
For The Year Ended December 31, 2015  
"Unaudited"

**4. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

Due from Trust Funds represents amounts receivable from the Board of Trustees of First-**St. Andrew's United Church**.

Due to Trust Funds represents the amount due to the Board of Trustees of First-**St. Andrew's United Church**.

Transfers from Trust Funds represent amounts received or receivable from the Board of Trustees of First-**St. Andrew's United Church**.

To the Operating Fund	\$ 153,670	from the Capital Fund
	<u>21,617</u>	from the Wm. & J. Brown Fund
	\$ <u>175,287</u>	
To the Capital Reserve Fund	\$ <u>88,025</u>	from the Capital Fund
To the Eberhard Memorial Scholarship Fund – Interest	\$ <u>1,000</u>	from the Eberhard Memorial Music Scholarship Fund

Transfers to Trust Funds represents the amounts transferred to the Board of Trustees of First-**St. Andrew's United Church for management under the control of the Board of Trustees**.

From the Eberhard Memorial Music Scholarship Fund – Principal	\$ <u>2,477</u>	to the Eberhard Memorial Music Scholarship Fund
From the Clark Fund – Interest	\$ <u>8,500</u>	to the Clark Fund

## From The Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees met officially four times during 2015. A number of Trustee committee meetings and other meetings of the co-chairs took place more frequently during the year. Presentations by members were made to Council and Congregational meetings.

Trustees include: John Eberhard (Co-Chair), David Manness (Co-Chair and Investment Committee Chair), Beth Bailey (Chair, Long Term Giving Committee), Catharine Charlton, Russ Gonder, June McKay (Memorials Committee Co-Chair), Russ Monteith, Bill Peel (Chair, Insurance Committee), Robin Procnier, Bob Schram, Bob Slater (Memorials Committee Co-Chair), Katherine Wonfor (Secretary). Rev. Michelle Down was a member of the Board of Trustees by virtue of her position as member of the Order of Ministry who is settled in the pastoral charge (the Manual of the United Church of Canada).

Also attending Trustee meetings during 2015, by invitation, have been: Brenda McManus (Church Administrator), Harold Jackson (Chair of Finance), George Jolink (Chair of Property) and Peter McCallum, FSA's Investment Advisor at BMO Nesbitt Burns.

The Board of Trustees holds and administers all property owned by the Church for the benefit and use of the First-St. Andrew's United Church Congregation as part of The United Church of Canada under the provisions of the **Trusts of Model Deed** of the United Church Manual. The Board holds the freehold title to the lands upon which the church sits. The Board of Trustees has four sub-committees accountable to it. At least one member of the Board serves on each committee. The committees are Investment; Insurance; Long-term Giving and Memorials.



The Board ended 2015 with assets under management evaluated at \$4,048,853.00. These net assets consisted of the UNRESTRICTED FUND \$3,232,153.00 and RESTRICTED FUNDS \$766,700.00 made up of the Wilson Music Fund, Clark Fund, the Eberhard Memorial Music Scholarship Fund, Bass Fund and the Wm. & J. Brown Fund.

In 2015, at the direction of the Congregation and Council, your Board of Trustees transferred \$263,312.00 from the UNRESTRICTED FUND to Council. From this amount, the insurance premium (including taxes) of \$18,968.00 was paid.



Challenged by our Council Chair, Jo Ann Silcox, to address the significant budget deficit problem that the church was facing for 2015, your Trustees working closely with the Finance Committee, developed, presented and supported an Eleven Point Plan to tackle this significant challenge.

One of the elements of the Eleven Point Plan was the higher contribution from the Unrestricted Trust Funds to support the annual operations of the church. At the November Council meeting, Council approved a recommendation from Trustees to replace the prior 'CAP' system with the creation of a new Proudfoot Legacy Fund made up of two components:

1. The Proudfoot Legacy Restricted Trust Fund containing a principal amount, initially set at \$2,500,000, which is the 'factory' that generates annual revenues designated for church operations without encroaching on its principal, and
2. The Proudfoot Legacy Unrestricted Trust Fund which is available to the church designated for capital projects and other purposes as approved by our Church Council.

Your Trustees continued to support the good work of the Finance Committee for managing the budget in 2015. The investment performance of Trust funds for the year 2015 was -1.6%, in a challenging investment year.

Through the generosity of those who have gone before, we have revenue streams from our Trust Funds that contribute to our obligation to provide for another 183 years of prosperity in this place by setting aside funds for both Capital and Operational funds used at the discretion of Church Council. .

Choosing to leave a legacy from the heart to our church can ensure special meaning, worth and purpose to a life well lived. Your generosity through your will can ensure that your values and commitment to FSA continue. This practical addition to a financial or estate plan can be a most satisfying accomplishment in a person's life. The motivation behind the considerations for the new Trust Fund Management Proposal and the establishment of the Proudfoot Legacy Fund is that we will be providing revenue

from this fund, combining both income and capital gains/losses, to the operations of the church. The capital gains/losses piece is new since previously we were only focused on providing income only from interest and dividends.

The visionary Rev. William Proudfoot lies in Oakland Cemetery. His marker modestly proclaims: *"I have finished my course -I have kept the faith"*

Today, we are all keepers of the faith. The Board of Trustees is mindful of its responsibilities to this historic institution.

The Board of Trustees will regrettably lose the services of long time member, Robin Proconier. Robin has served the church in many capacities over many decades. We extend our thanks and appreciation to him and continue to look forward



seeing him on Sunday mornings! Your Board of Trustees will be busy in 2016 looking after our fiduciary responsibilities. We are pleased to include copies of the trust statements (included with the Financial Statements) with this report.

*Respectfully submitted by  
John Eberhard and David Manness (Co-Chairs)  
Board of Trustees*

**Board of Trustees**  
**First-St. Andrew's United Church**  
**Index to the Unaudited Financial Statements**  
**As At December 31, 2015**

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BOT 2.      Statement of Financial Position

BOT 3.      Statement of Operations and Changes in Capital Fund  
Balance

BOT 4.      Statements of Operations and Changes in Restricted  
Fund Balances

BOT 5-6.    Notes to the Financial Statements

## **GARY E. MASON**

Chartered Professional Accountant

Gary E. Mason, B.A., CPA, CA  
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### *Review Engagement Report*

To The Board of Trustees of First-**St. Andrew's United Church**

I have reviewed the statement of financial position of the Board of Trustees of First-**St. Andrew's United Church** as at December 31, 2015 and the statements of operations and changes in fund balances for the year then ended. My review was made in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements and accordingly consisted primarily of enquiry, analytical procedures and discussion related to information supplied to me by management.

A review does not constitute an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Based on my review, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that these financial statements are not, in all material respects, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

London, Ontario  
February 5, 2016



**GARY E. MASON, CPA, CA**  
**Licensed Public Accountant**

Board of Trustees  
 First-**St. Andrew's United Church**  
 Statement of Financial Position  
 As At December 31, 2015  
 With 2014 Comparatives  
 "Unaudited"

ASSETS

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
Cash – Unrestricted Funds	\$ 2,970	\$ 4,756
Due from Council	<u>-0-</u>	<u>36,911</u>
	<u>2,970</u>	<u>41,667</u>
 <u>INVESTMENTS</u> (Notes 2 & 3)		
Restricted Funds	766,700	766,410
Capital Fund	<u>3,282,153</u>	<u>2,529,176</u>
	<u>4,048,853</u>	<u>3,295,586</u>
 <u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	 \$ <u>4,051,823</u>	 \$ <u>3,337,253</u>

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>		
Accrued Liabilities	\$ 3,094	\$ 3,000
Due to Council (Note 4)	<u>20,773</u>	<u>3,117</u>
	<u>23,867</u>	<u>6,117</u>
 <u>FUND BALANCES</u> (Note 2)		
Restricted		
C. Wilson Fund	18,946	19,161
Eberhard Memorial Music Scholarship Fund	46,924	45,999
Clark Fund	85,104	76,325
Wm. & J. Brown Fund - Youth	571,598	597,936
Bass Fund	<u>22,511</u>	<u>23,009</u>
	745,083	762,430
Capital Fund	<u>3,282,873</u>	<u>2,568,706</u>
	<u>4,027,956</u>	<u>3,331,136</u>
 <u>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</u>	 \$ <u>4,051,823</u>	 \$ <u>3,337,253</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Board of Trustees  
 First-**St. Andrew's United Church**  
 Statement of Operations and Changes in Capital Fund Balance  
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2015  
 With 2014 Comparatives  
**"Unaudited"**

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
<u>REVENUE</u> (Note 2)		
Income on Investments	\$ 76,301	\$ 69,770
Increase (Decrease) in Value of Investments	(110,571)	116,379
Bequests Received	<u>1,000,000</u>	<u>9,094</u>
	<u>965,730</u>	<u>195,243</u>
 <u>EXPENDITURES</u>		
Professional	3,000	2,447
Investment Fees	6,747	6,591
General & Office	<u>121</u>	<u>364</u>
	<u>9,868</u>	<u>9,402</u>
Surplus from Operations	955,862	185,841
Fund Balance - Beginning of the Year	2,568,706	2,477,865
Transfers to Council (Note 4)	<u>(241,695)</u>	<u>(95,000)</u>
Fund Balance - End of the Year	\$ <u>3,282,873</u>	\$ <u>2,568,706</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Board of Trustees  
 First-**St. Andrew's United Church**  
 Statement of Operations and Changes in Restricted Fund Balance  
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2015  
 With 2014 Comparatives  
**"Unaudited"**

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
<u>CLARK FUND</u>		
Fund Balance - Beginning of the Year	\$ 76,325	\$ 72,620
Income on Investments	2,126	2,039
Increase (Decrease) in Value of Investments	(1,847)	1,666
Transfer from Council (Note 4)	<u>8,500</u>	<u>-0-</u>
Fund Balance - End of the Year	\$ <u>85,104</u>	\$ <u>76,325</u>
 <u>WM. &amp; J. BROWN FUND - YOUTH</u>		
Fund Balance - Beginning of the Year	\$ 597,936	\$ 574,196
Income on Investments	15,803	13,864
Increase (Decrease) in Value of Investments	(20,524)	23,856
Transfer to Council (Note 4)	<u>(21,617)</u>	<u>(13,980)</u>
Fund Balance - End of the Year	\$ <u>571,598</u>	\$ <u>597,936</u>
 <u>C. WILSON FUND</u>		
Fund Balance - Beginning of the Year	\$ 19,161	\$ 17,379
Income on Investments	558	203
Increase (Decrease) in Value of Investments	(773)	400
Transfer from Council	<u>-0-</u>	<u>1,179</u>
Fund Balance - End of the Year	\$ <u>18,946</u>	\$ <u>19,161</u>
 <u>EBERHARD MEMORIAL MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP FUND</u>		
Fund Balance - Beginning of the Year	\$ 45,999	\$ 22,305
Income on Investments	770	672
Increase (Decrease) in Value of Investments	(1,322)	714
Transfer from Council (Note 4)	<u>1,477</u>	<u>22,308</u>
Fund Balance - End of the Year	\$ <u>46,924</u>	\$ <u>45,999</u>
 <u>BASS FUND</u>		
Fund Balance – Beginning of the year	\$ 23,009	\$ -0-
Bequest	-0-	23,195
Income on Investments	495	52
Decrease in Value of Investments	<u>(993)</u>	<u>(238)</u>
Fund Balance – End of the Year	\$ <u>22,511</u>	\$ <u>23,009</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Board of Trustees  
First-**St. Andrew's United Church**  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
As At December 31, 2015  
"Unaudited"

1. **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

These financial statements report the activities of the investments empowered to the Board of Trustees of First-**St. Andrew's United Church**. They do not report the assets or activities related to the operations and administration of the Church.

3. **BASIS OF PRESENTATION**

The financial statements have been prepared using Canadian standards for not-for-profit organizations.

The financial statements are presented on a fund basis. The revenue, expenditures & activities of the funds are reported directly within each fund. The funds are restricted to their intended use as described below:

***Capital Fund***

To be used for capital expenditures and to operate the general activities of the Board of Trustees.

***Restricted Funds***

*Clark Fund*

To provide support for continuing education.

*Wm & J Brown Fund – Youth*

To support the activities of the Youth of First-**St. Andrew's United Church**.

*C. Wilson Fund*

To provide support to organ apprentice music programs.

*Eberhard Memorial Music Scholarship Fund*

To provide support for vocal music scholarships.

*Bass Fund*

To provide support for the day to day operations of the Church.

4. **SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

***Investments***

The Board of Trustees investments are carried at market value. These investments include amounts in Bonds, Notes, Guaranteed Investment Certificates, Equity Stocks, Mutual Funds, Exchange Traded Funds and Preferred Stocks.

***Revenue Recognition***

Revenue is recognized in the period to which it relates on an accrual basis.

Increases (decreases) in the market value of investments are recognized in the year.

Board of Trustees  
 First-**St. Andrew's United Church**  
 Notes to the Financial Statements  
 As At December 31, 2015  
 "Unaudited"

3. **SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

***Capital Expenditures***

Costs with respect to capital expenditures are expensed in the year incurred. There were none in 2015.

***Use of Estimates***

The preparation of the financial statements that are in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires the Board of Trustees to make estimates and assumptions that are based on currently available information. Such estimates and assumptions may affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities and fund balances as at the reporting date, and the reported amounts of revenue and expenditures during the fiscal period. Actual results could differ from the estimates and the assumptions used.

4. **RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

Due to Council represents the amount owing to First-**St. Andrew's United Church** from Wm & J. Brown Fund Youth (\$21,617) net of the amount due to the Capital Fund (\$844) from First-**St. Andrew's United Church** re: HST.

Transfers to Council represent amounts paid or payable to First-**St. Andrew's United Church**, pursuant to any direction lawfully given by Council and/or the Congregation.

To the Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 88,025	
To the Operating Fund	100,000	
To the Operating Fund re: organ repairs	<u>53,670</u>	
	<u>241,695</u>	From the Capital Fund
To the Operating Fund	\$ <u>21,617</u>	From the Wm. & J. Brown Fund

Transfers from Council represent amounts received or receivable from First-**St. Andrew's United Church**, pursuant to any direction lawfully given by Council and/or the Congregation.

From the Clark Fund – Interest	\$ <u>8,500</u>	To the Clark Fund
From the Eberhard Memorial Music Scholarship Fund – Principal	2,477	
To the Eberhard Memorial Music Scholarship Fund – Interest	<u>(1,000)</u>	
Net	\$ <u><u>1,477</u></u>	to the Eberhard Memorial Music Scholarship Fund

# Annual Meeting - 2015

## First-St. Andrew's United Church Annual Meeting Minutes - Sunday, February 22, 2015 Proudfoot Hall, 12:00 pm

**1.0 Invocation:** Jo Ann Silcox, Chair of Council, opened the meeting with prayer.

### **2.0 Election of Chair and Secretary of Congregational Meeting**

MOTION: That Jo Ann Silcox be appointed Chair and Katherine Wonfor be appointed Secretary of the 2015 Annual Meeting.

MOVED: By Glenda Robinson, seconded by George Jolink. MOTION CARRIED.

#### **2.1 Declaration of Voting Rights of Those Present**

MOTION: To extend the right to vote to adherents and youth at the 2015 Annual Congregational Meeting, according to the provisions of the United Church of Canada Manual and the Policy and Procedures Manual of First-St. Andrew's United Church.

MOVED: By Jane Graves, seconded by Doug Jones. MOTION CARRIED.

### **3.0 Welcome**

Jo Ann Silcox welcomed the members of the congregation to the Annual Meeting. Jo Ann invited us to consider the future where God is on the path ahead of us. Jo Ann thanked the staff members who are working generously with each other, and spoke of the collaborative work of the committees.

### **4.0 Approval of Minutes of 2014 Annual Congregational Meeting**

MOTION: That the minutes of the 2014 Annual Congregational Meeting be approved.

MOVED: By Chris Lindsay, seconded by Allyson Watson. MOTION CARRIED.

### **5.0 Welcoming Committee**

MOTION: That the Welcoming Committee, which was approved at the 2014 Annual Congregational Meeting as an ad hoc committee of Council, now become a subcommittee of the Membership and Nurture Committee.

MOVED: By Anne Cummings, seconded by Jan Richardson. MOTION CARRIED.

### **6.0 Committee Reports**

#### **6.1 Finance**

Harold Jackson, Chair of the Finance Committee, reported to the meeting.

A ten year financial review was presented.

- income has decreased over the last 5 years
- staffing costs are increasing in order to carry out the programs and work of the church
- dependence on investment income from unrestricted trust funds is increasing

A 2015 narrative budget described how the activities and financial gifts of the congregation support the mission statement of First-**St. Andrew's**. **The 2015 budgeted stewardship outputs are Worship 32%, Action 31%, Friendship 17% and Learning 20%.**

The 2015 budget forecast was presented:

- givings are forecast at \$480,000
- rentals have generated increased income over the last couple of years
- \$3,800 gift card revenue has been forecast based on 2014 results
- the staffing budget includes the full year salary of the Minister of Worship and Congregational Life although the position is currently vacant
- utilities and taxes are budgeted to increase
- the Mission and Service Fund donation is calculated at 18% of givings
- support from unrestricted trust funds is budgeted at \$80,000
- the projected deficit is forecast at \$57,025

Harold Jackson spoke of the importance of Council and the congregation re-examining priorities and setting in place plans that will result in stabilizing the financial position beyond 2015.

MOTION: To approve the 2015 budget forecast.

MOVED: By Harold Jackson, seconded by Chris Lindsay. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION: To appoint Gary E. Mason, Chartered Accountants as the Firm of Record for the Review Engagement Audit Report of First-**St. Andrew's United Church** for 2015.

MOVED: By Harold Jackson, seconded by Allyson Watson. MOTION CARRIED.

The congregation expressed its appreciation to Harold Jackson and the Finance Committee.

## 6.2 UCW

Laurel Kenney reported on behalf of the UCW. All women in the congregation are invited to attend UCW activities. Laurel thanked the congregation for their support of UCW initiatives.

## 6.3 Board of Trustees

John Eberhard, Co-Chair, Board of Trustees, reported to the Annual Meeting. John referred the congregation to the Trustees report published in the Annual Report.

MOTION: That the congregation of First-**St. Andrew's United Church** approve the Annual Report of the Board of Trustees, as circulated.

MOVED: By John Eberhard, seconded by Deb Schram. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION: That the congregation of First-**St. Andrew's United Church**, Middlesex Presbytery, London Conference hereby:

- 1) Determines and directs that for the year 2015, it will carry only the insurance in the attached policy; *Ecclesiastical Insurance Co. Policy #0102687FB01.5.0*
- 2) Acknowledges that the limits in such insurance policy or policies may be less than the full replacement cost of the buildings insured under the attached policy or policies.
- 3) Releases the Trustees of First-**St. Andrew's United Church** from any obligation to maintain insurance coverage with higher limits than that provided in the attached policy or policies, and agrees to indemnify and save harmless the Trustees of First-**St. Andrew's** for all claims with respect to such obligations.

- 4) Releases the Board of Trustees of First-**St. Andrew's United Church** from any actions taken on behalf of the congregation in respect of property held by the Board in the name of the congregation and agrees to indemnify and save harmless the Trustees of First-**St. Andrew's** from all claims with respect to such decisions taken during the year 2014.

MOVED: By John Eberhard, seconded by George Jolink.

DISCUSSION: The insurance covers replacement value of the church.

MOTION CARRIED.

#### **6.4 Nominating Committee**

George Jolink, Chair of Nominating, presented the report of the Nominating Committee. George thanked the 100 people serving on committees and the many others who help on projects.

A slate of candidates for 2015 committee membership was circulated.

The following change to the report was requested:

The Rev. Dr. David McKane to be added to the Worship Committee

MOTION: That the report of the Nominating Committee be accepted with the above amendment.

MOVED: By George Jolink, seconded by Chris Lindsay. MOTION CARRIED.

#### **6.5 Adoption of Committee Reports**

MOTION: That the Committee Reports as published in the 2014 Annual Report be adopted.

MOVED: By Anne Cumming, seconded by Allyson Watson. MOTION CARRIED.

#### **7.0 Recognition of Volunteers**

FSA pins were presented to committee members who completed their terms in 2014. George Jolink thanked all volunteers for their commitment to First-**St. Andrew's**.

#### **8.0 Other Business**

Barry Evans, Chair of the Search Committee for a Minister of Worship and Congregational Life, reported to the meeting. The Committee has completed an orientation session with London Conference and is meeting weekly. The application process remains open and the Committee has contacted names brought forward by members of the congregation. The Committee has listened to sermons from candidates for the position and reviewed their resumes. Interviews will be held with the candidates.

The congregation expressed its appreciation to Jo Ann Silcox for her leadership.

**9.0 Benediction:** Jo Ann Silcox closed the meeting with a benediction.

MOTION: That the 2015 Annual Congregational Meeting be adjourned at 1:04 pm.

MOVED: By Kerry Stover. MOTION CARRIED.

## The Laudamus Bells

Laudamus Bells had a very good year of ringing and making joyful music in 2015. As always, our primary focus was on providing appropriate music about once a month for Sunday services. In addition, our most demanding ventures were our Advent and Lenten Noon Recitals as part of the Music at First-St. Andrew's Concert Series. Our excellent director, Paul Merritt, selected both enjoyable and challenging music for us to play. It is always very gratifying to have such a wonderful audience for these recitals which makes the hard work of learning a larger repertoire feel worthwhile. We are very appreciative of the positive support given to our group by our congregation.

As well as working hard to learn new music, we are also a group who has fun times together. Our annual June party was an enjoyable potluck dinner at the home and beautiful garden of Pat and Gavin McGregor. Good weather blessed our September, beginning-of-the-year, party in the backyard of Anne Cummings's home. For our Christmas party, we treated ourselves to a delicious buffet dinner at Saffron's Restaurant at Fanshawe College where we feted our patient director, Paul. Directing a handbell group is not easy!



We were very pleased in 2015 to welcome Pat Skidmore back to our group after a leave of several years. At the end of each year, we feel most grateful for the outstanding leadership and musicianship of our director, Paul Merritt. We are also very appreciative of the technical help of Wes Sole in repairing and maintaining our handbells. These fine people make this group possible. Ringers in Laudamus Bells for 2015 were Laura Bernardi, Anne Cummings, Michael Feeney, Mary Ellen Gustafson, Helen Guthrie, Helen Heller, Nancy Howard, Bev Lindsay, Sarah Longland, Pat McGregor, Barb Plante, Jan Richardson, Pat Skidmore, Jane Smith, Pat Sole, and Margaret Trethewey.

*Respectfully submitted by,  
Anne Cummings*

## Senior Choir

The senior choir had a busy and especially exciting year in 2015. Our focus from January to April was on preparation for the *Mass in Blue* concert on April 19. The music was challenging, and there were times during the winter when we all

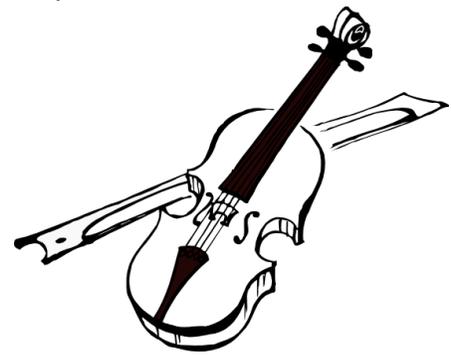


wondered whether we would ever be ready. Under Paul Merritt's excellent leadership, it all came together and the concert was a great success. None of this would have been possible without our wonderfully talented soprano soloist, Sonja Gustafson, and the inspired work on piano keyboard by Lynda Kennedy. Also at the April

concert, we were pleased to have Amanda Perera, one of our former vocal scholars, join us as soloist in John Rutter's *Feel the Spirit*.

Without question, the highlight of the year was the October concert, when we welcomed our special guest from England, Will Todd, the composer of *Mass in Blue*. We had been looking forward to his visit for several months. When we met him at Saturday's rehearsal, we were delighted to find that working with him was a most enjoyable experience. Paul Merritt and Will Todd had established great rapport, and the result was a most memorable concert on Sunday October 25. The program featured a number of anthems written by Will Todd, in addition to *Mass in Blue*. Members of the choir certainly have many wonderful memories of this event. The enthusiastic response of the audience told us that they too were deeply moved by the experience.

Throughout the year, the senior choir provides important musical leadership during worship services, and we hear many words of gratitude from the congregation about our contributions. Choir members also appreciate the opportunity to sing wonderful choral music as part of this community. At several services each year, we enjoy working with the First St-Andrew's Strings and their capable director Bruce Richardson. Christmas Eve 2015 was one of those magical times when the strings joined with the choir to enrich worship



experience. The outstanding leadership of Paul Merritt is the key to the success of the entire music program.

In September, Paul told us of his plans to retire in the spring of 2016. This announcement prompted much reflection, on the part of choir members and the congregation, about the many wonderful contributions Paul has made to FSA since his arrival here in 1984. Planning is underway for special celebrations on May 28-29, 2016. There will be a concert on Saturday May 28, the service on May 29<sup>th</sup> will pay tribute to Paul, and a celebration luncheon will take place later that day. Details will be provided in the coming weeks.

In November, the Salvation Army London Citadel Band returned to be part of our Anniversary Service, a tradition of long standing. In early December, as we have done for the past 15 years, our choir joined the band at its annual Christmas concert at Centennial Hall.

We welcomed new members to the choir this year, and by December our membership stood at 58. New members in 2015 are Glenda Baldwin, Joe Carlson, Jane Evans, Bronwyn Powell, Zabrina Richards, and Margaret Trethewey. Those retiring from the choir in 2015 were Sally Smith and Bob Swartman.



Special thanks to our soloists, Jordan Baldwin, Ross Dodington, Sonja Gustafson, and Imogen Wasse for sharing their talents with us, and to Lynda Kennedy who accompanies us in a stellar manner on so many occasions, often at short notice. We also salute our vocal scholars, Janine Herrmann-McLeod and Sarah Longland, for their contributions.

The choir looks forward to 2016, a year of transition, and a time to celebrate Paul Merritt's 32 years of excellent service.

*Respectfully submitted by,  
David Wake  
President 2015*

## The Affirm Committee

The Affirm Committee (formerly the LGBTQ Committee) had an active year of continuing to help facilitate FSA's growth into our Vision Statement. Our biggest project was organizing the first annual FSA Pride Parade Party on our front lawn after the Sunday service on July 26. With the support of the Welcoming Committee and Membership and Nurture Committee, we were able to feed a hotdog lunch to about 150 people from our church, other United Churches, and the community. The freewill donation raised \$211 for the Regional HIV/AIDS Connection (RHAC). Jane Dockrill organized fun games for the children and our youth passed out water and lemonade to grateful marchers. A contingent of 16 FSA members wearing FSA t-shirts marched in the parade with our church banner. Next year we will invite members of all London United churches to join us on our lawn for the parade.



Regional  
HIV/AIDS  
Connection

Another project included working with the Communication and Marketing Committee to obtain a brochure rack for the Atrium to provide informative brochures about community services and agencies for the congregation and for guests who use our facilities. We also worked with our Knitwit group to bring the Coordinator of the RHAC's Red Scarf Project, Martin McIntosh, to our November 15 service where 55 red scarves made by our knitters were first blessed and then presented to him by members of the congregation.

Members of the Affirm Committee include: Anne Cummings, Joyce Paine, Jo Ann Silcox, Kerry Stover, and Amanda Williams.

*Respectfully submitted by,  
Anne Cummings*