

Tidings

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Lent/Easter 2018



Our Spirit Journey

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Tidings

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Published on February 15, 2018

Friends in Christ:

On Friday, February 9, 2018, The United Church of Canada posted a response to the good news that Bill C-262, an act to harmonize Canadian law with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, had passed second reading. Optimistically, perhaps naively, we titled it, "A Promise of What Canada Can Be."

I say "naively" because later that day, the reality of what Canada is was made clear when a not-guilty verdict was returned in the second-degree murder trial of Gerald Stanley. Stanley had been charged in the death of Colten Boushie, a 22-year-old man from Red Pheasant First Nation in Treaty 6 (Saskatchewan), who with a group of friends turned up on Stanley's farm late in the afternoon of August 9, 2016. After a series of events, three gunshots were fired from a pistol handled by Stanley. Colten Boushie, who never left the vehicle he arrived in, was killed by a bullet to the head. Stanley was acquitted on the grounds that the gun accidentally fired a third time after two warning shots.

There has been much discussion in the court, media, and social media of the First Nations young adults' behaviour on the farm; of Gerald Stanley's and his son's response; and of the Stanleys' conduct after Colten Boushie's death.

What happened on that farm was preceded and followed by the racism and White privilege that are embedded in Canadian society. Those of us in the dominant culture are reluctant to name this. Similarly, those of us who are White are reluctant to acknowledge and confront our privilege.

Imagine the police conducting an armed search of your home as they tell you that your child has been shot and killed. I can't.

Imagine that your child has been shot and killed, and that everybody on the jury looks like the shooter. No one looks like you or your child. I can't.

The church is no stranger to racism and privilege; indeed, those beliefs drove the colonial policies to assimilate Indigenous Peoples that we, with the government, pursued in the running of Indian Residential Schools. Those beliefs persist in prejudices that non-Indigenous peoples may not even recognize they hold. And as the 2016 findings of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal found, they remain in policies and structures that treat Indigenous peoples in Canada as lesser than others.

When the United Church committed to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC), we committed to dismantling those beliefs, policies, and structures. We committed to building a new relationship. We did not pick and choose which Calls to Action we would support. Instead, like the Government of Canada, we pledged to support all of them. That includes 18 directed toward the justice system.

As we embrace the principles, norms, and standards of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, we uphold our belief that Indigenous peoples have the right to be free from discrimination. This is entirely fitting with our belief that "racism is a sin and violates God's desire for humanity" (That All May Be One, 1997).

I am therefore asking you to reflect on the legal system's response to the violent death of a young Indigenous man in a Canada that says it is committed to reconciliation. I am asking you to reflect as members of a church that has also pledged its commitment to reconciliation and to confronting racism.

To the members of the United Church's 64 Indigenous communities of faith and to Indigenous members of the church in urban areas and other communities of faith, I say that the United Church will continue to seek to build a new relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. We understand that this cannot be accomplished simply with words. It requires confronting our own racism and dismantling systems of privilege that deny you your rightful place in the life of your nations and this country.

To those of you who are members of non-Indigenous communities of faith in the United Church, I ask you to think about what our Indigenous relations are experiencing and feeling in this moment. I ask you to think about how you can respond in a way that will be meaningful for them, and that will contribute to a new relationship between us.

What can we do? We can pray for those affected by this case, and for all those who have been or are being harmed by the systemic racism that underlies it. We can pray for the strength to face hard truths. We can join in public witness and support. We can learn more about what changes the TRC has recommended for the Canadian legal system with respect to Indigenous peoples (Calls to Action 25-42), and we can advocate with political leaders for the fulfillment of those reforms. Most importantly, we can acknowledge and confront our own racism and privilege.

In his Letter from a Birmingham Jail (1963), in which he challenged the White church in the United States to truly stand up to the values, policies, and structures of racism, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote:

"Let us all hope that the dark clouds of racial prejudice will soon pass away and the deep fog of misunderstanding will be lifted from our fear-drenched communities, and in some not too distant tomorrow the radiant stars of love and brotherhood will shine over our great nation with all their scintillating beauty."

That is my hope as well. But I know that it is not enough to hope. We will never realize the promise of what Canada can be unless we all work to make it so.

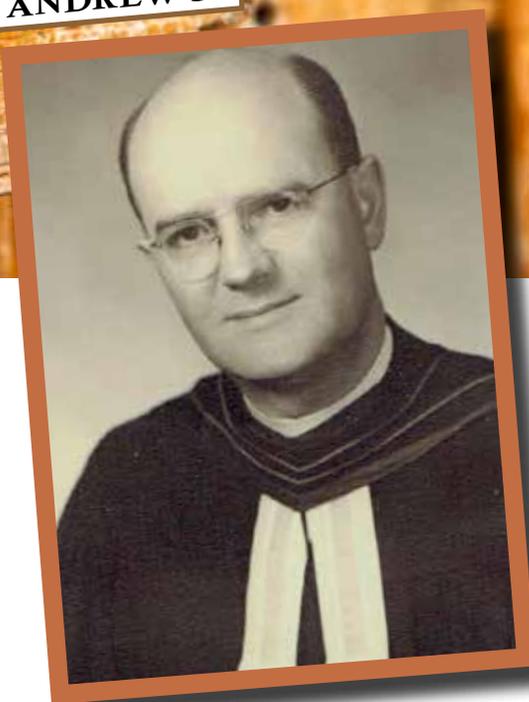
All My Relations,
The Right Reverend Jordan Cantwell
Moderator, The United Church of Canada

secrets

WHY DID FIRST CHURCH DECIDE TO
CLOSE AND JOIN WITH ST. ANDREW'S?



Gavin McGregor



Here is the answer to this question, provided by the Rev. Dr. Moir A.J. Waters¹. DID YOU KNOW THAT? BRIEF SKETCHES OF THE HISTORY OF FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH.

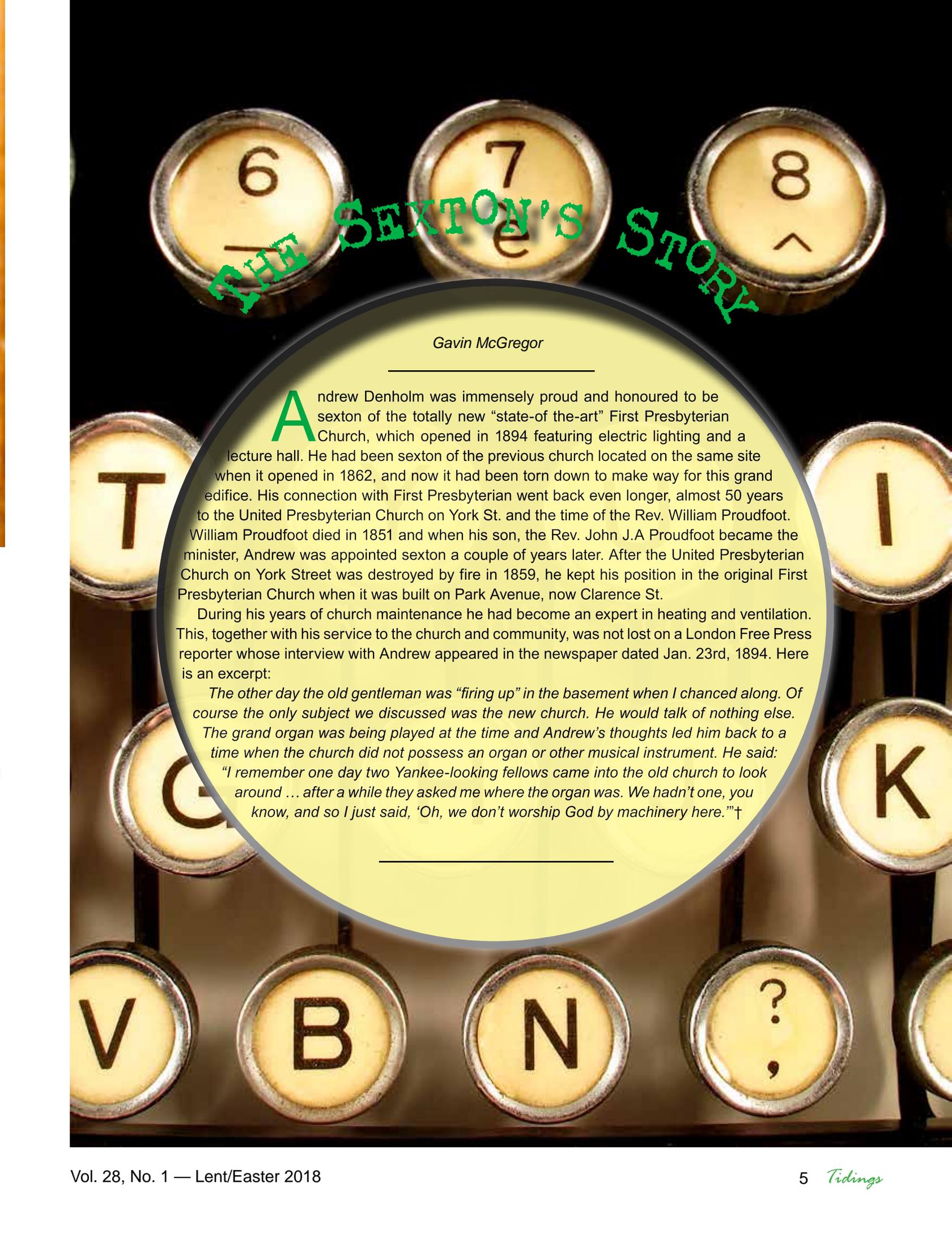
“**T**here was a growing feeling that co-operation was better than competition, especially since the City was beginning to spread out to the suburbs. Also, after Church Union in 1925, there were five United churches in the downtown area: Metropolitan and Dundas Centre (Methodist); First and St. Andrew's (Presbyterian); Beecher Memorial (Congregational), later Aeolian Hall, whose old tower still stands on Dundas Street.²

“The members of First and St. Andrew's set up a combined committee, and negotiations for union began in 1937. Finally, a vote was taken in each church. Time has proved the decision to be the right one. Each congregation brought vital members and new life to the other, and together they went forward to form what is one of the strongest United Churches in Canada.”

At the 106th anniversary service of First-St. Andrew's, October 16th, 1938, the title of the sermon by Dr. Moir A.J. Waters was A Glorious Partnership, based on 1 Cor. 3:9 “For we are labourers together with God”

¹ Minister at First United from 1933-1937 and of First-St. Andrew's from 1938-1940, 1969-1972.

² Gordon D. Jeffery, a well-known musician and philanthropist, purchased the closed Beecher United Church in 1947 and turned it into a concert hall named Aeolian Hall. This concert hall, renowned for its acoustical quality, was destroyed by fire in 1967. It was then that Mr. Jeffery bought the former East London Town Hall and converted it into the present-day Aeolian Hall.



THE SEXTON'S STORY

Gavin McGregor

Andrew Denholm was immensely proud and honoured to be sexton of the totally new “state-of the-art” First Presbyterian Church, which opened in 1894 featuring electric lighting and a lecture hall. He had been sexton of the previous church located on the same site when it opened in 1862, and now it had been torn down to make way for this grand edifice. His connection with First Presbyterian went back even longer, almost 50 years to the United Presbyterian Church on York St. and the time of the Rev. William Proudfoot. William Proudfoot died in 1851 and when his son, the Rev. John J.A Proudfoot became the minister, Andrew was appointed sexton a couple of years later. After the United Presbyterian Church on York Street was destroyed by fire in 1859, he kept his position in the original First Presbyterian Church when it was built on Park Avenue, now Clarence St.

During his years of church maintenance he had become an expert in heating and ventilation. This, together with his service to the church and community, was not lost on a London Free Press reporter whose interview with Andrew appeared in the newspaper dated Jan. 23rd, 1894. Here is an excerpt:

The other day the old gentleman was “firing up” in the basement when I chanced along. Of course the only subject we discussed was the new church. He would talk of nothing else. The grand organ was being played at the time and Andrew’s thoughts led him back to a time when the church did not possess an organ or other musical instrument. He said: “I remember one day two Yankee-looking fellows came into the old church to look around ... after a while they asked me where the organ was. We hadn’t one, you know, and so I just said, ‘Oh, we don’t worship God by machinery here.’”†

A Haitian Outreach



Jim Silcox



John Eberhard and fellow Rotarians

Photo by Derek Ruttan

Two distinctly different countries share a single island in the Caribbean. One, Haiti, is the poorest country economically speaking, of all the countries in the Western Hemisphere, and has been battered by earthquakes and hurricanes on several occasions in the last decade so that its people scabble to survive. The Dominican Republic, on the other hand, is considered a tourist “Mecca” where thousands of winter-weary North Americans find solace on warm sandy beaches and spend lavishly to support the economy. Which country was John Eberhard’s choice for a trip this past January? Haiti, of course!

For some time he has been visiting this beleaguered country to lend a hand in a variety of ways. This year he led a team of four fellow Rotarians. John says, “Haiti is a country of endless need, and building capacity was our prime goal.” This January the specific mission was to teach local residents to build beehives to replace those blown away by Hurricane Matthew, to help create simple dehydrators to keep the mango crop from spoiling, and to help repair a school that was still in ruins from recent disasters.

They did not go empty-handed, carting along nine bags loaded with supplies at 50 pounds each, which they managed to check in at no extra cost—truly a miracle! They stepped on the plane in Canada when it was -27 degrees Centigrade and stepped off in Port-au-Prince where it was +35 degrees!

While getting acclimatized, they managed to get in some shopping and sightseeing thanks to their host, the president of the Haitian Resource Development Foundation. At an anthropology museum they learned of the history of the country, and then visited the natural history and memorial gardens commemorating the 240,000 who died in the 2010 earthquake.

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John felt that the team's subsequent four-hour drive on the Haitian "401" to have been an eye-opener for those who had not been there before. "The sights, smells and poverty were in our face, but the people we have met are smiling and welcoming." They settled into a modest hotel in Aquin, a small Haitian town in the Aquin Arrondissement in the Sud Department of Haiti. Located on the south coast of the the Tiburon Peninsula, it is a port of about 95,000 people. "The beaches were beautiful and the sun warm and inviting even though it was the middle of winter—and no tourists!"

The school that Rotary has been supporting was close by and for the next few days they:

- Reviewed with them a curriculum on ESL that is intended to be delivered from London by the internet.
- Coached students on how to build beehives and solar dryers for local fruit sales in the markets. This will be a sustainable activity (not unlike a micro-bank arrangement).
- Finalized plans and engaged local contractors to provide security for the school; rebuild part of a wall, and increase the capacity of the stadium for soccer tournaments.
- Worked with Rotarians on the distribution of "aqua boxes" (to ensure a supply of clean water).
- Delivered about \$31,000 of medical supplies to the local hospital, and about \$4,000 worth of tools to the Vo-Teck school to allow them to continue with building projects.
- Left an inventory of lumber for them to continue to build beehives.

John judged it to have been a "very satisfying working visit." Despite there being no tourism there were many NGO groups with whom they had fruitful discussions. Here, in John's own words, is a list of their accomplishments during the two weeks that they were there:

1. We met on several occasions with young professionals who wanted to form a Rotaract (Service) Club in Aquin, and talked with the assistant district governor, who was supportive. They are particularly interested in helping with education programmes for youth.
2. Acting as unofficial ambassadors from London, we met with the Mayor and County officials, with pins from London's Mayor and Council, Canadian Flags, Richard Bain's London—a Gift to the World picture books, a London flag, and ties.
3. We enjoyed a constructive meeting with the Canadian Ambassador in Port-au-Prince, and discussed the relationship between Canada and Haiti, its troubled government and the planning for future missions.
4. We attended two meetings with members of the Rotary Club of Aquin.
5. We met with various related groups and individuals who enriched our visit and enhanced our knowledge of Haiti.

There is no doubt that John will be back in Haiti with his fellow Rotarians for future humanitarian missions and would welcome conversations with anyone who might want to join him. He sets a good example for all of us here at FSA of what "outreach" really stands for. †



For another take on FSA's involvement with Haiti, see Nancy Howard's account of her ELUCO youth mission team's trip reported in the fall 2016 issue. Ed

GETTING TO KNOW



Bob Swartman

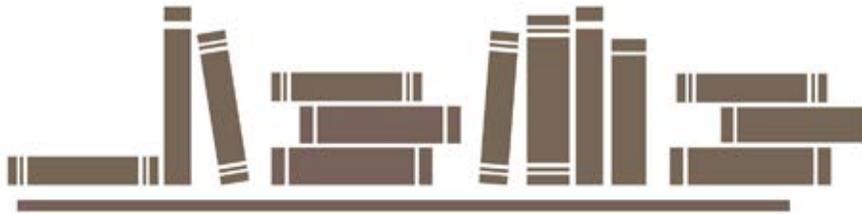
Aria was born and grew up in Tehran in what we know as Iran but often called Persia. Iran has many neighbours: on the west are Turkey and Iraq; on the east Afghanistan and Pakistan; to the north Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, and Russia (across the Caspian Sea); and to the south the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman (across from Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Oman). The west half of the country is mountainous and is home for most of the population, and the east half of the country is the Great Salt Desert. Iran is very rich in oil and the ports for export are on the Persian Gulf, close to Kuwait. Tehran is in the north, separated from the Caspian Sea by the Alborz Mountains. Relations with the neighbouring countries involve tensions between the Shia and the Sunni, tensions that will likely rise as water resources are depleted.

Growing up as a Muslim, after the revolution of the 70s, Aria attended a private high school for boys, then Azad University in Tehran where he studied materials engineering. He is very close to his mother, whom I met a year ago when she

visited Aria and her cousin in Hamilton, and I am on good terms with his father who is a retired telecom engineer. Aria was drafted into the Iranian Air Force when he graduated from university and served 18 months as a logistics clerk.

Aria came to Canada in September 2014 and started research at Western University in materials engineering, receiving his MEng degree in June 2017. I was teaching a graduate course on Energy Conversion, and Aria was assigned to me as a teaching assistant for one term. There were 33 students in the class, of which 30 were international students, so English was a challenge for many of them. The marks were based entirely on the weekly reports describing a project or plant visit, so Aria gained lots of experience marking these reports.

Aria asked to join me one morning when I was going to church. About that time I started the monthly meetings in Proudfoot Hall for international students; Aria was an essential part of this programme and it blossomed. When he came to church he volunteered to help with the coffee, and has always been willing to help. Now he has decided to join FSA and that will happen in April. †



A LOOK INSIDE FSA'S DILWORTH LIBRARY



Mason Robichaud

When I was invited to write this article I thought that it would be an amazing opportunity to advertise the wonder and marvel that is the FSA library.

I remember when I first decided to take the library under my wing; it was already a splendid resource for the church, but I realized much needed to be done to utilize the space's full potential. Unfortunately, I had zero experience in the library environment but I had a pinch of neurosis, a certain amount of boredom, and an old church library handbook. That was all I needed to do the job.

Reflecting on my progress, my job remains incomplete, but I am currently in the process of establishing a few new categories. For example, I'm establishing Gender & Feminism, LGBTQ+, Islam, Judaism, First Nations, Librarian Favourites, etc.,— I'll happily accept items pertaining to these subjects. I've also re-established a children's section which I recom-

mend to any parents of children ages 3-13. I also constantly have items which I have deemed as inappropriate or unfitting for the library and would happily donate them to anyone who may want them.

Furthermore, for anyone involved in ministry or anyone who would like to be more involved in the church, I recommend the liturgy section, where we have several texts following each of the Christian seasons.

Additionally, what truly inspires me to continue my work in the library is a man who dedicated his final year of life to the very same place in which I often find myself, Mr. Herbert Leroy "Roy" Dilworth. Mr. HLD served the FSA library from 1990-1991 until the very day that he endured a heart attack whilst in the line of duty; for his service, I personally refer to the library as the Dilworth Library.

Today, there is a framed memorial for Mr. Dilworth right by the entrance into the library. I make sure to pay my respects every time I enter and leave that marvellous space, and I recommend any visitor to the FSA library give Mr. Dilworth a "hello" along with a "thank you" for his services rendered.†

NOTEWORTHY



Jim Silcox

At its annual meeting in November, the Royal Society of Canada named our own Terry Peters as a new Fellow in recognition of his outstanding scholarly and scientific achievement. In an announcement in September, Western lauded Terry as "a distinguished



researcher with a monumental body of work over four decades in the field of medical imaging and, particularly, in image-guided interventions within the brain and the heart."

So, when you see Terry in the FSA choir on Sunday, remember to give him a hearty congratulatory handshake. †



David McKane

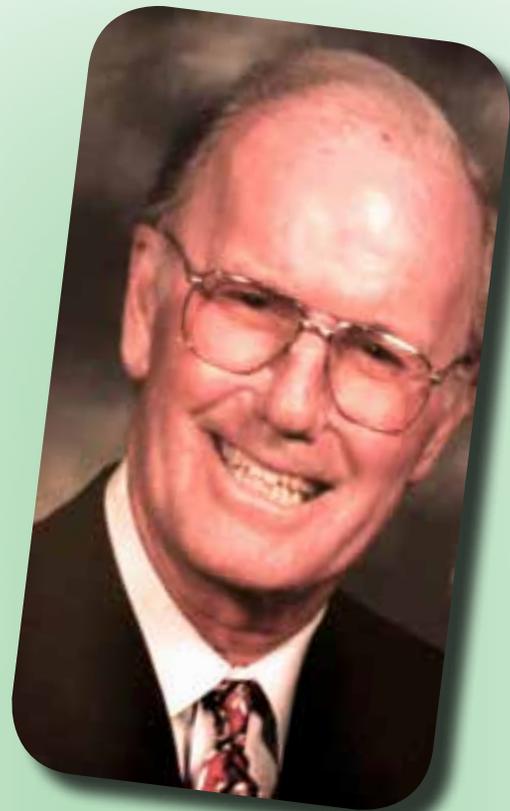
American psychiatrist, Karl Menninger, once said, “What a teacher is, is more important than what he or she teaches.” Such a teacher was Stan Hill. Born in Glasgow, Scotland, Stan grew up in a family with his younger brother. As a boy he loved to skate, was a member of the Boys’ Brigade, in whose band he played the “big” drum, played tennis and rugby and belonged to the drama society. After graduation he attended Teachers’ College. Stan spent two years in the RAF completing his National Service, still required in Britain at that time.

Marrying his school sweetheart, Muriel, in 1954, they emigrated to Canada in 1959 with daughter Leslie, their first child. Landing in Montreal, Stan secured employment as head of fitness programmes for the YM-YWHA (the Jewish version of the YMCA), a position he loved and held for seven years. Having applied for and been appointed to the Faculty of Kinesiology at Western in 1966, Stan pursued his doctorate at Ohio State University.

On his return to Western he coached soccer and pioneered the exercise programme for cardiac patients, ending his teaching career as assistant dean of Kinesiology. Believing that community work was part of his Christian witness, Stan was a member of Kiwanis, a volunteer for almost twenty years for Meals on Wheels and Chair of the Ontario Lung Association. A lover of boats, he indulged his passion at the family cottage “Scotch on the Rocks” on Colpoy’s Bay, north of Owen Sound. There he could re-charge his batteries while sailing, fishing or just messing about in his boats.

A long-time member of FSA, Stan served on several committees as well as a term as Chair of Council. As Burns once wrote, “... if there’s another world he lives in bliss, if not he made the best o’ this....” A wonderful teacher who loved family and filled his life with enthusiasm and joy, Stan Hill has left a wonderful legacy of community service. Again, Menninger: “Love cures people—both those who give it and the ones who receive it.”

Such a remarkable human being was Stan Hill. †



STAN HILL



Our Spirit Journey



Steve Elson

*Many colours of the spirit
Many lives below the sun
We are colours of the spirit
We are many ... we are one*

(From the song, "Colours of the Spirit," by the American rock band, Journey.)

When talking and thinking about spirituality, it's not something "out there" but something that is almost entirely personal and individual in nature. We all have our own sense of what spirituality means to us. This understanding can grow and change as we learn and live out our lives—hopefully with greater wisdom and maturity. We also learn from others, from what we read and experience. It is a journey.

Different cultures have different traditions and beliefs when it comes to spirituality, and it is lived out in different ways. Typically, religions focus attention on the spiritual journey

because it addresses our relationship with God in our lives as we live it. Stories, lessons and practices are often designed to make us more aware of the spiritual side of our lives, and how to become more sensitive to this part of our selves.

In addition to the role of spirit in our lives, spirit also plays an important role in our belief of what happens after we die. Many religious traditions, including our own, recognize that our material, physical life is over when we die, but hold the belief that our spiritual life lives on, independent of our bodies and minds. In other words, the spirit journey continues.

As with any belief about the "afterlife" it is not something that can be proven or demonstrated—it is after all a belief—and it stands outside the realm of direct personal experience that can be reported. Nevertheless, it is something that has captured the attention of many people over eons. It can serve to give us comfort that we belong to something beyond ourselves and beyond this life as we know it, regardless of whether or not it can be "proved."

Regardless of one's belief in the afterlife and what form, if any, it takes, we all have the opportunity in the here and now to acknowledge the journey our own spirits are on and to be as nurturing to this part of our selves as possible.

At least that's how I see it from the pew. †

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LGBTQ

Community of Faith*The Rev. Michelle Down*

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Two Spirited, and Queer people are everywhere. We live in rural communities and urban centres. We come from every race and culture. We work in every occupation, and have every kind of talent imaginable. And ... WE BELIEVE ... in every religion.

In a book on my bookshelf titled "Closer to Home: Bisexuality and Feminism," Elizabeth Reba Weise writes "These essays describe feelings, duty, politics, and love. They talk about a fierce desire to live ethically and to have our lives mirror what we believe." And one of the things that both Faith Communities and the LGBTTTQ Community believe in is: Community! Poet and author Ruth Gibian reminds us of this need for community: "Among other things, identity is how community is formed—lesbian and gay communities, yes, but also religious communities. People find safety in community as well as similarity, recognition and inclusion. Community is a place to belong, a new and welcome experience for many of us in the LGBTTTQ community who have felt out of place in mainstream culture. In healthy, welcoming and faithful communities, we can finally be openly ourselves, fully ourselves. No secrets. No editing."

Safe communities allow us to fully BE the people that God created us to BE, and I will always work tirelessly to ensure that First-St. Andrew's United Church is a place where all people feel that they are beloved children of God, made in God's image.

Sarah, a Jewish lesbian, talks of getting strength from her faith, because she was told stories of culture, tradition, family, that in her words "... goes against the grain. I am Jewish. I am different than the dominant culture. When I came out, I knew how to gain strength from that."

An individual born Anthony, who now goes by either Annie or Tony, says that s/he found strength in the black Christian church. "I am a black trans/queer s/he believer in love. Mine and God's!"

Creating places and spaces for all to explore spirituality and mature in faith is exactly what God is asking of every one of us. My heart is filled with tenderness and gratitude as several gay men and lesbian women speak with Joyce and me both privately and publicly to discern if FSA is a safe place for them to be in community, and deepen their faith.

May First-St. Andrew's grow in its commitment and reputation to always be a place of Rainbow Connection, where LGBTTTQ individuals, parents and their children can experience Safety, Sanctuary and Unconditional Love. †

COMMITTEE REPORTS



COUNCIL

George Jolink, Chair

We look forward with anticipation as we enter the Lenten journey. What will this next year bring? As I reflect on my role as Council Chair, I am humbled by the faith you have put in me.

Your Council and committees serve First-St. Andrew's in so many ways and are to be commended. I am a firm believer in servant leadership and my goal as Council Chair is to facilitate the work of our membership. In these uncertain times of limited resources and changing needs we will be faced with important decisions that will carry us into the future. Your Council will continue to discern the way forward with care and with congregational input.

This next year promises to be exciting with new direc-

tions to be explored. Not the least of which will be the work of our long range and short term planning committee and in particular the landscape project which is well underway through the leadership of Dr. Barrie Evans. We live in a time of reflection and I urge each of you to engage in the life and work of First-St. Andrew's as you have in the past. Together when we share our time talent, and resources we will accomplish great things. Together we will maintain our legacy and build on our past. I thank each of you for your commitment.

First-St. Andrew's is an iconic structure in a prominent location with a rich history of serving the community of London and beyond. Although our future is yet to be written, our past is a solid foundation on which to build. Like the generations before us, we are the current caretakers of this great congregation. What we do now will be our legacy for future generations. †

PROPERTY

George Jolink

The Property Committee has been busy in the early part of this year setting goals and priorities. We are trying to balance ongoing maintenance needs, improvements and Avis recommendations over the course of the year while we continue to operate within budget constraints.

The heating system has been quite reliable over this past season with some small distribution issues, which are corrected as they arise. Other deficiencies will be addressed over the summer. Our goal is to extend the life of our current system as long as possible.

Projects under consideration for 2018 are:

- Narthex South Entry Upgrade
- Sanctuary Lighting Upgrade (Avis recommendation)

The Property Committee has also been actively involved in conversations around improving technology at FSA. At present upgrades to our sound system have been completed.

We continue to explore projection options for the sanctuary and other meeting spaces. We are also looking at improved messaging options inside the building.

Unfortunately due to bylaw restrictions we can no longer pursue LED signage for the large exterior sign. This is a disappointment, but when new landscaping is completed we are hopeful that First-St. Andrew's will have increased visibility in the community.

The Property Committee continues to build relationships with our long term and short term rental clients who provide us with a much-needed revenue stream. We are actively engaged in finding new clients who offer a good fit with our own community, and who will help to build our profile in the community outside our walls.

Thanks to all those who serve on the committee and those who volunteer to both maintain and improve our church home. If you wish to get involved in one of our projects please contact the church office. As you may expect, there are always jobs to do in an aging building. †

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MISSION/OUTREACH

Janice Elliott

East London United Church Outreach—ELUCO

In 1984 Richards Memorial, Rowntree, Gethsemane and Trinity United churches banded together in common cause to address the problems of poverty in East London. Subsequently, two other London United churches, Siloam and First-St. Andrew's joined the group. With programmes such as the Food Cupboard, Welcome Wednesday, school lunch programme and the many other programmes and support provided by our Community Outreach Worker, Nancy Howard, at the unit on Marconi Blvd., ELUCO continues to stand by those living in poverty today in east London.



First-St. Andrew's is a strong supporter of the work of ELUCO. We were blessed to have Nancy Howard speak about her work during our recent mission service at First-St. Andrew's on Feb. 4th, 2018.

We were also thrilled to present the recent Jazz Cabaret night featuring Sonja Gustafson and a quartet of amazing musicians. The music was fantastic and we were pleased to raise approximately \$2300.00 in support of ELUCO.

Thank you to First-St. Andrew's for your continued support of low-income families in east London through the work of ELUCO.

Amnesty International

You can make a difference. You can be a voice for change. Please join us for our annual Amnesty International Write for Rights letter-writing event and lunch on Sunday, March 18th, after church from 11:30 am - 1:30pm. For many prisoners around the world, we and Amnesty International are their only hope. That is why we are asking you to attend this event. With your con-



tinued support in 2018, we can bring hope and strength to prisoners suffering behind thick walls and barbed wire fences. There are thousands of prisoners of conscience, victims of torture and human rights defenders under fire around the world for whom you and Amnesty International are the final hope. Please take this opportunity to write a letter and make a difference in our world.

White Squirrel Golf Tournament

Allyson Watson, Kerry Stover, co-Chairs of the 2018 White Squirrel Golf Tournament

Are you ready for the golf season and a great way to help



those in need? Mark your calendar for the 12th Annual White Squirrel Golf Tournament.

- **Date:** Saturday, June 9th.
- **Place:** Ironwood Golf Club, outside of Exeter.
- **Purpose:** To raise funds for FSA's outreach projects.

One of the projects assisted by the proceeds is St. Paul's Social Services:

- St. Paul's Friendship Centre provides lunch for 80–100 people downtown twice per week averaging over 600 guests per month. St. Paul's Food Bank provides food, including fresh eggs, powdered milk, laundry soap and baby needs to 40 people a day; 12,000 Londoners per year.
- 125 volunteers are involved with this needed service. Sunday, April 15th is our 19th hole kick-off pizza lunch day.

Mark your calendars!

What we need **you** to do:

- Register to play golf and bring your friends!
- Be a hole sponsor ... contact Pat Pettit or Liz Galbraith.
- Help obtain silent auction items ... contact Margo Christodoulou or Barb Dalrymple.
- Help with registration on a Sunday from April 15th through May.
- Volunteer the day of the tournament ... contact Allyson Watson or Kerry Stover.
- Facilitate the putting contest.
- Prepare place cards for the dinner.
- Have a great day on Saturday, June 9th with friends to help the local agencies FSA supports! †



TRUSTEES

John Eberhard

Camp Kee-Mo-Kee

At a recent meeting of the Board of Trustees, members of the board of directors of Camp Kee-Mo-Kee made a well-documented presentation on its capital funding campaign. Mary Ann Hodge (Chair), Jane Dockrill and Bev Trist-Stewart presented.

Almost 60 years ago FSA helped Camp Kee-Mo-Kee become a summer camp for United Church members and the greater community. Kee-Mo-Kee is financially sound with operating surpluses in the last three years. As well as summer camps, Kee-Mo-Kee hosts children for school trips; runs a PA day programme, and hosts various weekend rentals. The camp is open to all ages. Jane passionately pointed out that Kee-Mo-Kee teaches and demonstrates Christian values, inclusiveness and community. Camp is a place where leaders are born, butterflies discovered and the first connections with the Christian faith are nurtured. It is a place where people from all backgrounds and circumstances belong, feel welcomed. Camp is accessible to all. This is surely a place where future members of FSA are inspired.

The Camp is in need of some infrastructure upgrades to meet health and accessibility regulations, and add new features for programming. Kee-Mo-Kee also hopes to create an endowment fund to provide funding for future camper sponsorship and ensure that funds are available to maintain the capital infrastructure. Camp really is an extension of the

values of FSA.

The capital campaign has set its sights on \$1.5 million—\$750,000 needed for capital projects and \$750,000 for an endowment fund.

As a founding church of Camp Kee-Mo-Kee, First-St. Andrew's was asked to be a lead sponsor of the campaign with a donation of \$150,000.

The Board of Trustees discussed this request and considered making a proposal to the congregation, splitting any donation amount between the endowment and capital funds. The Trustees also thought about how to balance the needs of FSA and support for this Presbytery project.

Council and congregational support would be required before making a significant gift. FSA is already providing office space for two days a week to the Kee-Mo-Kee camp director. Many FSA members have been campers or staff at the camp, and we have a deep relationship to its contribution in the wider church.

Kee-Mo-Kee is a unique camp where cabins are nestled in the woods within an Environmentally Significant Area. Research shows that spending time in nature promotes health and happiness and reduces stress. Those who report having had positive experiences in nature as children are more likely to take action to protect their environment (and stay committed to the United Church of Canada).

The Board of Trustees would like to have your views. Please contact any of its members with your comments or expressions of support. †





MUSIC

Merran Neville

This spring brings great concerts and music for Easter. The musical feast includes a concert given by the Tuskegee Golden Voices Choir on Wednesday, March 7th at 7:30pm, the Friday Lenten Noon Recitals in March and Mendelssohn's *Elijah* on April 21st at 7:30pm. The Lenten recitals include: March 2nd, Paul Merritt, organ; March 9th, vocal duo Sonja Gustafson and Francesca Ranalli, Terry Head, piano; March 23rd, the Laudamus Bells, Terry Head, director; a free-will offering and lunch follows for \$8. The senior choir is excited to have the opportunity to perform Mendelssohn's *Elijah* with London Pro Musica and London Symphonia. Soloists are Sonja Gustafson, soprano, Francesca Ranalli, mezzo-soprano, Darryl Edwards, tenor, Chad Louwerse, bass-baritone, and Terry Head, conductor.

On February 11th and 25th the Laudamus Bells joined forces with the Jubilate Bell Choir from Metropolitan to ring

for the worship services at each church respectively. We look forward to further opportunities to ring together.

The Good Friday service will be at FSA and the senior choir will be joined by choristers from Metropolitan to perform Rutter's *Requiem* as part of the service. Easter Sunday also brings musical treats.

Music United, which is a diverse association of people passionate about music in the United Church of Canada, is holding its annual "Music Matters 2018" at FSA. Terry Head is on the executive of Music United as past Chair and brings this event to FSA on April 27th-29th.

In this Lenten issue of *Tidings*, we make our Annual Appeal for the Friends of Music Fund. We are so grateful for the loyalty of our many generous donors, who over the years have made and continue to make a huge difference in our ability to offer high quality music programmes at FSA. A new Terms of Reference for the Friends of Music fund written by the Music Committee is on the FSA website at http://www.fsaunited.com/PDFs/Miscellaneous/FoM_TermsOfReference.pdf

†

Friends of Music

First-St. Andrew's is known throughout the London area and beyond for its outstanding music programme. This important commitment to musical outreach through year-round concerts is supported, in part, by the generous donations of people like you to *Friends of Music*. Donations can be made:

- to honour a birthday or anniversary
- as a memorial
- to help support our programmes

All donors receive a tax receipt and are recognized in the *Friends of Music* concert programmes and on the FSA website.

Donations can be made online through the FSA donations page, choose Friends of Music for your gift reason. You can also donate by cheque payable to "First-St. Andrew's United Church" with a memo: Friends of Music. Donations by cheque should be mailed to the church at 350 Queens Avenue, London, ON, N6B 1X6.

†



Jan. 21st, The Salvation Army Band



COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Jim Silcox

Have you noticed something new in the “promos” we have run for various events lately? In co-operation with the company, Eventbrite, you can now buy your tickets for various church events online. By simply clicking a link that you will find embedded in online posters and blurbs about a particular event, you will be whisked to an Eventbrite site where you can make the purchase using your credit card. Voila! An e-mail is then sent to your computer with a ticket attached. Just print it and bring it with you when you come, and you’re in the door and in your seat in no time at all! Eventbrite charges a small fee for this service but, because we have official charity status, it is reduced for us. They accumulate the revenues coming

in during the sales period and then send it all to the church as a single payout. It is convenient for everyone. Eventbrite also has its own website and advertises all the events for which they are ticket agents. They have city-specific sites, so you can Google them and look up what is happening in London—all in one place. We urge you to try it out.

If you’re running an event at the church for which you want us to help with outside promotion, we have developed a new form. It will facilitate us getting all your information up-front and in a timely fashion so that we can more effectively and efficiently do our job. We have been using the form since the first of the year and already we are finding it extremely helpful and a great time-saver. Thanks to all who are complying with our rules in this regard. We’ve even had requests from other United churches to use the form. As you can appreciate, this is very gratifying to us elves at C & M. †



CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

Allyson Watson

Christian Development has already been busy in 2018 and has lots planned in the upcoming months, so you will want to check everything out! We just finished co-hosting the pancake supper with the Men’s Brown Bag lunch group. They are really awesome to work with! As you may have seen, the BBL group is hosting a three-part Mining the Mystery series again this year focused on dementia; check out the next two dates, March 4th and April 8th. If you missed the first session you can check it out on YouTube. A huge thank you to David and Deanne Pederson for running three sessions on self-compassion. We hope you had the chance to attend.

Church school just finished learning about the disciples and is heading into the Lenten season. We are always in need of teachers, so come and check it out some Sunday.

Five members of the youth group are planning and fundraising for their big mission trip this summer; so far they have hosted a bake sale, sold mint smoothies, helped with the pancake supper, and are going to be hosting Souper Sunday

on February 25th. Please continue to keep an eye on what these young people are doing to raise funds for their amazing trip this summer in Ontario and Manitoba. If you want to find out more details, talk to Mason, Ella, Naomi, Izzy or Isaac. They would love to share.

As a result of positive feedback on last year’s Lenten project, we have created a calendar with new information to reflect upon during the Lenten season. There are six organizations from the London community that are being highlighted, all of whom work towards helping to alleviate poverty. Each Sunday there is a specific donation request for each organization; you will get a chance to hear from the organizations on their respective Sundays. Pick up a calendar at Coffee or Conversation or on the website.

Save the date for June 2nd-3rd at Camp Kee-Mo-Kee. We will be worshipping there on Sunday and anyone is welcome to join us for sleeping over on Saturday night. There will be two weeks of VBS this summer July 23rd-27th and August 13th-17th. The week of August 13th we will also be hosting Project GO, which is a week of day camp for Grades 4-8 focusing on different outreach projects. Contact Jane Dockrill with any questions. †

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UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Nancy Quinn

Retrospective:

On Tuesday, December 5th we enjoyed fellowship and delicious food at our annual *FSA UCW potluck*. Alastair Smyth, our bass soloist, and Terry Head, our music director, delighted us with a yuletide music programme. Following our tradition of thirty years, the FSA UCW donated our December Christmas money to our sister congregation at Beth Emmanuel Church.

On Tuesday, February 20th, Susan McKane gave an inspiring presentation on the "Roots of Empathy," (the power of understanding and imaginatively entering into another person's feelings). This is a school-based programme, aimed at nurturing social skills and understanding.

Many thanks to Millie Bates, who organized the Phantom Tea this February, and to everyone who gave generously.

On Wednesday, February 28th, several FSA UCW members attended the *Middlesex Presbyterial UCW Annual Meeting*, at Richards Memorial United. The Rev. Pam Cullen, of the London Community Chaplaincy, spoke on "Sustaining Hope."

World Day of Prayer, Friday, March 2nd, at St. Paul's Anglican Church. This global ecumenical movement, led by Christian women, welcomes everyone to join in "informed prayer and prayerful action." The Women's Inter-Church Council of

Canada wrote the inspiring service, which celebrated the women of Suriname, a small South American country. FSA UCW members participated in this meaningful service.

Upcoming:

Tuesday, March 6th, at 7:00pm, in the Chapel. Tea at 6:30. Everyone is welcome. John Eberhard will give a presentation on his recent two-week Rotary trip to Haiti. He and four other Rotary Club of London members brought over \$40,000 in donated supplies, including medicine, wood and tools. John emphasized in a January 11th LFP interview that "We are not just delivering stuff. We will be coaching people so they will be able to make things after we leave." With a focus on empowering the entrepreneurial Haitians, skills taught included: building beehives; creating mango dehydrators; repairing buildings; and managing farms and businesses. A freewill offering at the meeting will go to support Rotary projects.

Saturday, April 14th is the much anticipated annual **UCW Rummage Sale**. Please, gather your good used items—jewellery, clothing, toys, books, household items and electronics—and leave them on the stage. Advance thanks to everyone who will donate, purchase, organize and sell the bargains.

Please, stay tuned for details on our upcoming UCW meeting. †

ARCHIVES



These folks look cold! You're looking at a "mystery picture," apparently taken during a commemorative ceremony at the grave site of Rev. William Proudfoot during our 150th anniversary year. We think all those present were members of FSA at the time. Can you help Bev Lindsay identify any of them?



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DID YOU KNOW?

UPCOMING EVENTS

from MUSIC

- March 2nd, 9th, 23rd, Lenten Noon Recitals
- March 7th, Tuskegee Golden Voices Choir
- April 21st, *Elijah*

from CD

- March 25th, Big Circle Breakfast
- June 2nd-3rd, Kee-Mo-Kee Weekend

from M/O

- March 18th, Amnesty Write-a-thon and Chili Lunch
- April 15th, White Squirrel Kick-off and Pizza Lunch
- June 9th, White Squirrel Golf Tournament

from TRUSTEES

Stay tuned for a seminar on Estate Planning to be held in the spring. Experts on Estate administration, Wills, Powers of Attorney, Investing for the Future and End of Life Planning will be on the agenda.

from UCW

- March 6th, Meeting with speaker, John Eberhard
- April 14th, Rummage Sale

MILESTONES

Baptisms

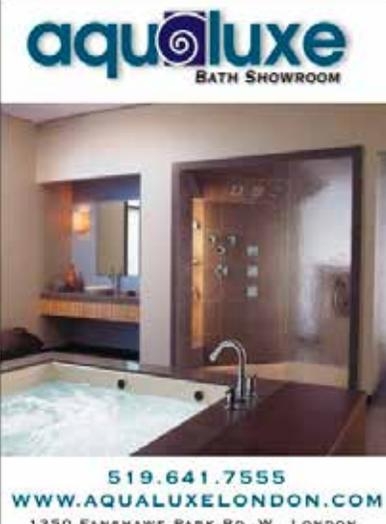
John Mihailo Patrick Cesarini, Jan. 28th
Justin Robert Owen Cesarini, Jan. 28th
Ashley Devine, Jan. 28th

New Members

Regina Moorcroft, Jan. 28th



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CORRESPONDENCE

The following note was received in the process of obtaining the photo (see page 4) of the Rev. Dr. Moir Waters that his daughter, Heather Bedford, provided.

Thanks for being in touch... [This] is a picture from about 1955. It is the one I can put my hands on the easiest and the one I really like. I am hoping in my Dad's writing it includes some of the personal side of the merger. My mother and her family came from First United when First and St Andrew's merged. My parents carried on a very private courtship during the years Dad was at FSA in the 1930s. When Dad left FSA in 1939 to prepare for his time in India he was single. It was about 2 months before he proposed to my mother in early December 1939. They were married in FSA on Jan. 23rd, 1940 and left for India in February 1940. They were "Missionaries in the field" for FSA during their years in India – 1940-45.



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**Dec. 8th, Advent Recital
Catholic Central Chamber Choir**



**Dec. 10th, Children's Pageant
"A Play in a Manger"**



Jan. 26th, ELUCO's Jazz Cabaret



**Dec. 8th & 9th,
The Gift of the Magi**



Feb. 13th, Pancake Supper



**Feb. 4th, Mining the Mystery
Helen Jevnikar**



Feb. 18th, Chancel Colours

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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