

fsa Tidings



First-St. Andrew's United Church

... where liberal theology meets the best of tradition

Vol. 21 - No. 1
Lent/Easter 2011



going **STRONG**

fsa Youth

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The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors, not necessarily those of First-St. Andrew's Church.

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

David Flynn



The theme of this issue is "The Dawning of a New Age." Yet, as we await the earlier dawns of Spring, and the promises of Easter morning, we also recall the harshness of this winter and the killing of Jesus. For FSA these dark days were marked by seven deaths over the Christmas period, two of these being Ted Kostecki, who managed many FSA activities, including the publishing of *Tidings* when I began as editor, and Ron Logan, one of FSA's most enthusiastic supporters. As well, our Minister of Christian Development, Susan Shelstad has resigned. For many of us, Susan was the FSA minister we knew the longest.

How do you deal with endings? Kate Crawford's column suggests a list of 'ifs' in response to the question—is it worth the effort to maintain a church? These are serious considerations as we look ahead to a new review of our future, probably a new Joint Needs Assessment Committee. We will need to consider the demands of a very old building, an aging congregation, and how much we should cooperate with other downtown United Churches such as Metropolitan.

A hopeful sign is that in 2011 we intend not to have a deficit for the first time in ten years, and we will begin to implement the Avis report on maintaining our building. More crucially, you will read in this issue about our wonderful people and programmes, which, after all, are really what we are as a church.

May your Lenten meditations be thoughtful and your Easter dawning be one of promise and promises fulfilled.

pdflynn@rogers.com



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES SALE

Our third sale is scheduled for Saturday, April 16th, 8:00am until 1:00pm. We need donations of true collectible items: dolls, linens, vintage clothing, pewter, "odd-ball" items, jewellery, china, furniture, silver, etc.

This is a congregational event and we would love to have you involved ... young people and strong men included. Pick-up of items other than furniture can be arranged. The set-up is April 14th and 15th.

For more information contact June McKay 519-471-5668.

HANGING BASKET, PLANTER, GERANIUM AND NATIVE PLANT SALE

First-St. Andrew's United Church

May 13th, 14th, 15th

Come early for good selection.

May pre-order during Coffee and Conversation during the month of April.

Fundraiser for the Property Committee.

FRIENDS OF MUSIC

The congregation of First-St. Andrew's is known in the City of London and beyond for its music programme. The cost of this important outreach to the community is well beyond the budget that could be supplied for this purpose by the congregation, and is only possible through the additional support and generous donations to Friends of Music by people like you.

Consider making a donation:

- to honour a birthday, anniversary, or other special event;
- as a memorial;
- to help support our music programmes.

All donors receive a tax receipt and unless anonymity is requested, they are recognized on the Concert Series poster. Donation cheques should be made payable to "First-St. Andrew's United Church" with a notation in the memo line—"Friends of Music."

ANNUAL AMNESTY WRITE FOR RIGHTS

Sunday, March 27th



Demand Dignity: Human Rights = Less Poverty

"Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity; it is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental right, the right to dignity and a decent life."

- Nelson Mandela

Stay after church for a light lunch and write a letter or sign a postcard or a petition for human rights. Bring your laptop or iPad if you prefer. Paper, pens, envelopes and letter writing tips will be provided.

CAMP KEE MO KEE

Thinking about summer camp for your children? Camp Kee Mo Kee information and registration forms are now available at www.keemokee.com or email Keemokee@hotmail.com

MUSICAL EVENT

Sunday, March 27th, 3:00 - 4:30pm

at Siloam United Church,
1240 Fanshawe Park Road

A gathering to enjoy music, fun, food and fellowship from our diverse and talented London community!

Sponsored by LIRSA, the London Inter-Faith Refugee Settlement Alliance, which includes FSA.

Special guests: celebrated London musician, Carole Allison, Joy in the Harvest African Women's Drums, and the Robinson Gospel Band.

Fun for the whole family — everybody welcome!

Admission by donation — all money will go to support new refugee families in London.

COUNCIL REPORTS



Jackie Williams, Past Chair

As I write my last report as outgoing Chair of Council, I note the spate of unhappy events within the church, with the deaths of several much-loved members of our congregation, and the recent news that the Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad is leaving her position as Minister of Christian Development. Susan has been a valued minister at FSA since 1997 and her presence will be greatly missed within the congregation. Susan is a deeply spiritual person and she was involved in many meaningful activities and events, and we will all miss her insightful sermons. Council accepted Susan's resignation with great regret, but we all wish her well as she continues her Christian journey. We will be able to say farewell to Susan when we celebrate her ministry with us in the Spring. Over the coming months, Council and the Ministry & Personnel Committee will work with Presbytery to decide on how best to replace this position.

"I close with warmest thanks to all members of Council who made my time as Chair a wonderful and rewarding experience."

Of course, sadness and loss are part of the circle of life, but we have had good news within the church as well. As reported during the Annual General Meeting, we seem to have turned a corner in our church finances, and the difficult decisions that were made over the last two years have made a difference, as has the amazing generosity of our congregation. We are fortunate in having Judith Walker as the new Chair of the Stewardship Committee. Judith is a professional fund-raiser and, together with our Trustees and Finance Committee, Stewardship will help ensure a stable financial future for our church.

My thanks to Russ Scorgie, who is stepping down as Chair of Property to oversee the completion of the most pressing items listed in the Avis Report.

Russ is succeeded by Mary Ann Hodge, who I'm sure will encourage important green initiatives at FSA. I close with warmest thanks to all members of Council, who made my time as Chair a wonderful and rewarding experience. I congratulate George Jolink, our incoming Chair of Council, and wish him all the best during his tenure.

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NOTE FROM KATE



A new friend here in London heard that I did my doctoral work on a medieval mystic named Julian of Norwich. Amazingly, a second-hand paperback of Julian's writings fell into his hands over the summer, and he felt called to purchase it ... for the princely sum of one dollar. This last week the reason became clear as he read to me her wonderful words:

I know that I will be tested. I know that I will be tried. But I shall not be overcome. All shall be well. And all shall be well. And all manner of things shall be well.

The same might be true of a congregation. We go through times of being tested and tried, but if we cling fast to the Rock of our salvation, than all shall be well.

This seems like a good time to ask ourselves once again: what is a church for? What is a congregation for? It sure takes a lot of energy and creativity, and money and effort to maintain a community of faith. Is it worth it?

I say that it is ... IF! What's the 'if' for? Any of the following:

- if it feeds our souls;
- if it makes us better people;
- if it supports us through the hard times of life;
- if it helps us to return thanks and praise to our Maker;
- if God still has a use for us.

That's a nice little check-list for us to use as this Lent unfolds, and as this year unfolds. We have some challenges facing us, trying to replace beloved staff members who are choosing to move on. But we also have some wonderful opportunities emerging as well. I hope that we are able to weather the challenges with good hearts, and to embrace the opportunities with open spirits ... if it's worth it!

May you find a blessing in this season of penance and reflection.

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- Kate



SYMBOLS

Steve Elson

Symbols are all around us: from the cars we drive, to the clothes we wear, to the words we read, to religious symbols like the cross, water and candles. What they all have in common is their role in standing for something other than what they are. The more permanent symbols tend to stand for something larger, greater. Symbols can be personal with personal meaning and importance. More commonly though, we think of symbols as being shared among a group of people, often entire societies: sometimes world-wide.

Some symbols last while others come and go. The cross as we think of it in Christian terms has transitioned across time and space. But it is not always seen or talked about in the same way. It has been used as a symbol of suffering, death and cruelty. It can also be a symbol of hope, forgiveness and grace. It can be seen as being

symbolic of the intersection of heaven and earth, human life and the divine. It is all of this and more.

The object itself is simplicity itself: two pieces of wood joined together. So what gives it its symbolic power has nothing to do with the object and everything to do with what people are taught and learn about it, and how the same story has been told, retold and interpreted.

Symbols are important because once the meaning of an object as a symbol is understood and shared it can be used as a short-cut to communicate meaning. It is the shared meaning behind the object that is important—where it takes us and what it evokes in us emotionally, what we associate with it, what we share with others. It is the shared meaning that brings people together. So it's probably worth talking about what the symbols we see around us mean to us and to others. After all, the meaning is what it's all about, not the object.

At least that's the way I see it, from the pew. ☩

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Symbols of Hope: Comfort Quilts

from the quilters group

VOLUNTEERS



Donna Travis

The opportunities to volunteer within our church community are numerous. They vary from being time-intensive to short term. My goal as volunteer co-ordinator is to give everyone in the congregation an opportunity to join the volunteer team. It is not only a good way to meet new friends but a way to try something new. In November 2009 the congregation was invited to fill out a volunteer opportunities yellow form. The activities were listed under the responsible committees. These yellow forms are in the narthex and the atrium. Please consider filling one out. An example of a fun activity was the garden clean-up on Saturday, October 30th. Twenty-eight adults, teens and children worked

for a few hours to clean up the gardens and property. Pizza, pop, coffee and goodies were our reward.

Consider what you can do for FSA during 2011. Would you like to be on a committee, join the Hospitality Meal team, serve at Coffee and Conversation, usher or be on reception, read the scripture lesson, teach Sunday School, help at the rummage sale, the antique sale or the Holly Bazaar, or one of the other activities listed? It is always possible that an individual may be able to share a talent that is not one listed on our form. Please feel free to place a note in my mailbox if you feel you can be of assistance to First-St. Andrew's in any way. We know we are blessed with a congregation of very special and talented people.

Thank you to all volunteers for the on-going contributions you make to FSA. ☩

GETTING TO KNOW



VALERIE AND TIM RICHARD

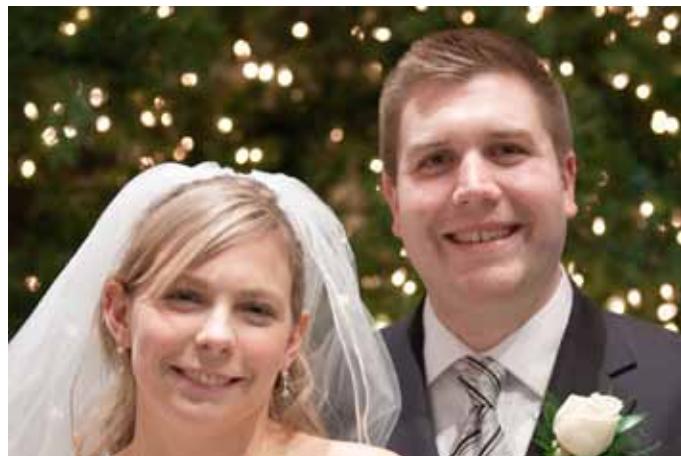
Barbara Plante

If you are hearing lovely new sounds coming from the already spectacular bass section of our senior choir, they are probably attributable to Tim Richard.

In December, Tim married Valerie de Jong, our vocal scholar and part-time custodian, and in January joined her in our choir.

These two young people come to us from quite different backgrounds. Valerie was born in Brantford, and raised in the Dutch Free Reformed Church. After high school she spent some time at Redeemer College in Ancaster before transferring to the music programme at UWO. Tim was born in California, and raised in the Roman Catholic Church. After living in various places in the U.S., he eventually made his way to British Columbia and then to UWO, also entering the music programme.

While Tim and Valerie both hold music degrees, they are each pursuing other lines of interest. Tim holds a



Masters in Performance and is currently working for RBC Insurance. However, his real interest is social justice, and to that end he intends to pursue a career in law.

Although blessed with a lovely voice, Valerie is interested in stage management, and has stage managed a number of operas at UWO, including *Don Giovanni* (2009), *Into the Woods* (September, 2010) and the recent production of *The Marriage of Figaro*. It was in 2007 while she was assistant stage manager of *Street Scene* that she met Tim, who was playing one of the major roles. Her skill in stage management so impressed the artistic director of UWO opera, Tim Baerg, that he recommended her for an apprenticeship with the Port Stanley Summer Festival Theatre. Valerie will complete her second year of

that apprenticeship this summer. She is currently stage managing the celebrations for the grad programme at Fanshawe College.

We are so fortunate to have this young couple enriching the life of our congregation. Luckily, we are certain to have them with us for another year. After that, the future is theirs. Valerie and Tim—congratulations on your recent marriage, and our very best wishes. ☺



CHANGES

MARRIAGES

Lynn Beynon and Daniel Larocque: December 18, 2010
Valerie De Jong and Tim Richard: December 21, 2010

DEATHS

Mary McLarty: November 28, 2010
Terence Bunt: December 6, 2010
Ted Kostecki: December 29, 2010
Lillian Hodgert: December 30, 2010
Ron Logan: January 2, 2011
Margaret McAninch: January 5, 2011
Harriett Sutherland: January 11, 2011

THE NEXT GENERATION



FIONA ROBSON

Valerie Moretti

Fiona Robson is a relative newcomer to First-St. Andrew's but already performs with the Joyful Singers, as well as having distinguished herself as a cellist. In grade 8 and heading toward Central Secondary School, Fiona modestly claims that she "just plays cello and piano now," but admits to playing the bass in her school orchestra because it's a "new challenge." She suggests that she may move into band instrument instruction next year, to help her get into the renowned Central Jazz Band!

Despite a music-filled week, which includes full Saturday mornings of cello, quartet, and orchestra work, Fiona can be defined by numerous other activities and passions. She is an enthusiastic reader who has enjoyed not only the traditional childhood classics of Alcott, Montgomery and Ingalls Wilder, but has finished all of the Harry Potter books and thinks they're wonderful. Fiona's favourite subjects are history, math and English. She is not keen on public speaking, but has little problem performing solo



instrumental music in public. When performing vocally, though, Fiona says she "prefers ensemble choral work," and adds that the music programme at FSA is "really amazing."

Fiona likes bicycling (and ALWAYS wears a helmet), "hanging out with friends," and has recently begun 'skate-skiing,' which is like cross-country ski racing. She has attended Camp Queen Elizabeth on Georgian Bay and enjoys traditional activities, "especially sailing."

It comes as little surprise that this lively girl claims that she doesn't miss her family not having cable TV, because she wouldn't have much time for it anyway. She does, however, enjoy films and theatre, preferring the BBC version of *Pride and Prejudice* to any other. Fiona has seen the Broadway production of *Wicked* in Chicago, and she performed in *Annie* at her elementary school last year. Fiona's musical tastes range from Vivaldi to Michael Bublé, and she can comment informatively on Bach's cello suites.

The middle of three children, Fiona exhibits a humility that belies her many accomplishments. She likes her cats, music, school, and travel. She says she "doesn't like flying but likes GETTING places." Just watch where she goes! ☺

BEHIND THE SCENE



I am sure that everyone at one time or another has been in a situation where they doubt what the right thing to do is. They spend hours trying to come up with a solution that they believe will help them cope with the problem. If they don't have anyone to talk to, the problem is often intensified. They wonder how they can solve this dilemma. The phrase "What to do, what to do," repeats itself over and over in their mind.

Those of us who attend First-St. Andrew's United Church are very fortunate to have a counselling psychiatrist in our midst to whom we can turn. Jo Ann Silcox, who is in charge of our Counselling

Team, is a committed member of First-St. Andrew's and a trained psychiatrist in cognitive therapy, a study of behaviour and mental processes and how they affect a person's physical state.

Care for the Caregivers, a group which meets once a month, is also under Jo Ann's direction; it helps anyone who is at home, caring for a person either sick or with a mental dysfunction such as senile dementia or Alzheimer's. Only someone who has experienced such a situation knows how this would help a person who is isolated in the home, caring for their loved one.

If a person wishes to contact Jo Ann, her phone



ELECTRICITY

Jim Hutchinson

In the last issue of *Tidings* you read about the Durand choir loft. Below is a photograph of his brass masterpiece. You will also notice the interesting electric light fixtures. These were probably originally gas fixtures, converted at a later time to electricity. Although the first electric lights in London, provided by the City Gas Company, appeared in 1883 before the

installation of our organ, regular service did not come until the 1890s. City Council minutes of 1894 indicate that street lighting of the core extended to Dufferin on the north, Wellington on the east, the Grand Trunk (CNR) Railway to the south with extensions north on Richmond to the CPR, and east on Dundas to Rectory. 216 lights were in use, powered by Canadian General Electric. Exactly when St. Andrew's Church was attached is not clear, but it was surely a priority since electric power would also mean the possibility of abandoning human power as the operating system for the organ bellows, not to mention increased reliability.

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A Taste of Burns

January 22, 2011



COMMITTEE REPORTS



WORSHIP

Jo Ann Silcox, Chair

The Worship Committee acknowledges with gratitude the many contributions of the Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad over the last 14 years, and wishes her well in her on-going discernment as she retires as Minister of Christian Development.

Under the wise and gentle leadership of our Minister of Worship and Administration the Rev. Dr. Kate Crawford, and Director of Music Mr. Paul Merritt, we continue to seek new forms of corporate and private worship in the months ahead—including increasing numbers of lay participants of all ages in reading,

liturgy, children's focus, music and preaching/teaching ministries—as we honour the ministry of the whole people of God.

Shared worship experiences with Metropolitan, (Good Friday, summer pulpit exchange, Longest Night service) are increasingly on the horizon, as well as engagement with congregations both within and without the United Church spectrum in community outreach.

We are confident that 'He who began a good work in this place will continue it unto the end,' and in that spirit know, in our genuine efforts to praise God together, that that same God will be glorified.

For each of you, who by your presence and your prayers help us to find a new song, we give thanks.

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry



Mission Sunday, February 6



MUSIC AT FSA

Paul Cooper, Chair

The year began with our ninth annual "A Taste of Burns" on January 22nd—an evening of good food, good company and good Celtic entertainment. David McKane provided a stellar performance of the "Immortal Memory." If you haven't been to a Burns' Supper, put First-St. Andrew's event on your calendar for 2012.

Sunday, February 6th, was the date for Mixtures 2—an afternoon of music featuring London instrumentalists accompanied by organ—presented in association with the Royal Canadian College of Organists.

Coming Events

Friday Lenten Noon Recitals

- March 25th—FSA Young Performers—Grace MacPhail-Wagner, Clair Latosinsky, Thomas Samson-Williams and Fiona Robson
- April 1st—Paul Merritt, organ
- April 8th—Bellissima Ringers—Cathie Banks, K.C. Cann, Adam Guthrie and Susan Carscadden-Mifsud

Eternal Light

On Sunday, April 10th at 2:30pm the choir sings a London premiere—"Eternal Light—A Requiem" by Howard Goodall. Choir and soloists, accompanied by a string orchestra, will be directed by Paul Merritt. Tickets are \$10.00.

This very economical price is possible because the Friends of Music fund offsets the cost of these performances so that ticket price is not a barrier to anyone wishing to attend these concerts. Use this performance as an opportunity to invite friends, family, or neighbours to attend the performance and the post-performance reception with you. This may be the event that sparks their interest in our congregation and sees them joining our church family.

Choir Updates

In June, Valerie De Jong completes her third and final year as our vocal scholar. Valerie, one of our sopranos, married Tim Richard at FSA in December, and we are very pleased that Tim is now singing in the bass section of the choir.

Thanks to generous donations by senior choir members, the very low production costs of our CD, "Feelin' The Spirit," have now been covered by the initial sales. All future monies received from CD sales will go to the church treasurer to support the on-going work of the congregation.

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Amahl and the Night Visitors

December 3 and 4, 2010





CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

Cynthia Simpson, Chair

CD Highlights and Events

Impact youth trip to Worshiplude in Ottawa on February 12th–13th—Was there time to skate on the Rideau Canal??

Impact youth breakfasts on February 27th, March 27th and May 22nd—pancakes, waffles, bacon and fruit ... worth getting up for!

Palm Sunday church breakfast on April 17th, hosted by the Church School and featuring Jo Ann Silcox's famous cinnamon toast strata.

Our Moms and Tots group continues to meet on the second and fourth Fridays, with a great turn-out for sharing ideas and companionship.

Both bible studies are going strong and have had some interesting discussions.

Future CD events include: Spirit Games in June, the Proudfoot Lecture for 2011, and some exciting things being planned by our new Sunday Worship Adolescent Team (SWAT) for Impact youth events.

CD is full of energy! 



MEMBERSHIP AND NURTURE

Donna Travis, Chair

The next step in our on-going discussion of the use of name tags at First-St. Andrew's is to suggest that members of the congregation consider wearing any available name tag that they may already have at home. The church is in possession of a variety of tags which we will make available at entrances to the church during the month of March. Please feel free to help yourself to one of these, take it home with you and try to remember to

wear it when you next come to church. Feedback from our use of name tags during the months of September and December was on the whole positive, but the logistics of a permanent system of having tags which we leave at the church considering our many entrances and exits is somewhat difficult. Thank you for your on-going co-operation

In the Spring we are hoping to create an in-house non-pictorial addendum to the Directory which may be purchased for a nominal fee to cover material and printing costs. 



COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Jim Silcox

This *ad-hoc* committee of Council remains very active. At our request, the firm, Marketing Strategies and Solutions, prepared several versions of a church logo together with our tag line, as well as a church icon. At their presentation in January they explained that the logo would always represent us on all church publications and serve to give us a consistent identity. In technical terms, it would be scaleable and easy to reproduce in all media. Complimenting it would be the icon, envisioned as an optional item, less formal and probably a more transient symbol of FSA, representing our engagement with our many communities both inside and outside of the church. It might be considered a graphic way to represent the spirit of the church.

We are very impressed with the options that they have given us so far, and hope to have some recommendations ready to take to Council for approval

by their March meeting.

Since we will not be able to pursue our goal of achieving standing committee status until 2012, we have lots of time to continue working on our terms of reference. Currently we see ourselves as having a dual function. We can be both a visioning committee for the whole church in regard to communication and marketing, and a service committee for other committees and for church staff when it comes to getting the word out. One of our tasks for 2011 is to take this idea around to other FSA groups and see if it seems reasonable to them as well.

Unfortunately, since the Fall we have lost some valuable committee members. We thank them for getting us off to a productive start in the last year. Our meetings continue to be lively and idea-driven. The best part is that the work gives us opportunities to liaise with folks on other FSA committees, other community churches, and in the media. In other words, serving on Communications and Marketing is a great way to get to know a lot of people in a hurry. 



FINANCE

Harold Jackson, Chair

First-St. Andrew's United Church (FSA) began 2010 with a plan to be operationally deficit free in 2010. We agreed this was an ambitious goal, and one that had not been realized

in over 10 years. Through the generosity, dedication and hard work of our congregation this goal has been realized, even with a modest surplus. Significantly, this achievement was made possible through the dedicated support of our paid staff. To them particular recognition must be paid. With the reduction of one (1) in staff, more was asked of them in 2010 and they responded. We are blessed to have this dedication to facilitate the continuing accomplishments of this great congregation.

Importantly, we must continue to operate with a balanced budget. To that end, the 2011 budget forecast has been prepared with this objective in place and approved at the FSA Annual Congregational Meeting February 13th, 2011. With the continued support and cooperation received from all in 2010 this outcome will be repeated in 2011.



MISSION OUTREACH ENVIRONMENT

Barbara Dalyrymple

On February 6th we celebrated our annual Mission Sunday with members of our committee participating and Kate preaching on the rights of indigenous peoples, including those in the McKenzie Valley who are affected by the pipeline, and those in El Salvador who are affected by drilling by Canadian mining companies.

David Knoppert, Paul Mansell and Mary Vernon have resigned from our committee after many years of valued service. We are looking for new volunteers to join us.

Toques—YOU (Youth Opportunities Unlimited). Thanks to our kind congregation we sold 25 toques—many of which were donated back and were distributed to guests at our Out of the Cold dinners.

Grow-A-Row (Canadian Food Grains Bank). Our kick-off this year for our 16th Annual Campaign in conjunction with St. Mary's United Church will be Sunday, April 3rd. Last year was a wonderful success at both churches and we hope to continue this momentum. This campaign helps our brothers and sisters in the Third World countries which continue to be devastated by earthquakes, floods and droughts.

We are indeed fortunate to have a well-qualified and dedicated Finance Committee at FSA. The members include: Michael Bancroft, Dennis Dalton, Carol Foley, Harold Jackson (Chair), Don Reid, Susan Scorgie (church administrator) and Donna Travis. We are pleased that Doug Jones will be joining the committee in 2011. During 2010 two members resigned, David Beach and Geoff Vogt. We thank them and will miss their contributions and support of the fiscal advisory role served through of this committee of Church Council. In particular, the wise counsel and expertise in the operations finance and planning area provided by Geoff Vogt is acknowledged. Significantly, the valuable financial management and support resource that is provided by Susan Scorgie to the congregation as a whole and this committee in particular, is gratefully recognized. Our collective thanks Sue!

You are encouraged to make FSA your favourite charity in 2011, if this is not already the case. Your continued support and generosity will assure that this great congregation continues to deliver the promise of being “**At the Heart.**”

YD

St. Paul's Daily Bread. The numbers continue to increase. Food and money are always required. There will be another fund-raiser for Daily Bread on Monday, April 18th. Mark your calendar now.

Hospitality Meals. A fifth team started January 17th. The Lawson Foundation donated \$3,000. The Middlesex-London Health Unit reports that Social Assistance is inadequate to meet all peoples' basic needs for food and shelter.

Comfort Quilts. The Comfort Quilt group continues to make quilts for injured Canadian soldiers serving in Afghanistan. The quilts are now being dedicated before they are sent.

ELUCO. There was a covenanting service for Nancy Howard, the new director, on February 27th.

London Conference Hope Book. Donations to February 1st: Cuba \$5,237.04; Japan \$3,819.45; Mozambique \$33,572.89; Nicaragua \$14,481; Limberlost Chaplaincy \$1,275; Southdale Chaplaincy \$2,930; ELUCO \$971.35. On behalf of all our various missions, thank-you for your contributions. You may continue to purchase birthday or anniversary gifts, etc. from the Hope Book throughout the year.

Green FSA. On January 24th the Environment Committee walked through parts of the church to investigate areas for energy efficiency. Several areas

were noted that could use additional insulation (pipes and tanks) and we added some foam gaskets to exterior outlets and switch boxes. It was suggested that a couple of radiators in some of the warmest rooms (library and choir room) could possibly be removed.

On April 2nd, we will be attending the Greening Sacred Spaces workshop being held at Empress United. We will be learning how other churches have successfully implemented green initiatives. All interested people are welcome to join us.

We are hoping to host a gardening workshop in April to discuss either gardening with native plants or caring for your lawn naturally.

JSA

PHOTO QUIZ



If you were to ring this doorbell in the Narthex, who would answer the door?

1. Kate Crawford
2. Geoff Bottomley
3. The Moderator of the United Church of Canada
4. Joe Fontana
5. Nobody

ANSWER: 5. Nobody - Usheirs ring this bell to signal Paul Merritt that the collection off the offering has been completed.

SUPPER CLUB SERVINGS

June McKay



This is proving to be another memorable year for this group, which meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month for a yummy Pot Luck supper and programme.

In January, **Don Langford, Yvette Ross and Crystal Denison** from Strathroy United Church told us of their journey to Mizak in **Haiti** in 2010, when they responded to a plea for assistance. Accompanied by a group of young people from Strathroy, and with amazing energy and hard work they built a multi-purpose pavilion for health care. It was a very exciting and fruitful time for all.

In February, **Ellen and Steve Horak** were invited by a sub-committee of MOE to be our guests. They recently moved from life in suburbia to build an eco home near Glen Morris, in order to further their goal of living a more sustainable life. In so doing they have found a richer and more satisfying lifestyle. They told us what their version of a sustainable life looks like and the benefits they have found from moving toward sustainability ... an inspiration for us in our effort to "go green."

March 22nd On September 11th, 2001, thirty-eight jetliners bound for the U.S. were forced to land in Gander, Newfoundland. The residents near and in the surrounding towns suddenly had to look after 6,000 distraught travellers. By chance, **Ken and Jean Wright** met a couple from St. Louis, Missouri, who had been cared for in Lewisporte, and learned their extraordinary story of that time of crisis. He is a video-photographer and much of the film was used in a presentation on NBC by Tom Brokaw. The film will be shown during the evening, accompanied by stories about the amazing response of the people of Newfoundland.

April 26th **Joan and Richard Hryniw**, who are members of "Sleeping Children Around the World," will be our guests. This organization, known as SCAW, literally travels around the world providing thousands of bed kits to the poorest areas and to the poorest families of children in need. Many experience exhausting long days travelling on pot-holed, congested narrow roads to reach their destinations.

May 24th Our guest will be **Rabbi Debra Dressler** from Temple Israel, who will speak to us of the structure of the Jewish year, their customs and holidays, allowing time for questions and discussion.

Everyone is welcome to attend any of our meetings. Call June McKay with suggestions and questions. JSA

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Minister of Worship and Administration
The Rev. Dr. Kate Crawford

Minister Emeritus
The Rev. Dr. Frank Meadows

Director of Music
Paul Merritt

Church Administrator
Sue Scorgie

Administrative Assistant/Receptionist
Maureen Scarborough

Custodians
Geoff Bottomley, Valerie DeJong Richard



UCW UPDATE

Margaret Wonfor

Beth-Emmanuel, a small British Methodist Episcopal Church on Grey Street, has had a long-time relationship with FSA, longer than many of our members can recall. Mr. Bailey and his daughter Clara were custodians at First-St. Andrew's. As an outreach project members of the WMS Philoxena group, of which Clara was a member, provided gifts for the children's Christmas party at the BME church. In 1962, with the inception of UCW, the custom changed to taking a freewill offering for the children's ministry at Beth-Emmanuel in memory of Clara Bailey and to honour her interest in this project.

At our December general meeting the pastor, Delta McNeish, blessed us with her presence and put a face on this long-standing ecumenical association. Jean Comfort and Jeane Stewardson accepted Delta's invitation to attend their Christmas dinner and a dramatic presentation of the nativity story. Thus old connections

were rekindled and we trust that the fellowship ignited around the table will continue for many more years.

At the annual meeting held after church on February 6th a budget of \$22,900 was approved for 2011. A gift of \$1,000 was approved to assist members of the Bella Coola community whose homes and crops were destroyed by severe floods in that part of BC. The Bella Coola pastoral charge was served by the Rev. Betty Sangster. Also a donation of \$5,000 from the Audrey Webster fund is to be sent to First United Church in Wetaskiwin, AB, to assist in refurbishing their new church to replace the one destroyed by fire, the work of an arsonist.

The Maytime Communion and tea for shut-ins will be held again, the date to be announced.

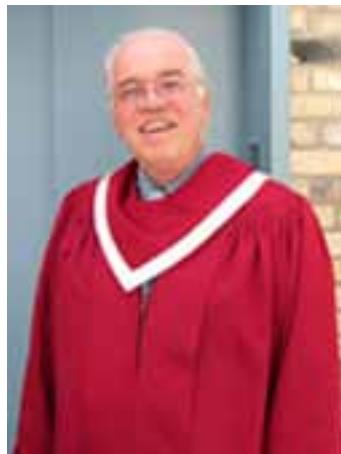
The June general meeting will feature a presentation from Teen Challenge, a new programme to assist female drug and alcohol abusers. This group in King City offers the only programme for women in Canada, based on the Teen Challenge model.

REMEMBERING

FRANK MEADOWS

On Sunday, February 20th, after a long illness, the Rev. Dr. Frank Meadows, passed away peacefully at Parkwood Hospital with his family gathered around him.

Born and raised in Montreal, Frank graduated from McGill University in 1955 with a degree in science and headed out into the world to teach school. It was not long, however, before he realized his true calling and headed back to McGill to study theology. After graduation in 1962, having won a scholarship to study the history of the Protestant Reformation, he packed up his household belongings and, supported by his wife, Joyce, and their then infant first son, headed off to Strasbourg. His work there resulted in a degree of master of sacred theology in 1965. To complete the record of academic achievements, we note that he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the United Theological College in Montreal in 1995.



Ordained by the Montreal and Ottawa Conferences in June of 1962, he has held pastorates in Ste. Therese, Quebec; Knox Church, Saskatoon; Parkminster Church, Waterloo; Fairlawn United, Toronto and accepted a call to First-St. Andrew's in 1989. A much beloved pastor to all, during his tenure here he shepherded us through many changes including a reorganization of the governance of the church and the initiation of significant outreach activities such as the "Out of the Cold" programme.

In 2000 he retired. He did not slip off to a rocking chair, however, but spent several years serving as interim minister at various churches in Middlesex Presbytery. Finally he returned to us to assume the title of Minister Emeritus, to sing in the choir and to serve on various church committees.

He will be sorely missed by all. Our sympathies go out to his family at this time of great loss.