

Tidings

First-St Andrew's
UNITED CHURCH

Where liberal theology meets the best of tradition



Vol. 22 - No. 2
Pentecost/Summer 2012

Music Makers

INSIDE

The Editors' Desk	2	The Building	7
Announcements	3	Vignettes	7
Changes	3	Profile	8
Council Report	3	Past Events	8, 9, 14
Note from Kate	4	Noteworthy	10
View from the Pew	4	Committee Reports	11
Getting to Know	5	UCW Report	14
The Next Generation	5	Advertisements	15
Volunteers	6	Windows on First-St. Andrew's	16
Behind the Scene	6	First-St. Andrew's Ministry	16

TIDINGS STAFF

Managing Editor David Flynn
Editor Pat McGregor
Layout Jim Silcox
Photographers Willis Buckingham, David Wake
Staff Representative Paul Merritt
Team Members Willis Buckingham, Barb Dalrymple, David Flynn, Nancy Howard, Kelly Kabat, Paul Merritt, Ellen McKim, Pat McGregor, Shelly Pinkard, Jim Silcox, Margaret Wonfor
Administrative Assistant Maureen Scarborough

Publisher:

First-St. Andrew's United Church
 350 Queens Avenue
 London, Ontario N6B 1X6
 Tel: 519-679-8182 Fax: 519-439-6838
www.fsaunited.com

Printer:

Sterling Marking Products

Four issues are published yearly, the first Sunday in December, March, June and September. Submissions, due three weeks before the publication dates, must be under 350 words and are accepted only from members of First-St. Andrew's. The editors reserve the right to edit or reject submissions. The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors, not necessarily those of First-St. Andrew's Church.

Rates for Business Card Ads:
 \$90 for one year (four issues)

Submit ads to pdflynn@rogers.com by the middle of August, November, February or May to ensure publication in next issue.



MANAGING EDITOR'S MESSAGE

David Flynn

A theme in this issue of *Tidings* is that of inspiration for mission; appropriate as we move into the season of Pentecost.

The Troubbable of Zerubbabel was a musical about the governor for the first group of Jews returning from Babylon trying to recover their mission. The literal joy expressed by the Joyful Singers is enhanced by Jean Wright's account of what went on Behind the Scene.

What a remarkable variety of people come through our doors—Bob Peel, video and Irish harp expert who, on his own mission search, chose us. Chris Lindsay and Martha Galea, along with other members of the God Squad, have given us hope for the Next Generation. Our Vignettes column continues with Mike Bancroft's account of a recent trip to Israel. The Rev. Kate describes the hundreds of people who enter our virtual door—fsaunited.com.

A significant proportion of the more than sixty groups at FSA come under MOE, reflecting our ongoing mission in the world. Judith Walker's Stewardship article is a wonderful introduction to the many "fibres" which unite us.

It's especially good to see that many of the previous Christian Development activities are under way again, along with new ones introduced by Tom and Kate. Shelly Pinkard's UCW report should attract additional members to join these long-serving vibrant women. A new activity, the making and selling of turkey pot pies has grown exponentially since the first offering before Christmas.

The recent retreat for Council members, through London Presbytery, is part of the preparation for a strategic plan around our mission, appropriate as we choose new part-time ministerial staff. Jim Hutchinson's ongoing column on our physical building reviews some of the history of our beautiful stained glass windows.

Many people contributed to this issue, particularly Kelly Kabat, a relatively new FSA member, who wrote the articles on Martha Galea, and the pot pie project. We hope to feature other groups of volunteers in the future—but the turkey pot pie makers seemed an especially tasty one to highlight. After all, part of our inspiration is to break bread together, literally as well as symbolically.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM MOE

- June 9th—White Squirrel Golf Tournament
- September 9th—Grow-a-Row Ham, Corn and Bean Lunch

FROM CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

- June 18th—Camp Kee-Mo-Kee Day.
- Watch for announcements in the fall for a continuation of the FSA film series in October and November

FROM COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

- June 9th (rain date, June 10th) 11am to 3pm— 100th Anniversary of the Woodfield Fair, on Princess Avenue

CHANGES

MARRIAGES

May 12th, 2012, Julie Carrigan and Christopher DeMelo

May 19th, 2012, Lisa KostECKi and Andrew Wylie

May 26th, 2012, Dale Bouchard and Ron Gnatkowski

DEATHS

Douglas Edmonds, March 2nd, 2012

Eldon Hawkins, March 5th, 2012

Gwen Coulter, March 29th, 2012

Gertrude Cole, April 2nd, 2012

Jean Gorwill, April 13th, 2012

BAPTISMS

April 15th, 2012

Scarlett Heather Baillie, daughter of Jenny and Andrew Baillie

Kyson Quinn McInnis, son of Liisa and John McInnis

Sarah Ann McLaren, daughter of Tara and Ken McLaren

May 13th, 2012

Isobel Emily Murphy, daughter of Laura McLachlan and Kevin Murphy

Alexandra Lauren Nicolucci, daughter of Christine and Brock Nicolucci

Elyssa Christine Nicolucci, daughter of Christine and Brock Nicolucci

COUNCIL REPORT



George Jolink, Chair

Once again we find ourselves in June looking forward to a summer break from routines and obligations that take so much of our time. This is a time to rest, relax and rejuvenate for the seasons ahead. At the same time we look back at all we have accomplished over the past year. Your Council and its committees have been hard at work on your behalf to continue the mission of First-St. Andrew's as an inclusive Christian family that encourages spiritual growth through worship, friendship, learning and action.

Your Council has recently begun a process to explore this mission. In an effort to develop a strategic plan for our future, we spent a weekend under the direction of Judith Gilliland from the Presbytery office looking at our values and unique attributes which would help to define our vision and how best to move forward. One of the questions we struggled with was: "What do you think God's heart wish is for FSA?" I ask each of you to consider what makes FSA unique, what role does it

play in your lives, and what role do you see for us in this community. These are big questions and we will continue the work in the fall with an opportunity for congregational input. Together we will define our future.

In the meantime we are beginning the search process for new part-time positions in pastoral care and youth and family ministry. We look forward to a time when we will have additional staff to support the work of FSA. Having said that, we offer our heartfelt thanks and appreciation

for our current staff who work so hard for us each day. We wish them a well-deserved break over the summer months.

Thank you also to each of the committee members for your dedication to our church and community. I am excited about what the future will bring.

As the summer months progress, services will continue in Proudfoot Hall and we look forward to seeing you there. We ask you to keep FSA in your thoughts and prayers.

Rest and relax. Enjoy God's bounty.

JS

NOTE FROM KATE



MINISTRY MUSINGS

The Rev. Dr. Kate Crawford

Did you know we have 590 visitors every month, and that about 188 of them are new, just getting to know us? If you've missed this swarm of people it's because they haven't been coming in through the main doors. They have been joining us on our website!

Our Kindly Old Webmaster, Jim Silcox, recently presented these fascinating statistics to Council, and they tell an important story about an often hidden ministry of our congregation. Those aged between 20–50 find it *much* easier to come and visit us electronically, rather than in person. It might take two or three e-visits before they feel comfortable walking in our doors. The 590 visitors to the site each month are making more than two visits each and visiting more than two of our pages each time, which tells us that they are not just accidentally finding our home page. They are checking us out!

And what are they finding? I get two to three e-mails a month through the website—anything from “do you do baptisms?” to “will you welcome a lesbian couple in worship?” These are really questions about belonging: will I feel at home at FSA? Jim tells me that each time FSA is in the news, our website usage rises—people are stopping by to get to know us there. That's another theological question: who are we? Usually Monday sees a rise in visits—which tells us that people are hunting out the bulletin or the service (now abbreviated to just the sermon, due to copyright issues with music reproduction). That's another theological connection: seeking worship electronically.

And the best part? The amazing photographs from Jim, Willis Buckingham, David Wake and others, updated right after worship on Sunday. If you haven't found them yet, they are a delightful snapshot of our community in action. Pictures are worth a thousand words—and the joy in the faces tells the greatest theological truth of all: this is a community where God is alive! If you haven't stopped by to see www.fsaunited.com, take some time this week. It's a great way to come visit! ✠

VIEW FROM THE PEW



WORSHIP

Steve Elson

The following is a quote from the 1991 book *Search for Meaning: Exploring Religions of the World* by Antonio Gualtieri:

“The rational corresponds to certain concepts, beliefs or doctrines like ‘God the father, the almighty maker of heaven and earth who is all wise, who is everywhere and always present, a God who is all powerful.’ The rational element of religion can be illustrated further by moral propositions like ‘God is perfect righteousness.’ The non-rational cannot be formulated by such concepts. Instead, the human correlate would be feelings, distinctive sentiments of awesomeness, of being overpowered; of majesty ... there is an element of mystery that is primal in the religious life.” (pp. 137–138.)

When we think of God as being beyond words, it is one thing to accept this notion intellectually—with the brain if you will—and quite another to experience it. To

go beyond words into or toward the sacred is not for the faint of heart. Buddhist priests and monks spend their lifetimes exploring and living this domain.

Those of us who have much more modest ambitions in this area do not, in my view, have to be left out. By creating a quiet, reflective setting or by taking meditative walks we can experience the extraordinary—it's a form of worship.

And we do not have to be in isolation to do this—we can do it in the community of fellow travellers and with mentorship by those who are more practised and evolved in their understanding of this non-rational journey.

Can this be part of our community of worship? I think so. I know I have been present when a collective connection has taken place—when the physical space, combined with the acts taking place, the leadership, the tone and the emotion of the moment created a sacred, collective experience. Everyone present knew that something special was taking place. It was appreciated by all and served to enrich the service beyond words. So it can happen.

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

GETTING TO KNOW



BOB PEEL

David Flynn

In Bob's words, his journey has taken him to Anglican churches, a few United, the Church of St. Mattress and to Sparta with his Quaker Friends. About four years ago on a Christmas Eve, he attended FSA.

He had grown up a few blocks away and some of his Craig ancestors attended First Church and then FSA. He says at that service he "finally felt at home."

Bob states that "FSA is such a welcoming and caring family. The high calibre of talent within our staff and parishioners is amazing and lifts me up so much. It's great to 'fly with eagles.'"

Apart from the first four years of marriage when they lived in St. Thomas, London has been home. Bob's family consists of his wife Jocelyn, three children—Leslie, Bryan and Greg—three grandchildren, pooch Katie and two cats.

Bob's work history has been "If I have a passion for it, I'll do it, otherwise move on." For 18 years he



worked at our local TV station (camera, director, sales), various marketing and management positions with other companies until 1987 when he started his TV/Video production company. He still helps his son there, but says to cut the stress and "reduce his hair from going further arctic blond," he's having fun being a media buyer, especially for PBS TV, Erie.

Bob really enjoys playing the Celtic harp in his Irish Folk Club, playing solo for charities, events, retirement homes, weddings, etc. Recently he's feeling a strong urge to learn the lute. For relaxation Bob enjoys daily walks and reading, having recently finished *A King's Story*, recommended by Gavin McGregor. Bob states: "For spiritual food I think the Rev. Kate has me sized up—she says I'm a 'Seeker.' Good reading material, hearing a good speaker and especially certain music can transport me to another planet."

Bob says he has lots of questions, the prime one being: "How can people learn to live in harmony?" But he feels that FSA has demonstrated one answer to that question. FSA in turn is blessed to have Bob share his journey with us. ✍️

THE NEXT GENERATION



MARTHA GALEA

Kelly Kabat

Martha Galea is in grade 11 at Lucas secondary school and is the older one of two vibrant daughters who arrived with our minister, Dr. Kate Crawford.

Born in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Martha moved throughout life as a result of her mother's vocation. Much of her childhood was spent in a house by the water bathed in sunlight. Built by her parents, "Dar lx-Xemx" (which means House in the Sun in Maltese) has 36 skylights and a sunroom! Martha remembers a lot of time playing outside in an idyllic and beautiful surrounding.

Other residences included two years in Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia and five years in St. Johns, where she continued to develop her interests in poetry and music.

Today, Martha is enjoying the two years she has been here in London and most appreciates time spent with her family and her good friends. During the school year, Martha participates in the Lucas Social Justice



club which raises awareness and funds for non-profit groups. She also is on the school cheer team competing, and cheering on the football team during their season. Martha also plays guitar, sings in the Lucas choir and has been honoured within the school's "Exceptional Youth" programme that recognizes outstanding character.

Within the church, Martha is active in the God Squad and also volunteers for community meals and when other needs are present.

In spite of her busy schedule and impressive list of activities, Martha much appreciates music, reading and a good cup of Earl Grey. Her two favourite books are *The Great Gatsby* and *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. She looks forward to spending the summer waitressing in the Antigonish Café and reading two new Robert Frost books and *360 Great Stories of Our Time*.

In London, as in other places she has lived, she has found that the church can be relied on for constant community within a new community. "It is always good to step into a church," she reflects. "It is a constant. Things change but I can always count on the church for friends and love." ✍️

VOLUNTEERS



THE VALUE OF PIE

Kelly Kabat

Turkey pot pies. The idea bubbled up during the UCW 2011 Holly Bazaar post-meeting discussion regarding fund raising.

The recipe is a joint effort between Jeanette Morgan and Carol Riddell-Elson who are the co-coordinators of the pot pie project with team members Judy Walker and Brenda Small. What sets FSA pot pies apart is that, except for the salt content of the “artisan bouillon,” no salt is added. The team has created an herbal mix that enhances the flavour without having to increase the sodium content. They are not just delicious, but lower in sodium as well.

Initially Jeanette and Carol agreed to sell them only at Christmas. Then, they decided to make 70 for the upcoming UCW spring meeting on May 23rd, and figured that since they would be in the kitchen anyway, they could make extras to sell at the spring Rummage Sale.

Two weeks before the Rummage Sale, Kate was



Left to Right: Judy Walker, Carol Riddell-Elson, Jeanette Morgan

asked to make an announcement before church service saying that the pies would be available for sale after service. This small breath was all it took to start a fire sale that would do in the entire supply of turkey pot pies. By the time Coffee and Conversation was over, more than 400 pies were sold, leaving none left for the Rummage Sale.

The project was such a success that the Pot Pie

Troupers were at it again in mid-May, baking another batch of 480 pies for those who didn't get a chance to purchase from the first batch and for those who tasted them and want more. The cost is \$4.00 each and pre-orders are accepted for orders of 10 or more.

“Next year we'll do just one big batch in the spring, instead of two smaller batches,” said Jeanette, who is pleased and surprised at their success. “It's a delicious recipe and they are really handy to have on hand

in the freezer.”

She is right. They are amazing and we are lucky they're on the UCW agenda for this Christmas and next spring!

JK

BEHIND THE SCENE



THE TROUBBABLE OF ZERUBBABEL

Jean Wright

"We were really nervous coming down the aisle and taking our places on the steps, but when we started to sing, and everyone was smiling at us, we

just loved it."

And the congregation just loved it, too. The rehearsals for the children's musical started in January, and every Wednesday for four months the eight Joyful Singers of First-St. Andrew's, led by Paul and Enid Merritt, assisted by Shelley Kostecki and Grace MacPhail-Wagner, worked towards the April 29th performance. The musical itself had been performed twice before at FSA—the first time twenty years ago. Paul is always on the lookout for a children's musical, and he felt this year's group was a good fit for this revival. Both Shelley and Paul felt that one striking thing about this cast was how everyone supported each other. This was corroborated in conversation with the Tuft sisters who complimented the other singers, and talked about the right voices in the right roles.

Shelley found the black tee shirts with the coloured dots in the costume cupboard, left over from long-ago “Polka Dot” days. Keeping the staging and set simple, the cloth on the communion table was found in the banner room, and she spray-painted boxes, scrounged from a neighbour and they formed the stones of the temple.

Grace did double duty. As student leader of the Joyful Singers this year, she had a close connection with each one in the cast, so in the role of Zerubbabel, the children were confident in their interaction with her. Harrison Silcox, up from Junior Joyfuls, was well rehearsed to fit in happily with the rest of the cast. One had only to look at Bob Kennedy, clarinetist and grandfather, to feel his joy in participating.

All this preparation. All this work. And the result? The children got an opportunity to sing “different cool music,” and learn to value the contribution of each cast member. The result for the congregation? Well, as someone was heard to say, “I was captivated by the kids, and I also learned some biblical history without any troubbable.”

(Also see photos on page 9)

THE BUILDING



WINDOWS

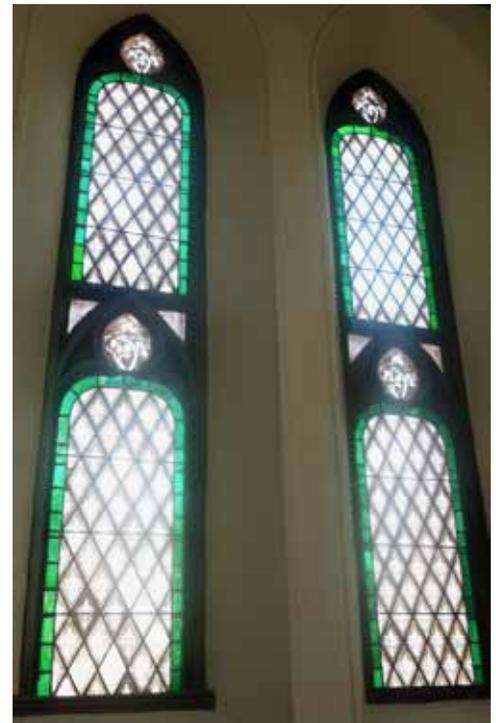
Jim Hutchinson

Visitors to our sanctuary often comment on the beauty of our windows. There is a long history attached to them. Take a minute some day to enter the tower from the narthex to examine the 1869 windows there, still in their frames. These were made locally and are stenciled by hand.

In the atrium, thanks to Ross and Linda Dodington, we have a sample of the original sanctuary windows.

In 1938 the Reid family commissioned Hobbs Glass of London to create the chancel window in memory of their parents. It is no doubt our best window.

The congregation turned to Toronto when they decided to install two war memorial windows in 1950. So too did the donors of the next three windows on each side of the church. The remaining two, under the gallery, were created by Edwards Glass of London. You will notice the stronger figures and colours of these panels made almost 100 years after the initial creations.



Tower Windows

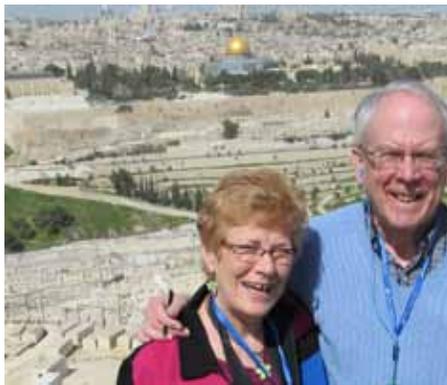
VIGNETTES

A TRIP TO ISRAEL

Joan and Mike Bancroft

Joan and I were very fortunate to travel to Israel and Jordan from March 16th– April 1st, with Charlotte and Bill Oldham and Senior Tours, Canada. This proved to be perhaps the most interesting trip we have ever been on, being exposed to so much history, different geography, achievement and politics.

Historically Israel and Jordan are fascinating (and complicated!) with the mix of mainly Roman, Jewish, Christian and Muslim cultures. The Roman and Jewish history stands out with the lower part of the Western or Wailing Wall and the partially excavated Herodian Temple site in Jerusalem; the Herodian palace on the amazing Masada plateau overlooking the Dead Sea, where over 900 Jewish Zealots committed suicide in AD 70 to avoid the Roman onslaught, and the caves where the Dead Sea scrolls (the complete old testament written by the Jewish Essenes at the time of Jesus) were discovered beginning in 1947. As Christians we were thrilled to see evidence for some of Jesus' life and ministry, beginning



with his birth in a cave in Bethlehem, his baptism in the Jordan River, his ministry near the Sea of Galilee and his crucifixion and burial in Jerusalem. Muslim mosques are everywhere—including the magnificent gold-plated Dome of the Rock built in 690 AD on the old Herodian Temple site in Jerusalem. The geography varies tremendously in this small country. To the south and east of Jerusalem it's virtually a desert, but north of Jerusalem there is much greenery with an amazing range of agricultural products produced with enormous effort by the Israelis. Small mountains abound, but the lowest point on earth is the Dead Sea (the saltiest on earth) at 400 metres below sea level.

Unfortunately, we saw graphic evidence of man's inhumanity—the huge holocaust Vad Vashem museum in Jerusalem; a discotheque on the beautiful Mediterranean beach in Tel Aviv destroyed by a suicide bomber in 2001, and the new 8-metre wall outside Bethlehem keeping Jews and Palestinians apart. Fortunately we never felt unsafe in this ethnically diverse country, where many different cultural groups often live in relative harmony.

PROFILE



CHRISTINA (CHRIS) LINDSAY

Shelly Pinkard

Chris is what we call down South “homegrown good goods.” Chris was born here in London and says she has been a member of the church “since before she was born.” Chris is more

than a pretty face; she has a degree in music from the University of Windsor; diplomas as a Developmental Service Worker from Fanshawe College and in Interpretation from St. Clair College in Windsor.

Chris leads the God Squad (grades 9 through 12), and declares that she loves working with this age group. She enjoys the challenges they present, the fact that they are able to express their likes and dislikes, and she in turn is able to provide them with scenarios and challenges they can discuss and resolve. Chris would like to see the group grow in numbers, continue to be involved in the congregation and blossom into the leaders she knows they are all capable of becoming. She attributes her success in working with the teens to

her ability to listen to them.

Using her sign language skill, Chris works as an interpreter for FSA and Community Living London, where she supports people with disabilities. She states that she has the stern but loving hand needed to encourage her charges to reach their full potential. She admits to being a nurturer and a lover of people.



This smart cookie knows that there has to be a balance in life in order to stay healthy in body, spirit and mind. She works out regularly at the gym and spends time with the love of her life, Angel, a shorkie, rescued from the Humane Society. She enjoys reading, playing piano, watching television shows online, scrapbooking and spending time with friends. This gentle, kind spirit, this ball of energy, plans to make the trip to Nicaragua to perform mission work.

Chris is a wonderful inspiration for the youth of First-St. Andrew’s. Chris, we salute you and thank you for all that you selflessly do for us at FSA and in the broader community.

SP

PAST EVENTS



Commissioning of Caring Callers, May 6th



Grow-a-Row 2012



Dedication of Volunteers Banner, April 22nd



Easter Bonnets, April 8th



Marg Leonard Plant Sale, May 11th-13th



Big Circle Breakfast, April 1st



Earth Sunday — The Greening of the Cross, April 22nd

'The Troubbable of Zerubbabel,' April 29th



Rummage Sale, April 28th

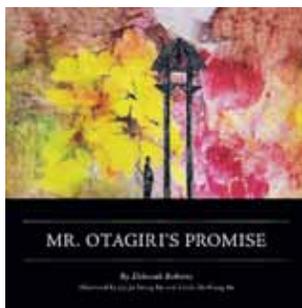


Write-for-Rights, April 29th



(For more event pics see page 14)

NOTEWORTHY

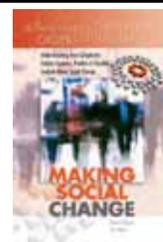


Our own **Deborah Roberts** has authored a children's story, just published by Friesenpress, titled *Mr. Otagiri's Promise*. She was inspired to write it the day her grandson was born and now, three years later, and illustrated by Joy and Linda Im, it is available to the public.

Set in Japan at the end of the Second World War, it tells of a father's quest to return to his family their lost laughter, forgotten happiness, slumbering smiles and drowsy dreams. If you would like more information about Deborah's writing and how to buy her books, go to her website, <http://www.deborahroberts.ca>.

We have always known Deborah to be a talented and creative person in church life at FSA and this book presents a whole new dimension of her gifts to us.

Change, which is "an application of chaos and complexity theory to changes in social systems, including groups, organizations and art."



More information is available on their website, www.makingsocialchange.com.

Moira Stewart has just been named by Western as a "Distinguished University Professor." Under her leadership the Centre for Studies in Family Medicine has grown exponentially both in funding and scope. "We are extremely grateful for the contributions Dr. Stewart had made to Schulich and to the university over her distinguished career," said medical school dean, Michael Strong.



Fred Lloyd (left) and **Herb Wonfor** (right) were both honoured at the annual meeting of London Conference in May because they were marking 60

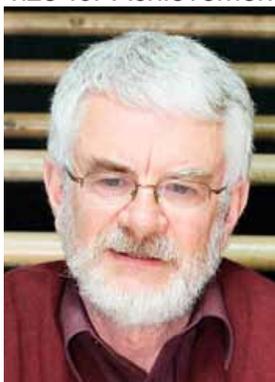


years since their ordination into the ministry.

Herb and Fred continue to be active contributing members of FSA and we value their many years of service and accumulated wisdom.

On May 23rd **Terry Peters** received one of Western's highest honours, the Hellmuth Prize for Achievement in Research, as a result of his work in imaging technology. Only two prizes are offered annually.

In making the award, the Vice-Provost noted that throughout his career Terry had sustained a level of excellence that could serve as an inspiration for all members of the campus community.



Thomas Samson-Williams has been involved in the 10th annual Turkish Olympiad through connections his choir had with the Turkish community. He has been studying the Turkish language for four months and learning to sing two Turkish songs, one of which he performed in Toronto on May 6th for the Canadian finals.



Thomas placed 2nd, and will be going to Turkey to represent Canada for the finals amongst 132 other countries participating across many different categories. He will be there for three weeks and will get to participate in many performances, a cultural fair and

enjoy great Turkish hospitality.

He will be studying very hard over the next two weeks to prepare for a mandatory Turkish language test he must write once in Turkey. He has had great coaches from the Turkish community, and much support from all of his music programmes and conductors, as well as the FSA community.

If you have items that you would like to see in this column, please forward them to [Jim Silcox](mailto:Jim.Silcox@western.ca) by August 15th.

David Flynn, in collaboration with his colleague, Jim Hay, has just published a book titled *Making Social*



COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Jim Silcox

In an effort to improve communications amongst members of the church community, the C & M committee urges all members to make a point of posting reminders of church events on our [FSA Facebook page](#). At last count we had 92 members. If you haven't tried it and are a bit apprehensive, contact me, Pam Bere or Doug Gonder and we will be happy to give you a helping hand. Pam presides over the page on a routine basis and often posts reminders of events.

As we wind down our year, C & M has been in dialogue with the Worship Committee to determine if there are aspects of the Worship Service, such as a

sermon series, which might be related to events that are coincidentally occurring in London, specifically in the downtown Woodfield area bounded by Richmond and Adelaide streets, Queens Ave. and the CPR tracks that cross Pall Mall. When it comes to outreach, we feel we can take advantage of our association with this historic district, our neighbourhood.

We're currently looking for a volunteer to fill a role we're calling "Publicity Specialist" who will help our church groups get the word out. We'll keep you informed as to how this initiative develops.

Finally, we want everyone to remember our mission statement in all that they plan for the church: "FSA is an inclusive Christian family, encouraging spiritual growth through worship, friendship, learning and action." ✂



CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

Allyson Watson

As always we are busy with activities from our youngest members to our oldest. The God Squad has been busy collecting our pennies and planning the church picnic. They are enthusiastically organizing games and hope that everyone will come out and join in the festivities. Movie nights are back

thanks to the hard work of Anne Cummings, Michael and Jacob Feeny and David and Deanne Pederson. They will be planning some nights for the fall so keep your eyes open for the dates. We hosted a successful Labyrinth walk this spring and are happy to announce that there are two more walks planned for the fall. Kate led a three-part series on the mystics this spring. As we head into summer, let us know if you have any ideas to be included in the fall. ✂



STEWARDSHIP

Judith Walker

"We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibres connect us one to the other; among those fibres, as sympathetic threads, our actions run as causes and they come back to us as effects." (Velville)

I believe this quote to be a perfect metaphor for stewardship: the choice that we make to live as God's stewards, bound together by an invisible thread. As a family of faith, we, at FSA, have woven our history into the fabric of London and far beyond where our eye can see for 180 years.

Since 2004 thousands of fibres have connected FSA to people throughout our community and elsewhere, the result of the hundreds of hours of work by our own *Knit Wits*. This ministry through fibre was a dream launched by Carol Leenders and Marion Wilson. As with all good ideas, this one soon attracted like-minded people who began to create scarves, baby bonnets, mittens, blankets. "Wits" stood for *Winter in the Snow*. Their

work brought warmth to many people in need during our coldest season of the year. Marion continues as a member of the group to this day.

In 2007 Lillian Reid presented the idea of the prayer shawl ministry to the group. The value of this work was quickly embraced and added to their repertoire.

The common stitch used for the prayer shawl is the seed pattern of knit three, purl three to the end of the row; beginning the next row in the same pattern. The number three aptly represents the work of the prayer shawl ministry and the Holy Trinity; creator, redeemer and sustainer.

Pat Sole, acclaimed by her *Knit Wit* friends as the world's most prodigious knitter, tells me their work still includes a dedication to their original mandate. It is distributed on the Mitten Tree, through ELUCO or Daily Bread Christmas Boxes. In the past these gifts have also been given to My Sister's Place, Women's Community Shelter and Bethesda House.

Let us thank these dedicated stewards who quietly live out the mission of FSA and demonstrate that we *"cannot live only for ourselves."* ✂



WORSHIP

Jo Ann Silcox

Here is God's church and here is God's steeple;

Let us open our hearts and welcome ALL of God's people.

As we embrace the return of this summer's season of our worship together, we do so as a people at a time of exciting transition in the faces of both the global and the local church. Diana Butler Bass has named this decade that of The Great Returning—a returning to the Christianity of the first century church when faith trumped fear, open tables replaced closed communions, hospitality healed many of the wounds of inter-ethnic hostilities, and the regular proclamation of Good Tidings ensured that tithings were sure to follow!

Council has, at its recent retreat, signalled The Inviting Church as the image which we most desire to

live out, both within this beloved community and in the larger community beyond our doors in which God's people anxiously await the demonstrable Good News of love incarnate as a people of One God.

Throughout the summer months, as we say a temporary goodbye to the Rev. Tom Hiscock—who has been such a welcome partner in ministry this past year—and as we rejoice in Dr. Crawford's opportunity to take much-needed holiday and study leave—many hands, hearts and heads will collaborate to ensure that our ongoing Worship experience is filled with music which lifts our hearts even higher than the steeple, liturgy which moves us to praise and to prayer, and preaching which calls us out, as the whole people of God, to once again be salt and light to a world desperate to hear a word of Good News!

To all of you who constitute the heart of First-St. Andrew's, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU for the uncountable ways in which you image God in this place. ✠



FINANCE

Are You Up to PAR?

Harold Jackson

What is PAR?

PAR or Pre-Authorized Remittance is a direct debit programme administered through the national office of the United Church of Canada that allows financial support to First-St. Andrew's United Church (FSA) through an automatic monthly withdrawal from supporters' bank accounts or charge to accepted credit card accounts (Visa and MasterCard only accepted currently). Once a month, all PAR givings are debited from/charged to givers' accounts and then the total, less a service fee, is electronically transferred to FSA. PAR was introduced in 1976 by the United Church of Canada as a convenient way for givers to provide consistent, year-round financial support of their local church.

What are the benefits of PAR?

The PAR system was developed to help congregations regulate their income. Givers who may be away for the summer or winter months find this system helps them to manage their commitment without having to "catch up" on their givings, especially after a prolonged absence.

How much does PAR cost FSA?

The PAR programme costs the local congregation 50¢ per giver, per month up to a maximum of \$45 (90 or more people), which is deducted at the time of the monthly transfer to FSA. This helps to defray administrative costs incurred by the United Church of Canada. Individuals

opting for monthly account withdrawals pay the normal chequing/debit fees to their local bank or credit union, as applicable. Credit card service charges (2.5% for Visa and MasterCard), are currently borne by FSA.

How many participate at FSA?

Weekly/monthly gifts provide for the ever-present operational expenses of the ongoing programmes of FSA (budgeted at \$1,795 per day in 2012). Currently, 165 givers (45% of total givers) use PAR as their preferred method of managing support to FSA.

What was the cash flow impact of givings support to FSA in 2011?



Consider PAR?

It makes regular support convenient and ongoing. Importantly, it helps FSA better manage its cash flow needs all year long. If not already a PAR giver and this is of interest to you, forms are available at the church office. ✠



MISSION, OUTREACH, ENVIRONMENT

Barb Dalrymple

Spring was busy with our Grow-a-Row launch, Environment Sunday, Amnesty Write for the Rights, Hot Dog Day, organizing the selling of tree seedlings at the plant sale and committee members attending the St. Paul's Daily Bread fundraiser at the London Club.

Our Lenten project was successful with 178 pairs of socks and 80 pairs of underwear donated for the Men's Mission. FSA members also responded generously to the St. Paul's Daily Bread Easter food drive.

On Amnesty Sunday over 50 letters were written, 62 messages of hope signed and 58 signatures were on a petition supporting a UN Arms Trade Treaty. As well as the traditional soup, birthday cake to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Amnesty International was served.

Left-over bedding, towels, pots, pans and small kitchen appliances from the Rummage Sale were taken to the Mission Store for ongoing need.

On April 16th the youth from FSA and Exeter United

Church served the Out of the Cold dinner. Their help and enthusiasm were appreciated. Summer volunteers are needed. Sign up on the poster in the kitchen.

The Grow-a-Row total in mid-May was \$4262 matched by CIDA 4:1. Donations may be made until the Corn, Ham and Bean Lunch on September 9th.

The mission/volunteer trip to Nicaragua in July 2013 has eight participants. There is still time to sign up. Contact Janice Elliot.

At the London Conference AGM in May, food to fill the ELUCO food cupboard was collected to be used by Nancy Howard in her now full-time position there.

Money donated to the Haitian Emergency Response continues to be used by the United Church in that devastated country. Twelve schools have been built and were visited by three members of the Stewardship Division. Seed money has been distributed to women who are participating in micro-enterprise initiatives. The cost is \$75 each and the return is amazing. The women can now send their children to school and feed them. The United Church continues its long-term support of Haiti through the generous donations to the M&S Fund and the Emergency Response Fund. *js*



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

John Eberhard



David Manness

Making a Difference in the Lives that Follow

Throughout Canada, we celebrate May as "Leave a Legacy Month." At First-St. Andrew's on May 27th, 2012, we recognized the donations from Lillian Hodgert, Ron Logan, Marg Leonard and Al MacIntosh. We were pleased to have their families join us in dedicating and installing the leafs on our Proudfoot Legacy Tree in their honour and memory.

Here are answers to a few frequently asked questions about legacy giving:

Why is there a need to donate?

Canadians are living in a time when an unprecedented amount of wealth is being transferred from one generation to the next. Disturbingly only 30% of Canadians currently have an up-to-date legal will. Without a will, people lose the ability to control distribution of their estate to their chosen beneficiaries.

Who benefits from leaving a legacy?

Donors gain a sense of fulfillment knowing they are making a difference within their community. They may also receive significant tax benefits. Our church obtains more support to improve and sustain its efforts. The future generations of Canadians, including grandchildren and other family members, can share in a legacy of charitable work that continues to enhance the quality of life for citizens today and in the future.

I thought only people in a certain income level could leave a charitable bequest or gift through their estate?

You might think you have to be wealthy to donate to a charity. Not true. Anyone can arrange to leave a charitable gift from their estate, regardless of its size. It will mean a great deal to a cause that is important to you.

Do I tell the church that I have left a gift?

That is up to you. The church may like to know in advance so that we can also tell you, in confidence, about opportunities for giving for a specific purpose.

"Leave a Legacy Month" is a great time of the year to remind ourselves to put our own affairs in order so that we control how our legacy will be best put to use for future generations. *js*



Shelly Pinkard

The UCW has once again wowed us with a quarter of events. These ladies worked for three days, turning Proudfoot Hall into a scene that came out of Hollywood, if you can remember scenes from Hollywood's depiction of local bazaars, where merchants would peddle their wares: it was the rummage sale. They had something for every taste; it was my first, and working it was exuberating! But these women hard at the Lord's work did not stop there. After they had raised over \$2,000.00 that will be used to aid in other charitable works, they donated all they could not sell, to charity. The spirit of giving that these ladies exhibit is never-ending. I wonder if there is a way to siphon some of this spirit and share it with the

world, making it a far better place to live.

While everyone is getting excited about venturing off to various cottages and hideaways for the summer, these ladies were buzzing about the upcoming UCW spring general meeting and pot luck supper. I can only say that I hope all of you were there. The tickets were only \$5.00, and that is a very inexpensive price for those mouth-watering turkey pot pies that are taking over the taste buds of this congregation. I personally am still spinning from a presentation by Susan Fullerton given at their monthly meeting in May. Once again I knew latching on to these silver foxes of soul was one of my wisest decisions made here in London. It doesn't stop here. These ladies will be hosting Camp Kee Mo Kee Day in June, a summer event and celebration in July, and a fall Presbyterian event ... do they ever get tired?



UCW Spring Dinner,
May 23rd

Some bloopers gleaned from church bulletins around North America . . .

- The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- Don't let worry kill you off—let the church help.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
- Potluck supper Sunday at 5 pm—prayer and medication to follow.

Jim Deacon
(519) 870-RUGS (7847)

DEACON FLOORING

CARPET, WOOD FLOORS & CERAMIC

EXCLUSIVE SHOP AT HOME SERVICE

1900 Hyde Park Road
London, Ontario N6H 5L9
Tel: (519) 472-2992 Fax: (519) 472-2998
E-Mail: jim.deacon@deaconflooring.com

Residential Renovations Commercial



PEEL PRODUCTIONS 
Established in 1987

Video Production Services including:
8mm home movie transfers to dvd,
Public Service, Events, Media buying,
TV Programming/Commercials, Corporate,
DVD duplication, Overseas Video Transfers

Bob Peel Website: www.peelvideo.com
Tel: (519) 668-7120 Email: info@peelvideo.com



Hugh Martin
Sales Representative

sutton group - select realty inc., brokerage
INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED
250 Wharmcliffe Road North
London ON N6H 2B8

Bus: (519) 433-4331 (24 Hr.)
Fax: (519) 433-6894
Cell: (519) 495-HUGH
Email: hughmartin67@yahoo.ca




Aroma

Restaurant

French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese Cuisine & Wine Cellar

Birthdays & Anniversaries	Cooking Team Building
Corporate Meeting Space	Private Dining Rooms
Weddings & Bar Mitzvahs	Cocktail Parties
Video Conference Dining	Fundraisers

www.aromarestaurant.ca 519-435-0616
717 Richmond St. at Picadilly, London ON, N6A 1S2



CHERYL SAMSON
Registered Massage Therapist

WOODFIELD MASSAGE THERAPY CLINIC



11 Fairlane Cres.
London, ON. N6K 3E1
(519) 852-4269
cherylsamsonrmt@gmail.com



Catering by James Meadows

James Meadows
Executive Chef

519-631-5083

Solcan - harnessing the sun since 1975

Solcan offers:
solar collectors made in London
design-build solar water heating
design-build solar PV projects
microFIT projects



for information contact
Bob Swartman, CEO

solcan
519-473-0501
www.solcan.ca



4.76kW solar photovoltaic system on home of FSA's John Eberhard. System has offset over 4,720 lbs of CO2 equivalent to 62 trees in the past eight months.

W. RUSSELL MONTEITH, Q.C.
Lawyer

Wills & Estates

Call 519.642.2500
Visit www.russmonteith.ca





Telling old stories in new ways



Trust



Jean Wuensch, Paul Pergau, Jacob Feeney, Ann MacPhail, Bev Lindsay, Jean Wright

JNAC - 2012



Rev. Janet Fradette
Earth Sunday



Remembering Elspeth, April 27th



A lifetime
of service



Easter
Chancel

FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S MINISTRY

Minister of Worship and Administration

The Rev. Dr. Kate Crawford

Supply Minister

The Rev. Tom Hiscock

Director of Music

Paul Merritt

Church Administrator

Debra Low

Administrative Assistant/Receptionist

Maureen Scarborough

Custodian

Geoff Bottomley

