

Tidings



FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

Where liberal theology meets the best of tradition

VOLUME 18 - NUMBER 3

FALL/SEPTEMBER 2008

FRONT PAGE

Welcome back! I hope you had a restful summer and that you are ready for a busy but productive fall. There are a lot of wonderful programmes planned for the months ahead.

Early in the summer I was asked to officiate at a wedding that took place in August at a lovely resort in the Muskokas. The families of the bride and groom included members—but not necessarily practitioners—of the Christian, Hindu, Jewish, and Latter Day Saints faiths. It challenged my creativity. It also provided me with a wonderful opportunity to share and receive.

We live in a world under stress from great conflicts, many of which are fought along religious lines—Christians and Muslims; Muslims and Jews; Buddhists and Muslims; Hindus and Christians and so on. While religion per se is not necessarily the reason for the conflicts, religion is often used to legitimize and fuel such disputes.

One of the main goals of most religions is to open us up and connect us to the Source of all Reality in whose image we are made. Most religions also claim to offer resources for fostering peace and harmony. How, then, in a pluralistic world do we share wisdom well with one another?

First, we need to resist the temptation of manipulating or forcing others to embrace our point of view. That will only add to the conflict. We also need to resist the temptation to see ourselves as the only possessors of, and the givers of wisdom, and not also as receivers—sometimes from unexpected sources. When our own source of wisdom shapes our lives to demonstrate how reasonable, attractive and useful it is, then it will commend itself to others.

We also need to resist the temptation to package

religious wisdom in digestible nuggets like some “happy meal” that will guarantee satisfaction. This is a great temptation for preachers and marketers, and for a generation desiring “instant” faith. Packaging wisdom this way serves no one. Sharing religious wisdom makes sense only if such wisdom is allowed to engage the multiple manifestations of givers and receivers and connect them and us with what ultimately matters, God, whom we should love with all our being, and our neighbours, whom we should love as we love ourselves.



David McKane

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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

by David Flynn



David Flynn

“Going forward,” our theme for the Fall, 2008 issue, is not so simple, I realized, when I looked over the range of articles. Of course, after the hiatus of summer (and wasn't that great weather?!), our Program Guide in the second half emphasizes going forward into what sometimes seems to be an overfull church calendar—from advocacy to action, from bible study to building, from choirs to counseling—and we're only up to the letter 'C'.

At the same time, confronted with the reality of the Avis Report on the state of our physical structure, we begin a careful, perhaps difficult, examination of what going forward will mean.

Going forward, by necessity, means looking back—at people such as William Proudfoot who had a vision about what his church might become, at the history of such programs as ELUCO and the Hospitality Meal. As we look back at those histories, we share the enthusiasm of those who looked forward in their own time. As part of looking back to go forward, we have reports and photos of recent happenings—from worshipping together, to the early summer windup events of bridge, the UCW, the Spirit Games, the White Squirrel Golf Tournament.

As I look over this myriad material, FSA becomes one of Ted's and Don's picture collages—a cacophony of children's voices, soaring four part harmony, words of comfort and intellectual debate—all part of First-St. Andrew's United Church. I cannot imagine another church with such variety and such worshipful focus. We will go forward.

THE LIBRARY

WHAT TO KEEP; WHAT NOT TO KEEP

by Valerie Moretti, Librarian

Throughout the summer, the library at FSA has been going through modifications to the collection and to the physical space. Many items that had languished here for too long have either been moved into archives or have been discarded. Yet we are still receiving donated boxes of books and it is an onerous task to keep sorting through these to choose potential additions to the permanent collection.



Val Moretti

As a result, we are evaluating the future of the library space and what the congregation wants, given what is available from the Middlesex Presbytery Resource Centre at Empress United, and from the larger collection at Metropolitan United. While many of us bibliophiles still appreciate the feel, smell and weight of a book in hand, there is no denying that usership of most library collections is diminishing because of new technologies. The computer age has brought significant changes in the way information can be accessed and in the amount of data available to us at the click of a few buttons.

When you are downsizing your home library, please remember that the FSA library has truly limited space for new and, especially, historically significant titles. Most of our additions come through recommendations from staff, or titles which tie in with current courses or speakers at the church. We are grateful for the kindness that prompts your gifts but you should know that your donations may not stay here.

Please first call Valerie Moretti (642-4896) or email (v.v.moretti@hotmail.com) if you have any questions about materials, or wish me to evaluate or pick them up. I have other ideas as well if you want to sell older titles to a local used book seller.

TIDINGS & PROGRAM

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FAMILY POTLUCK

The Congregation Who Eat Together...

by Valerie Moretti

Jesus understood that people who dine together tend to build relationships with one another. With that as a spiritual springboard, many families at FSA began last year to enjoy dinners together on the last Sunday evening of each month. The food shared ranged from the simple to the exotic, and one could often detect a child's subtle skill in the decorating of cupcakes.

All families are welcome, no matter whether you bring your own noisemakers—castanets or children—or prefer to enjoy those brought by others. We have skilled and unskilled chefs, vegetarians and Flintstone era carnivores, chatty types and (blessedly) good listeners. And there is always someone who knows more about the FSA large kitchen appliances than I do, so dishes are washed and sanitized to all health standards.

This fall we will meet in Proudfoot Hall, 5-8pm, Sundays Sept. 28, Oct. 26, and Nov. 30. Note that we've omitted December, as we suspect you'll be doing your own hosting during the Christmas holidays, and may wish to take a break from sharing meals with 55 or so of your favourite people.

Building a community of souls—whether like-minded or not—is a blessing for which many in our busy world often forget to make time. And after a Yoda-phrased sentence like that, we suggest you come out to our Sunday Potluck evenings to see if any of us speak regular English. There are so many wonderful people at First-St. Andrew's, and many of them prepare astonishing meals to share. Desserts are typically followed by even more joyous child noises. There are always enough speedy cleaner-upper types so you can get away with a relaxed cup of coffee after.

Questions, ideas and recipe tips may be sent to Jane Hill (641-7199, mark@hilltronics.com) or Valerie Moretti (642-4896, v.v.moretti@hotmail.com).

BEHIND THE SCENES HOSPITALITY MEAL PROGRAM

by Shirley Wynne. Coordinator

Mondays evenings are special at F.S.A. At 5:30 the doors open to welcome from seventy-five to over one hundred and fifty people for dinner. FSA is just one of the downtown churches that takes part in the Hospitality Meal Program, formerly called **Out of the Cold**. Frank Meadows, our Minister Emeritus, was the original force behind the program.



Shirley Wynne

Frank fashioned **Out of the Cold** after similar programs in Toronto in the mid 1980's. Bill Watson and Barb Plante became the leaders, with invaluable guidance by Jo Ann Silcox in understanding and dealing with guest issues.

Bill and Stan Hill spoke to the Police and Salvation Army, then scoured the city for supplies. The 'crash beds' were one result of their labour. Some nights, one person stayed; some nights up to twelve people found a safe and warm welcome. After two years, the crash beds were taken over by a men's and women's shelter. The Monday dinners remained and other churches were encouraged to serve a meal on different nights of the week.

Four different teams rotate, with volunteers from F.S.A. and other area churches. Financial support also comes from different churches and organizations. The people of F.S.A. and its different groups have helped keep us open with their generous contributions of money, labour and keen interest.

To Frank Meadows, Bill Watson, Barbara Plante, Stan Hill, Joanne Girvan and Donna Travis: thank you for your past efforts for making this service happen. I am proud to follow in your footsteps, to become a part of this special undertaking.



Betty Sangster
a summer
guest
preacher



MISSION OUTREACH ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

by David Flynn

Although FSA activities tend to wind down over the summer, MOE continued its range of projects. Thanks to Barb Dalrymple, Paul Mansell and Bill and Jean Knowles for contributing to this report.

SUNDAE SUNDAY

The congregation raised \$243.64 June 8th for the ELUCO diaper bank—and had a sweet time enjoying Sundaes after church.

WHITE SQUIRREL GOLF TOURNAMENT

MOE held its second annual White Squirrel Golf Tournament at Ironwood Golf Course, Exeter. Over 60 golfers were joined by another 40 for dinner, which was followed by entertainment and a silent auction. Our MC, Susan Shelstad, introduced 3 special guests—Minnie Pearl, the Church Lady, and Cinderella—all portrayed by June McKay, who brought roars of laughter from an appreciative crowd. Although the competition was stiffer, the tournament winners were the same as last year: Ivana Klouda, David Manness, Bruce McLennan and John Wittkamp.



June McKay

Last year we raised approximately \$3,000. This year, thanks to increased participation and the addition of hole sponsors, \$8,000! was raised for the Los Quinchos School in Managua, Nicaragua, a school for young people who work part time to support themselves and their families.. At Los Quinchos a teacher's salary is \$158 per month, so one can see what an impact this will make in helping them meet their budget with dollars that buy so much more in their country.

ST. PAUL'S DAILY BREAD

In addition to providing approximately 60 families with food each day—which, if necessary, they can obtain once every three months—the Fellowship Centre at St. Paul's Cathedral provides lunch five days a week to between 125 and 150 people.

Daily Bread also helps with gas and hydro bills as well as counseling people on how they might find other assistance to get them out of hard times created by, for example, loss of employment or physical disability.

Recently, the Board of Daily Bread established an

(Continued in the next column page 4)

Endowment Fund to raise \$100,000. A number of Churches have raised \$5,000—so far FSA has raised \$1,000. For more information please contact Jean Knowles (657-9156) or Jane Moffat, coordinator of Daily Bread.

NEW LIFT HOUSE

Thanks in part to the generosity of FSA members and especially the UCW, the new LIFT House, 446 King Street, is progressing well and should be ready for occupancy in early 2009.

It was a slow beginning and a long struggle until that exciting day in August, 2007 when three levels of Government and many church and community members met for the sod turning. As a result, thirty people will soon have a safe and comfortable new home.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

2008 LONDON BUILD

Construction on four homes commenced in mid-August—"A Hand Up," not "A hand out". The four families will be doing 500 hours of sweat equity each in addition to paying their mortgages. The location is north off Huron onto Briarhill, and down to Kipps Lane, near last year's two homes.

The MOE Committee, along with several of our Congregation, are contributing food, drinks and money to buy extras needed for the two days in September and October that we are providing food. Please contact Jean Knowles (657-9156) if you can help.

GROW-A-ROW—CANADIAN FOOD GRAINS BANK

It has been another successful year of fund raising in conjunction with our partner Church, St. Mary's United. FSA alone has raised over \$5800. This is matched on a 4:1 ration by CIDA for a total of \$29,000! Contribution Envelopes are available on the tables by the chapel, the atrium and the narthex).

The windup is our Annual Corn Roast on Mission Sunday, September 21st. This Annual Event is a great time to catch up with your FSA friends, both old and new, after the summer.



Bridge Group
Windup - June 2008

IN MANOR BORN

by Gavin McGregor

William Proudfoot reined in his horse and, while looking down on the Forks of the Thames, he is reminded of the town of Peebles in Scotland at the confluence of the River Tweed and Eddleston Water.

Peebles is 3-miles north-east of the Parish of Manor, where he was born in 1788. Rich in history and lore, it is dotted with Druid ruins, ancient castles and the mansions



of the gentry, which contrast with the modest stone houses of servants and the isolated crofts of shepherds living high in its upper reaches.

Falling into a reverie he sees himself as a young lad walking by the

auld Manor Kirk where he had been baptised (May 25th 1788) and there is his sister Ann running to meet him, shouting and waving her arms. In her broad Scots tongue she excitedly tells him that David Ritchie, a local worthy who lived in the woods, had been in the village with Professor Ferguson's son and another young man staying at Hallyards mansion. The young man, Walter Scott, used David as the main character in *The Black Dwarf*.

In a blink he is a child again, looking up at his mother Elizabeth (Hart) fetching in the clothes from the drying green while keeping an eye out for her husband Alexander, due home from work as a Wright (Master Craftsman) at the nearby Crosshouses. William muses, I may very well have followed in his footsteps but little did a' ken whit the Lord had in mind. In the years ahead the knowledge gleaned from his father would prove useful in the Lord's work.

As he journeys homeward to his wife Isobel and new bairns, the image of the confluence of rivers seems to symbolize his efforts to unite the two Presbyterian streams in New London.



PROFILE

MARGARET AND HERB WONFOR

by Ellen McKim

If one could choose one's parents, the Wonfors would be top of the list. They exude compassion and kindness, seem ideally suited for their life in the Ministry, for them a labour of love and dedication.

In 1952 Herb, newly ordained, was sent to Peace River, Alberta. After Montreal—where his father owned two prominent book stores, catering to theologians and intellectuals—Peace River was somewhat of a cultural shock, a definite learning experience.

In 1956 at the Annual Meeting of Alberta Conference he met Margaret, a Diaconal Minister. They married a year later. His next call was to Ottawa where a new church was to be built. When it was completed 3 years later, Herb had attracted an enthusiastic congregation.

His next posting was to Hudson, a return to Montreal. Here Herb had the opportunity to meet and discuss theology with mainline clergy, adding to his knowledge and experience. Although he has 3 university degrees—geology, divinity, and commerce—he always thirsted for knowledge. His home library attests to this.

The Wonfors, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last year, have led a busy, fulfilled life. Margaret had 5 children in 6 years, as well as being a Minister's wife and all that entails. Herb served 38 years in the Ministry, active at all levels of the Church.

They first came to FSA because their daughter Katherine was a member. Margaret has been a UCW member for 18 years, and was a member of the M&S committee. Herb chaired the FSA Financial Campaign, is a member of the Brown Bag Lunch group, and a visitor to shut-ins. Both served with the Out of the Cold programme, and attend the Bible Study.

Herb and Margaret have contributed enormously to the Church, and we are fortunate to have them in our congregation.



Margaret and Herb Wonfor

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

by Mary McKim

Our 'new year' begins with the amalgamated Wednesday/Thursday groups potluck lunch at 12:30 September 10th at Annabelle Logan's. The October meeting will be 9:30am, Wednesday, October 1st but no November meeting because of the General Meeting. In December we gather, as usual, in the parlour for a Christmas story, carol singing, and mulled cider.

The Tuesday Evening Unit meets September 16th, a potluck beginning at 6pm followed by David Flynn speaking on his recent trip with his wife to Turkey and Greece, entitled, ***The Real and the Truth***. Future meetings will be the third Tuesday each month, beginning at 7pm.

OTHER DATES:

Rummage Sale, September 27th Please do not bring articles to the church before Thursday.

Holly Bazaar, November 15th. Remember to put aside



Mary McKim

jam and preserves, knitting, sewing, and articles for the jewelry and treasure tables.

Fall General Meeting November 26th This will be a supper in Proudfoot Hall with speaker Tory Adam, the student working in a project in Ghana for the summer who received \$500 from the UCW to help defray her expenses.

We welcomed Russ Monteith as speaker at the June General Meeting and learned about the duties of a Citizenship Judge.

The summer event at Siloam was a great success. The 230 attending enjoyed the speaker, Reverend Christine Charlton, and the music of Circle of Friends from St. Thomas.

The first Executive meeting will be 9:00am September 12th.

Jean Comfort, honored by the choir in April for her 70 years of service, and with an Open House August 12 on her 90th birthday, has been a member of FSA's women's groups for about 50 years, beginning with the Evening Delta Rho, a group for young mothers. Delta Rho, of course, was a forerunner of the former WMS and the current UCW. Congratulations, Jean!

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

STEVE AND CAROL ELSON

Carol and I joined FSA a year ago, after doing some church shopping. Our meeting with Susan Shelstad clinched it for us. She was someone we could relate to, someone who shared our questions and spiritual journey.

The focus of our lives is very much our family, especially our grandchildren. We have children in New Zealand, San Francisco, Ottawa, Embrun and Belleville. We organize our lives around visits to them. Next will be New Zealand in December when we will take our oldest grandson Jesse with us to visit his cousins. We're really looking forward to that.

Carol is part of a volunteer spiritual care team at LHSC where she visits people in the psychiatric unit at South Street Hospital. She also runs a bi-weekly family education and support group at Regional Mental Health Care, London, again as a volunteer.

We're both active in the Schizophrenia Society where I just stepped down as the local Chapter Chair. (I also work for LHSC.) One of our children lives with schizophrenia and so, in addition to learning how to cope ourselves; we've tried to find ways to walk with others along this difficult life journey.

Here at FSA we have joined the Supper Club as a way to get to know people, have helped out with greeting and ushering and I've begun to write a reflective column, View from the Pew for Tidings.

We live in Wortley Village so walking around our neighbourhood is one of our favourite pastimes. Our spiritual home is Georgian Bay with all its water, rocks and trees. It's where Carol grew up and we make a point of going back every year to touch the majesty and wonder of it all.



Steve & Carol Elson

THE 2008 PROUDFOOT LECTURE

JOHN DOMINIC CROSSAN

First-St. Andrew's is proud to present the fifth in our series of Proudfoot Lectures at 7:30, Monday, November 3rd.

Fr. Crossan will spend the evening discussing his ideas and thoughts on the meaning of Bible stories, both in the historical context of when they were written and now when religion seems to be, once again, playing a larger role in the political and social life of North America.

Crossan is an Irishman who was educated in Ireland and the United States. His research studies have taken him to Rome and Jerusalem, and to many of the Aegean communities of the early Church. He was a member of the Servites—a Roman Catholic religious order founded in the 13th Century—before becoming an



John Dominic Crossan Jesus.

ordained priest. He joined DePaul University in Chicago and is now a Professor Emeritus in its Department of Religious Studies.

He was co-chair of the Jesus Seminar in the 80's and 90's as it debated the historicity of the life of Jesus in the gospels. He has written twenty-three books on the historical Jesus and earliest Christianity. He and Marcus Borg are co-authoring a series of books of which two have been published: *The Last Week: A Day by Day Account of Jesus's Final Week in Jerusalem*, and *The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach About the Birth of Jesus*.

Our Proudfoot Lectures have been a highlight of the fall season. Our speakers have provided interesting, and sometimes provocative, points of view.

This is another must-see evening at FSA. Admission is \$20. Tickets are available at the office, (679-8182).



Photo by Lesley Pergau

Jean Comfort and Family

OPEN HOUSE FOR JEAN COMFORT'S 90TH

by Lesley Pergau

It was a wonderful celebration! Over ninety friends and family signed in for Jean Comfort's 90th birthday on the 12th of August. It was a celebration of health, happiness and longevity for Jean. Ask her about the picture scrapbook of her growing-up years!

ELUCO

PART TWO: SUSAN EAGLE

by Susan Eagle, with an introduction
by Mary McKim



Susan Eagle

As a young UCC minister, Susan took London by storm in 1984 when she arrived to inaugurate ELUCO. She also became and still is minister of Kilworth and Delaware churches. Additionally, she has been a member of Council for nine years. She has an office at FSA where ELUCO holds Board meetings.

At the end of a public meeting, church leaders thanked residents for their real life stories. One of the local speakers then said, "Please tell the churches not to desert us. You are the one hope we have in dealing with a government that doesn't listen or care." It was a sobering moment as we realized our responsibility to stand with those at the margins of society.

Real life stories of people at the margins have defined ELUCO. The East London United Church Outreach Cluster grew out of the commitment by four east end

United Churches to respond to neighbourhood needs. Their most urgent request was for advocacy to change a system that was preventing full participation. Since then ELUCO has helped build self-help groups, tenant associations, affordable housing projects, and advocacy campaigns.

One successful effort led to a "Vital Services" by-law that maintained heat/hydro when landlords fell behind in utility payments. Another has been active participation in the provincial Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition, which has successfully lobbied for improvements in social services.

The needs grow, however, and a recent study concludes that Northeast London has more immigrants and a greater proportion of residents with low incomes, more female sole-parent families, and higher unemployment rates.

A decade ago, ELUCO said, "We cannot allow an undue burden to fall on the poor, the unemployed, the marginalized, the young or the challenged in our society, nor can we deprive any person or group of the basic right to share in the wealth of the province. The measure of a society is the way in which we care for the least advantaged".

We still need to uphold that commitment.

VIEW FROM THE PEW

LOOKING BACK TO SEE THE WAY AHEAD

by Steve Elson

One of the books I read recently as part of my on-going spiritual exploration was, *The Pagan Christ: Recovering the Lost Light* by Tom Harpur (2004). It's a provocative read and fits well into the growing list of writings by people who are searching for new ground in which to redefine and nurture their Christianity. For Tom Harpur, it's a matter of going back before Christianity as we know it today, to its roots in Egyptian mythology. And in this respect he's on familiar ground with scholars such as Karen Armstrong.

This is where he hangs his hat, on mythology; for he



Steve Elson

asserts that while the historical reality of Christ's life is suspect at best, the lessons we have to learn from it are not. Rejecting what has been the dominant dogma since the 3rd Century CE, he looks with new eyes at what was written—not through the lens of literal, linear or material history but—through the lens of a larger, cosmic context that puts Christ 'within us', to transcend time and space borders, to move beyond traditional readings and interpretations.

I recognize that it's one thing to read a book and be challenged by it; it's another to say, if I take this seriously, I may need to change how I think and interpret worship.

Most important in my view, is to take the opportunity to reflect and ponder; to explore and ask, "What does this mean to me? Can I use this to think differently about my life and spirituality, about what I do, and how I go about my living? Is this something that can be done in community as well as alone?"

That's the way I see it from my pew.

THE AVIS REPORT— LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

by Ted Kostecki

It's not that the church is falling down, but there are some chinks in the masonry. Architect Allan Avis said it best: "First-St. Andrew's United Church is an impressive, beautiful historic building." He then added that "...there is a significant reinvestment to be made in preserving the Church and its ancillary facilities."

His comments are made in a 200 page assessment report on the condition of the church buildings. The \$35,000 report was authorized by Council after the Property Committee noted that major capital works would have to be undertaken over the next few years to maintain the buildings in safe and good condition.

Avis is an expert on the refurbishing of historic buildings. He consulted experts from a variety of building and safety firms and his report deals with

everything from the foundation to the roof and life-safety issues such as asbestos. The report was presented to the Property Committee and Council which held two information sessions for the congregation in the spring. The report is available in the office.

The implementation plan divides the work requirements into four priorities over the next eight years and projects the future value of the work, if and when approved, at approximately \$5 million dollars.

At the same time as the report was being prepared, a small ad hoc group was formed, headed by Russ Monteith, to determine how to finance this major project. The Committee recommended, and Council accepted, that this capital fundraising committee be headed by Debbie Schram, with its membership be drawn from the congregation. A capital campaign, the first since the new access entrance was built, will be initiated later this fall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FALL CORN ROAST

Sunday, September 21, after church. Organized by MOE to celebrate the 2008 Grow-a-Row Project.

RE-IMAGINING CONGREGATIONS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Monday, Sept 29, 7-9:30pm, at Five Oaks. For details, see www.fiveoaks.on.ca. Registration by Sept. 22. If you are interested in car-pooling to this important event, please contact Bob or Louise Slater (642-7949).

RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, September 27th. Please do not bring articles to the church before Thursday, Sept. 25th.

PROUDFOOT LECTURE—JOHN DOMINIC CROSSAN

Monday, November 3, 7:30pm. See Back Page for details. Tickets available at Church Office (679-8182)

HOLLY BAZAAR

Saturday, November 15th. Organized by the UCW. We would appreciate donations of jam and preserves, knitting and sewing items, as well as articles for the jewelry and treasure tables.

Changes...

**First-St. Andrew's United Church:
a Christian Family encouraging spiritual
growth through worship, friendship, learning
and action**

MARRIAGES

June 14, 2008 Carla Anne McFarlane and Michael Dykhouse
July 12, 2008 Carolyn Mercer and Steven Rastorfer
July 18, 2008 Kimberley Anne De Vries and Camillo Di Febo
August 9, 2008 Sonja Gustafson and Tom Appleton
August 15, 2008 Katie Graham and Matthew Wilson
August 31, 2008 Megan Shevalier and Chris Pellizzari

DEATHS

June 15, 2008..... Ray Getliffe
June 21, 2008..... Bea Lockwood
July 3, 2008 Tish Patterson
August 15, 2008 Margaret Love
August 16, 2008 Pat Moor

BAPTISM

No Baptisms to record at this time

WORSHIP

September 7 9am and 10:30am
 17th After Pentecost
 Rev. Dr. David McKane

September 14 9am and 10:30am
 18th After Pentecost
 Rev. Dr. David McKane

September 21 9am and 10:30am
 19th After Pentecost
 M&S Sunday guest: Carol Langford
 /Annual Stewardship Campaign Kick-off

September 28 9am and 10:30am
 20th After Pentecost
 Baptism
 Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad

October 5 9am and 10:30am
 21st After Pentecost
 World Wide Communion
 Rev. Dr. David McKane

October 12 9am and 10:30am
 22nd After Pentecost
 Thanksgiving
 Rev. Dr. David McKane

October 19 9am and 10:30am
 23rd After Pentecost
 Celebration Sunday
 Rev. Dr. David McKane

October 26 9am and 10:30am
 24th After Pentecost
 Music Appreciation
 Rev. Dr. David McKane

November 2 9am and 10:30am
 25th After Pentecost
 Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad

November 3 7:30 Proudfoot Lecture
 John Dominic Crossan

November 9 9:00am and 10:30am
 26th After Pentecost
 Remembrance Sunday

November 16 9:00am and 10:30am
 27th After Pentecost
 New Members Sunday
 Rev. Dr. David McKane

November 23 9:00am and 10:30am
 28th After Pentecost
 Anniversary Sunday
 Nora Sanders, General Secretary of the United Church of Canada

November 30 9:00am and 10:30am
 Advent I
 Lessons and Carols

December 7 9:00am and 10:30am
 Advent II
 Advent Communion

MUSIC

CHORAL AND INSTRUMENTAL OPPORTUNITIES

First-St. Andrew's is committed to a Music Ministry that is rich in variety, grounded in spiritual integrity and inclusive of all ages. Consider the many opportunities to rejoice with us in 2008-2009.

THE CHOIRS -To SING IS THE THING

THE SENIOR CHOIR

Our Senior Choir sings weekly at the 10:30am Sunday service and in outreach concerts of the Music at First-St. Andrew's Series. Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7:30-9:30pm. Some music reading ability and prior choral experience are helpful, and regular commitment is essential. Please contact Paul Merritt at 679-8182 or 679-9173.

THE CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

The Junior Joyfuls (ages 3-8) led by Terese Sirek Ng and the Joyful Singers (ages 8 and up) led by Paul and Enid Merritt always welcome members. Both choirs rehearse on Wednesdays at 6:30pm. If your child/children would like to join in the excitement, please call Terese Sirek Ng (432-2894) or the Merritts (679-9173).

THE LAUDAMUS BELLS

Our Laudamus Bell Choir is a friendly group of musicians who rehearse on Monday evenings and play in service about once a month. New Members are welcome. Prerequisites include an ability to read music and knowledge of music to approximately the grade 6 level. Specific training on the bells will be provided. Rehearsals are on Monday evenings and will commence on September 8. Please call Barbara Plante, Director (472-4586 or 461-1202) for further information.

THE FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S STRINGS

The FSA Strings is an accomplished performing group that has enjoyed increased exposure over the past years. If you are (or have been) an active string player and are from high school age to much older ... and wish to play with our group, please leave both your phone number and e-mail address for Bruce Richardson, Leader (473-1023).



THE CONCERT SERIES

First-St. Andrew's also is committed to musical outreach in the London area through year-round concert activity made possible through the generous support of Friends of Music. Please see our forthcoming 2008-2009 brochure for details.

Our series will include a return visit by the St. Lawrence String Quartet, a concert in honour of the 200th anniversary of the Felix Mendelssohn's birth featuring our choir with orchestra, and organ recitals celebrating the 40th anniversary of the installation of our magnificent Casavant pipe organ



Paul Merritt, Director of Music

PASTORAL CARE

PASTORAL CARE

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

PRAYER CHAIN

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

CARE FOR THE CAREGIVER

This group is for those who find themselves in the role of caregiver, and who are feeling a bit overwhelmed.

**PLEASE CONTACT Jo ANN SILCOX (642-2152)
FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

CONGREGATIONAL VISITING TEAM

Our Congregational Visiting Team comprises members of our congregation who offer ongoing support to our shut-ins. We have a visiting team of 30 who maintain contact with these members of our congregation on a regular basis, and especially at

birthdays and holiday times. If you are interested in becoming involved in this very rewarding experience, call David McKane (679-8182).

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

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

Please contact Cheryl Samson or Amanda Williams, co-convenors or the Church Office (679-8182).

COUNSELLING TEAM

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

Referrals may be made through Jo Ann (642-2152).

CARING CALLERS

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

More “callers” are always needed and if you would like to share in this very special program, please call Annabelle Logan (471-2518).

RIDES FOR SENIORS

If you need a ride to and from church and/or church events, please call Helen or Bill Cockshutt (858-9454).

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

A Baptismal preparation session is held prior to every Baptism (usually the Thursday evening) to prepare the parents who are bringing their children for Baptism. We explore the meaning of Baptism, and prepare for the Sunday service.

CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE (679-8182).

CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

LIBRARY



Our church library contains many wonderful things—good books for all ages, videos, and periodicals—all for your use. Come in and check us out!

SPIRITUALITY ON TAP

An informal evening of a movie and discussion about it from a spiritual perspective. The last Tuesday of the month, 7pm in the Chapel.

- Tues. Sept. 30 – “Lars and the Real Girl”
- Tues. Oct. 28 – “Silent Light”
- Tues. Nov. 25 – “Paper Clips”

CD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Donations to this fund are used to help children, young people, and adults attend programs and events such as youth retreats, camps, and Conference events. Your help is always appreciated.

ADULT DEVELOPMENT

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Meets each Sunday, 9-10am in the Sun Room (across from the Nursery). Wheelchair accessible. Lectionary based. Warm fellowship. Coffee to go.

Facilitator: Dr. Jo Ann Silcox (642-2152)

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

This lively lectionary group meets Thursdays, 10am in the Parlour. Everyone welcome. Facilitator: Susan Shelstad (679-8182)

DREAM GROUP

Come and discover the amazing world of your dreams. We meet on the first Friday of the month, 7:30pm in the Parlour beginning October 3rd.

For more information, contact Anne Cunningham (433-9663) or Susan Shelstad (679-8182).

ECLIPSING EMPIRE

A new series from the people who brought us Living the Questions and Saving Jesus. Eclipsing Empire: Paul, Rome, and the Kingdom of God.



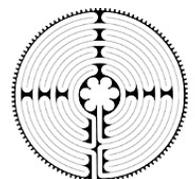
Join preeminent New Testament scholars Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan on location in Turkey as they trace the Apostle Paul’s footsteps throughout the Roman Empire. This DVD and web-based study explores fresh insights into Paul’s message of the Kingdom of God, its challenge to Roman imperial theology, and the apostle’s radical relevance for today.

Wednesday, October 8, 15, 22, 29 at 7pm in the Chapel.

LABYRINTH WALKS

7pm in Proudfoot Hall

- Friday, September 12 – Fall Walk
- Friday, October 10 – Thanksgiving Walk
- Friday, November 28 – Advent Walk



YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT

TEENS IN TRANSIT (TNT)

For young people in grades 7 and 8. This group meets during the regular church school year on Sunday mornings. They meet upstairs in the new "Green Room" after the children's time in church.

Leader: Nancy Howard (289-0540)

TEEN CONFIRMATION CLASS

A new class will be starting this Fall for young people in grade 9.

Contact Susan Shelstad (679-8182)

IMPACT

An exciting schedule of activities, events and service projects is planned this Fall for IMPACT, FSA's growing youth program. The goal is to make a positive IMPACT in the lives of the group's members, their families, the FSA family and within our community.

Some of the events planned for IMPACT this Fall include a weekend retreat to Camp Kee Mo Kee, a rake-a-thon fundraiser, hiking, curling and a sleepover at FSA.

IMPACT includes a junior group for young people in grades 6 to 8 and a senior group for high school students, and an after-high school program on the second and fourth Thursday of the month as well as a learning program for high school students during Sunday morning services. The groups are led by adult volunteers from FSA as well as several university students and other young adults who serve as mentors within the group.

IMPACT is very thankful to Bev MacDonald, who has repainted the main youth room and several adjoining rooms over the summer. Further enhancements planned include a video game room, a new ping pong table and improved lighting and furniture.

For more information please visit the Impact web page

at www.fsaunited.com or contact IMPACT leader Rocky Moretti (642-4896).



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CRADLE ROLL

A KIT called Growing in God's Love is sent to families with a new baby to help celebrate important events until age 3.

Coordinator: Martha Bere (641-6947)

NURSERY

Our nursery is available at the 10:30 a.m. service each week for infants from babies until two years old. The nursery room is next door to the Chapel on the main floor.

Nursery Staff: Lisa Chevrette and Erin Lovenjak

CHURCH SCHOOL

Regular Church School classes begin again on Sunday, September 7th. Teachers and helpers are always needed. If you're interested, please speak to Chris or Monique.

Church School Coordinators: Chris and Monique Silcox (226-663-2048)

MISSION OUTREACH ENVIRONMENT

This committee is involved in a wide variety of outreach programs, both here in London and throughout the world. In particular, MOE is responsible for activities of the Mission and Service Fund at FSA. Some of MOE's activities are listed below. If you are interested in being on the this very active and energetic Committee please contact either Donna Travis (dmross@sympatico.ca) or Paul Mansell (paulmansell@sympatico.ca).

MISSION AND SERVICE

For information on the M&S Fund, please contact Barb Dalrymple.

Here are some of the specific MOE activities on behalf of M&S.

Los QUINCHOS

Funds for Los Quinchos come from various efforts including the annual White Squirrel Golf Tournament.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

MISSION AND SERVICE SUNDAY

LONDON OUTREACH

ELUCO (EAST LONDON UNITED CHURCH OUTREACH)

For more information, please contact Linda Badke.

LIFT (LONDON INTERFAITH TEAM)

For more information, please contact Paul Mansell (472-4078) or Bill Knowles (657-9156).

ST. PAUL'S DAILY BREAD

Please keep in mind the food collection for St. Paul's Daily Bread. Baby food is a special need and may be left at any time. Baskets where you may leave your donations are placed in the Narthex and Atrium, and near the Chapel. Financial contributions are also welcome. Thank you for helping others!

For more information, please contact Jean or Bill Knowles (657-9156)

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

For more information, please contact Bill or Jean Knowles (657-9156)

HOSPITALITY MEALS

This program runs year round on Mondays at 5:30pm, providing hospitality meals for more than 100 persons. One hundred or more volunteers have been involved, many of them from other churches.

For more information, please contact Tom and Shirley

Wynne (474-4768) or the Church Office (679-8182).

LAYETTES

OTHER ACTIVITIES

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

For more information, please contact Janice Elliott or Jane Westmorland

ENVIRONMENTAL SUNDAY—GREENING OF THE CROSS

For more information, please contact Donna Travis.

ENVIRONMENTAL TIPS

GROW-A-ROW PROJECT

Over the past five years, money has been provided for the Canadian Food Grains Program through the efforts of St. Marys United Church and FSA. Donations are matched 4:1 by CIDA. This summer, the project used a farm outside London owned by Tom McLarty. The amount raised last year by members of FSA and St. Marys was \$10,000. During the past several years, the money raised locally and matched by the government 4:1 means more than half a million dollars worth of food was shipped to countries where the need is high.

Once again this year we will celebrate the effort with a Fall Corn Coast at First-St. Andrew's on September 21, organized by MOE.

For more information, please contact Bill or Jean Knowles (657-9156) or David Knoppert (668-4063).

OBSERVER

For more information, please contact Mary Vernon or Barb Dalrymple.

FRIENDSHIP/LEARNING

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

The purpose of the UCW is to unite women of the congregation for the total mission of the church, and to provide a medium through which we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service. FSA has two units meeting monthly as follows:

The now amalgamated Wednesday and Thursday units will meet on Wednesday, September 10th at 12:30 for a potluck at Annabel Logan's. The October

Meeting will be Wednesday, October 1 at 9:30am in 1 Grosvenor.

The next Tuesday Unit meeting is a potluck at 6:00pm, Sept. 16 in the parlour. David Flynn, the guest speaker, talk is entitled, *The Real and the True*, about his recent trip to Turkey and Greece. Future meetings are the third Tuesday at 7:00pm in the Parlour.

The UCW welcomes and encourages all women at FSA to become a member of the U.C.W. and to help keep up the good work in the years ahead. For more information contact Laurel Kenney (439-9300).

THE SUPPER CLUB

The FSA Supper Club meets 6 times each year in Proudfoot Hall for a fun and entertaining evening. Guests and friends or new members are always welcome.

We meet at 6:15 for a potluck supper which always offers an amazing array of choices, followed by a sing-song led by Paul Merritt, and then a program.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

October 28th: Sue Vanduyhoven, a well-known ventriloquist, will be our guest with lots of surprises. This will be a fun evening.

November 25th: Dr. Doug Jones, a member of FSA, will present *Of Mice and Men* (with apologies to John Steinbeck) or, *What Makes you Tick?* Doug is a professor at UWO with appointments in the departments of Physiology and Pharmacology, and Medicine. He has a vast experience in his field and his work has been widely published. His present research is on heart arrhythmia, as well as developing procedures for minimally-invasive, robotic-assisted surgery on the beating heart.

Set aside these dates and plan to come along. For more information, please contact June McKay (471-5668) or Shirley Wynne (474-4768) co-conveners.

THE BRIDGE GROUP

Find a partner, call Jean or Jim Young (681-8119), and you'll be included in the schedule of who plays whom in whose home for the months of October to May. You set the game day and time for each month to suit your convenience. Players make only complimentary comments about their opponents and partners regardless of playing experience. Hosts provide refreshments. Cost: \$30 per pair.

UCW MARATHON BRIDGE

The UCW invites interested ladies to join the UCW Marathon Bridge group for the 2008-2009 season. Friendly, non-competitive games are played once a month, from October to May, with each partner hosting twice during the season.

WE WELCOME NEW BRIDGE PLAYERS. To join and be part of fun and fellowship with friends, please contact: Joni Pypka (681-6900) or email: pagegirl@sympatico.ca

THE MEN'S BROWN BAG LUNCH

Every Wednesday from 12 to 1, September to April, a group of men meet in the parlour over brown bag lunches, washed down with coffee and tea. David McKane is our facilitator—although we may meet when he is away.

What do we talk about? Well, we talk about sports, politics (carefully, since we represent a wide range of views), our work (and play)—and religion. Religious topics range from FSA itself—the sermons, the music—to more general spiritual questions. How do we understand critical views on the historical Jesus? What do we say when faced with illness—or death?

For more information, please contact the church office (679-8182).

ISABEL GETLIFFE SEWING GROUP

Meets Wednesdays from 9:30am-2pm. Everyone interested in hand and machine sewing, cutting and stuffing is welcome. The group prepares items for sale at the annual Bazaar in the fall. Bring a lunch—coffee is provided. For more information, please contact Lorraine MacDonald (433-8815).

THE KNIT WITS

This fast-growing, friendly group of beginning and experienced knitters meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 1:30-3pm in the parlour. Our projects include knitting warm articles of clothing for adults and children in the London community, and prayer shawls for those in emotional or physical crisis. We welcome all who enjoy knitting or anyone who would like to learn.

For more information please call Marion Wilson (434 0530) or Ann MacKenzie (659 5055).

FAMILY POTLUCK

Jesus understood that people who dine together tend to build relationships with one another. With that as a spiritual springboard, many families at FSA began last year to enjoy dinners together on the last Sunday evening of each month.

This fall we will meet in Proudfoot Hall, 5-8pm, Sundays Sept. 28, Oct. 26, and Nov. 30.

For more information, please contact Jane Hill (641-7199, mark@hilltronics.com) or Valerie Moretti (642-4896, v.v.moretti@hotmail.com).

QUILTS FOR WOUNDED SOLDIERS

Canadian soldiers wounded in Afghanistan are sent to Landstuhl, Germany for medical treatment, far from friends and family. To remind them that Canadians are thinking of them, Leona Forth of Strathroy has initiated the Comfort Quilts Campaign. She has arranged for locally made quilts to be transported to Ottawa, and then shipped over by military transport. In response to her request for quilts, our group is meeting Monday, September 8, and then the first Monday of each month, 9:30 to 2:00 for a quilting bee. For more information, please contact Jane Westmorland (473 1273).



Pictures taken by Paul Pergau

The Second Annual Spirit Games were held during the first three Sundays of June at FSA during the church service. The Games are outdoor fun and activities for young people aged 2 through grade 8. High school students act as leaders during the Games. Each participant receives a new T-shirt designed each year to celebrate the Games. And the final week is the most fun of all—the Water Games!

FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S MINISTRY

Minister of Worship and Administration
Rev. Dr. David McKane

Minister of Christian Development
Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad

Minister Emeritus
Frank Meadows

Director of Music
Paul Merritt

Community Development Coordinator
Ted Kostecki

Church Administrator
Sue Scorgie

Administrative Assistant/ Receptionist
Maureen Scarborough

Custodian
Geoff Bottomley