

First-St Andrew's
UNITED CHURCH
Where liberal theology meets the best of tradition

Tidings

Vol. 33, No. 1, 2023
LENT/EASTER

INSIDE

EDITOR'S MESSAGE: 2

MINISTER'S MESSAGE: 3

INTRODUCING: 4

REMEMBERING: 6

GETTING TO KNOW: 7

PROFILE: 8

TRIBUTE: 9 & 11

HISTORY: 10

RECENT EVENTS: 12 & 13

COMMITTEE REPORTS: 14

BULLETIN BOARD: 19

MILESTONES: 20

FSA HISTORY QUIZ: 20

INTRODUCING EL SISTEMA
(SEE PAGE 4)





David Wardlaw

Editor David Wardlaw
Graphic Designer..... Jim Silcox
Photographers David Wake, Jim Silcox
Ad Sales Bob Peel
Committee Members... Barb Dalrymple, David McKane, Bob Peel, Nancy Quinn, Jim Silcox
Proofreader:..... Anne Cummings

Published by:

The Communications & Marketing Team
First-St. Andrew's United Church
350 Queens Avenue
London, Ontario N6B 1X6
Tel: 519-679-8182
mail@fsaunited.com
www.fsaunited.com

Printed by: Sterling Marking Products

Four issues are published yearly: the first Sunday in December, March, and June; and the second Sunday in September. Submissions are due three weeks before the publication dates. Unsolicited submissions are accepted only from members, adherents, and staff of First-St. Andrew's (FSA) and from affiliated organizations. The editor reserves the right to edit, limit the length of, or reject submissions. The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors, and are not necessarily those of Council or the staff of First-St. Andrew's United Church. The print version of *Tidings* is made possible by the paid advertisements found in each issue in tandem with an annual allotment from the FSA operating budget.

Church Staff

Minister of Worship & Congregational Life: Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence
Minister of Youth & Young Adults: Marilyn Arthur
Children's Program Coordinator: Christina Lindsay
Minister Emeritus: Rev. Dr. David McKane
Office Manager: Kathryn Skelly
Facility & Maintenance Coordinator: Tim Miedema
Designated Pastoral Care Volunteer: Jo Ann Silcox
Organist Emeritus and Interim Organist: Paul Merritt
Interim Choir Directors: Katyn & Richard Frank

In early December the FSA community lost a dedicated and cherished member, Pat Sole, who passed away on Dec. 2, 2022. If you have recently read the masthead in *Tidings*, you will be aware

that Pat was one of the proofreaders, a volunteer position she occupied for eight years beginning in 2014 and continuing without interruption to the most recent issue (Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2022). Pat was simply an outstanding proofreader – reliable, knowledgeable, observant, open-minded, fussy but not overbearing. Pat understood how to edit for clarity, grammar, punctuation, formatting, etc. without interfering with the 'voice' used by an individual author to convey his/her/their message. The *Tidings* Team offers heartfelt condolences to Pat's husband, Wes, and their family. We are grateful to Anne Cummings who generously agreed to serve as guest proofreader for this issue.

The feature article for this issue is by Clark Bryan, Executive and Artistic Director of The Aeolian Performing Arts Centre, who introduces us to the El Sistema Aeolian music program for children and youth, and the newly established collaboration with FSA through which this program is housed in our building on a long-term basis.

The history article provides a perspective on 60 years of the United Church Women's (UCW) organization as part of the United Church of Canada through the experience of Jane Glaves from the inception of the UCW to the present. A list of UCW Charter and FSA UCW Life Members is found in the Noteworthy section of Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2022 issue (Vol. 32, No.4, 2022).

Finally, I call your attention to the paid advertising. The advertising space is sold annually in January as a four-issue package, that is, the same set of ads will appear in all four issues in 2023. The advertising revenue significantly offsets the cost of printing the hard-copy version. We are all indebted to Bob Peel who continues to procure the paid advertising for *Tidings*. Each year this involves renewing existing advertisers where possible, and finding some new advertisers to replace those who have dropped out. Thanks and well done, Bob! †

Correction

In the Noteworthy section (p.20) of the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2022 issue (Vol. 32, No.4, 2022), Linda Badke was listed in error as a UCW Charter Member.

SAFE

INTERSTITIAL FAITH

RISK



Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence

“A whole life is organized in these border places, marked by the uncertainty of the moment and the immediate future...” (*Borderlands: Towards an Anthropology of the Cosmopolitan Condition*)

In recent months, I have found myself in some fascinating conversations around the dynamics of change and revisioning. As a minister, I have always found myself in these conversations, largely because I function as an interval. By this, I mean that I work to provide persons a respite from the mechanized sequence of their week, a pause from the clock-time of deadlines and deliverables. Of course, I too find myself entangled in the web of adjudicated expectations—setting alarms and comprehensively filling out my planner. And let me be clear: these things are not going anywhere. But change is here to stay.

So, we must find a way to be both Sabbath seekers and deadline keepers. To live into change while remaining true to our call from the creator of change. Thankfully, we are not alone in our efforts. Communities of faithful practice the world over have been tasked with this remarkable assignment.

TO LIVE INTO CHANGE WHILE REMAINING TRUE TO OUR CALL FROM THE CREATOR OF CHANGE

The Gospel of John frames it this way: "They are *not of* the world, just as I am *not of* the world. Sanctify them in your truth... As you sent me *into* the world, so I have sent them *into* the world" (vss. 16-18).

In my reflections on the work of Jesus-inspired community building, I imagine the situation of immigrants at different stages of their journey. Even if and when a

person arrives at a destination, she is always negotiating the borders between two worlds (if not more). Language, food, social customs, religious practice; the list goes on. Additionally, it could be said that we live in the century of the migrant. Today there are more than one billion regional and international migrants. As a result of climate change, that number could double in 40 years. Therefore, I want to strongly suggest that the experience of "im-migration" has much to teach us, a community of faith-in-flux.

If we only rely on what "has been," then we set up walls that "protect" us from what is happening—all that aforementioned change. If we simply toss out what has been in order to catch the next wave, we are as aimless as a rudderless boat. Somehow, someday, we must strengthen our capacity to be in the thick of things without losing our call to connect, to relate, to serve, and thereby transform the world. We might also remember that borders of all kinds—cultural, ecological, relational—can actually be the most fertile soil for positive, life-affirming change. This is the change that carries forward the treasures of the past with an openness capable of receiving the gifts of present and future. This trusting and courageous disposition is what I describe here as interstitial faith, meaning that it is born in the intervening spaces of life, spaces just large enough for that ray of compassionate light and just quiet enough to hear the still, small voice say, "You are my beloved; in you I am well pleased." †



Clark Bryan*

EL SISTEMA AEOLIAN

What's in a name?

"El Sistema" is a shorted form for the translated full name: "National Network of Youth and Children's Orchestras of Venezuela". The El Sistema movement began in Venezuela in 1975 led by an economist and musician José Antonio Abreu. From its humble beginnings of eleven students in an underground parking garage, the initiative grew rapidly and serves close to one million youth in Venezuela. It has spread to 87 countries and gained



global recognition garnering prestigious awards including a UNESCO award, the prestigious Glenn Gould Prize, and the TED award, amongst many others. The original program came out of needs to rescue young people from lives of crime and drugs in the poorest neighbourhoods of Caracas. Its motto was "Music for Social Change." In its Venezuelan form, the orchestra is at the centre of social learning.

Abreu's vision:

"Music has to be recognized as an agent of social development in the highest sense because it transmits the highest values – solidarity, harmony, mutual compassion," crediting it with the ability to "unite an entire community and express sublime feelings." (Tunstall, p. 273)

There are many famous graduates from El Sistema Venezuela who have taken leadership roles in music throughout the world. For example: Gustavo Dudamel is the conductor of the New York Philharmonic and the Paris Opera.

What is El Sistema Aeolian?

El Sistema Aeolian is not El Sistema Venezuela. Our so-

cial setting is different. There is no imported curriculum from that country. The common thread is the philosophical beliefs. These include intensity of learning environment, universal access as a free program, and a heavy focus on social development and social change.

What happens at El Sistema Aeolian?

There are over 100 participants in the program ages 6 to 19. Par-

ticipants in the main program attend four days a week for 2.5 hours. They play in an orchestra, sing in a choir, play the Indonesian Gamelan, and receive piano lessons and full meals. In addition, gently used pianos of 40 years or less are donated to El Sistema Aeolian.

Students can then apply to have one delivered free of charge to their home thanks to the support of D&S Pianos.

In an average year, participants perform 15-20 concerts and collaborate with national, international, and celebrity artists on stage at The Aeolian. On Monday nights, 18 participants attend a leadership class designed to catalyze conversations



about self-development, self-determination, social and positive intelligence, mindfulness, self-care, and communication skills. Participants in this class meet and learn from leaders in all walks of life. These have included the legendary Buffy Sainte-Marie, local politicians, NGO workers, heads of non-profit organizations, and First-St. Andrews' very own Pastor Joshua Lawrence. The goal of this class is to cultivate and nurture the ability to lead and flourish both within the program and in the outside world. There is a peer mentorship program where participants begin by modeling in the classroom and can end up conducting the choir and orchestra.



positive emotions and relationships, engagement, meaning and accomplishments. It holds the tension between musical and social outcomes.

An interesting by-product of our program is that some youth decide that music is their chosen pathway. Last year, two of El Sistema Aeolian's graduates were accepted to the Don Wright Faculty of Music at Western University.

Why is The Aeolian's Education Campus now at First-St. Andrew's Church?

I met Pastor Joshua Lawrence informally and we both recognized a synergy of values and vision between our two communities. I believe that there is a spark of the divine in what is transpiring in our developing relationship. We have also shared community members



were from the Old East Village. Today, the largest percentage of participants are from newcomer families. Many are learning English and music at the same

time. They come from all over the city.

such as Paul Cooper who serves as the Aeolian's Board Chair and Steve Elson is a long-time volunteer at The Aeolian. We look forward to collaborating with the First-St. Andrew's Church as together we amplify our work and vision: music, youth, intergenerational relationships, equity, inclusion, supporting vulnerable and newcomer communities, and more!

†

time. They come from all over the city.

Today's education systems are riddled with inequality of access and opportunity. The ultimate goal of the El Sistema Aeolian program is to provide a model for education that promotes equity and inclusion. The program fosters the well-being of the participants with a model that includes cultivating

**Clark Bryan is the Executive and Artistic Director of The Aeolian Performing Arts Centre and provides leadership in the El Sistema Aeolian program.*

REMEMBERING



Christine Covers



Barbara Ridgewell

BOB SWARTMAN
(JANUARY 1930 – OCTOBER 2022)

LAURA SWARTMAN
(DECEMBER 1929 – NOVEMBER 2016)



First-St. Andrew's United Church has been an important part of our family since 1964 when we moved to London. Laura (née York) grew up and worked hard on the family farm near Tamworth in Eastern Ontario as her brothers were off serving in the Canadian military during WWII. Bob grew up in Parry Sound and spent time on Georgian Bay where his grandfather was a boat builder and fisherman in Waubauschene.

Bob and Laura met in Kingston in the early 50s. Laura was a student nurse at the Kingston General Hospital (KGH) and Bob was a cadet at the Royal Military College (RMC). After graduation and marriage, Bob was stationed in Bagotville, Quebec where their first child, Jimmy, was born in 1953 (and sadly passed away in 2015). Then Bob was stationed at a Canadian Air Force Base in Germany, where he was an officer working as a flight engineer on NATO maneuvers. They enjoyed their time in Germany and developed a high regard for the German culture and people they met. Two more children, Christie and Tom, were born there in 1954 and 1955. In 1957 the family moved to Kingston where Bob started teaching at RMC. Barbara was born in 1958 and Peter in 1960. Laura went back to work part time at KGH in the nursery. Having five children in seven years made for a chaotic household. Our father said Mum went back to work because it was quieter than at home!

One of our favourite childhood memories was going for car rides and ending up at ice cream shops where our Dad would "fix" our ice cream cones because they were melting all over our little hands. In October 2022 when he was admitted to the hospital, Dad kept asking us if we would join the Ice Cream Club. Of course, we reassured him that we wanted to be included!

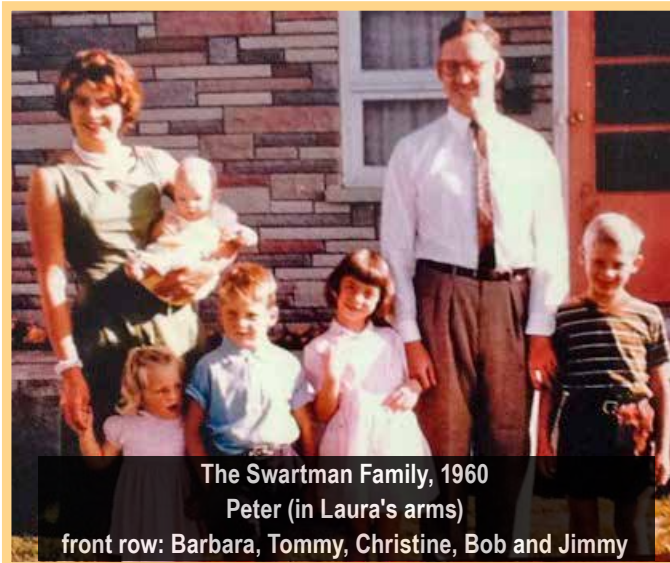
We moved to London in 1964 where Bob joined the Engineering Faculty at Western University. Laura worked at St. Joseph's Hospital again in the nursery. We lived in Sherwood Forest where Bob and Laura lived for over 50 years. Bill and

Elsbeth Watson moved next door and our families got together for concerts, New Year's Eve, and various neighbourly gatherings.

In 1982 Bob started a solar company, Solcan, fabricating products to harness the sun's energy. He was a pioneer in the field of renewable energy and installed solar systems in London and around the world.

Over the years, Bob and Laura were busy at First-St. Andrew's. Laura was active in teaching Sunday School, the UCW, the Holly Bazaar, Knit Wits and the Rummage Sale. She worked hard behind the scenes and we remember all the crepe paper flowers that she made for the young people's musical, "The Selfish Giant." Bob enjoyed singing in the choir and serving on committees. He organized a social group for young people and international students. Our family often helped out with Coffee and Conversation and the Out-of-the-Cold meal program.

Bob enjoyed social times and spent many happy hours with the Coffee Codgers, the Friday Happy Hour guys, the Ski Bus, and UWO Williams lunch group. He continued to teach a renewable energy course at Western into his 80s! During the last two years of his life, Bob suffered kidney failure and had to have dialysis three times a week. Living downtown, he saw the need for more community support such as Ark Aid and Indwell. Our parents supported the LGBTQ movement and liked to meet people from various backgrounds, faiths, and diversities. There is a rainbow bench in the labyrinth garden dedicated to Bob and Laura. †



The Swartman Family, 1960

Peter (in Laura's arms)

front row: Barbara, Tommy, Christine, Bob and Jimmy



Anne Cummings

Shannon Hawke and Connor Campbell



It was a joy to interview one of our newer couples at FSA: Shannon Hawke and Connor Campbell. Upon arrival in their lovely SoHo home, I was warmly greeted by them, their greyhound dog, Buddy, and their cats, Beaux and Arrow. This animal-loving couple discovered a feral cat and kittens in their back shed when they moved into this home. In an effort to protect the neighbourhood birds, they had the cats neutered and then have been feeding them daily so that they will not eat the birds, a wonderfully environmental thing to do.

Both Shannon and Connor were born in London and found their way back after some time away. Connor's parents are both pharmacists, while Shannon's parents work together at their leadership training company. Shannon is currently in the final stage of becoming a licenced architect with Cornerstone Architecture, a company that does community architecture such as long-term care homes. Connor has worked for seven years with Protech Mechanical, a commercial heating and cooling firm that deals with high-rise apartments, plants, and malls. There is a lot of variety and problem solving in this job.

One of the things that I noticed about their home was one wall of their front room being covered with stringed instru-

ments: banjo, guitar, string resonator, and a string bass on the floor. Connor is the musician who plays in a band with two other musicians who play old time Gospel music. We can hope that a concert from them in Proudfoot Hall or on our summer stage will be in our future!

After looking for a faith community, they chose FSA because of our commitment to Ark Aid and because of Pastor Joshua's sermons. In November, they both spoke eloquently during Stewardship Sunday. Shannon said: "So often in the past, we have felt overwhelmed by the world we have inherited and have struggled to feel like we are doing enough. The work we have begun at FSA has allowed us, for the first time to feel like we are starting to live out our values fully." Connor continued: "With times as difficult as they are now and more hardship on the horizon, this feeling is truly a gift from God. To have a space where we feel loved and affirmed is not only helpful, but essential in being able to continue our community work."

This couple has already "put their shoulder to the wheel" (Connor's words)

with both of them being members of the Planning Committee and Refugee Committee. Shannon is

also helping to start up a Social Media group and Connor just joined the Property Committee at our Annual Meeting, as well as helping with our live streaming. When asked what they would like FSA members to know about them, Shannon said that she is a processor. Connor said that although he does not identify as Christian, he does follow the teachings in the Gospel and believes that there is much that the church can do in today's world.

Now here is a romantic story: Connor and Shannon met on the internet. Their first date lasted 14 hours and by the end of that time, they both knew that they had found their partner. They have been together for 4 years and will be getting married on the outdoor stage of First-St. Andrew's in August! We wish them a beautiful day and many years of happiness together. If you have not yet met this lovely couple, make sure to chat with them. They are remarkable people and FSA is truly blessed to have them in our church family. †



Ann MacPhail

I am very excited to introduce, Chris Lindsay, FSA's new Children's Program Coordinator (part-time – 12 hrs./wk.) who has recently been hired to develop, implement, and supervise all programming for children up to age 13 (grade eight) at FSA. Although Chris is new to FSA as an employee, she is certainly not new to the FSA church family! Chris Lindsay has been attending FSA since she was a child and is a United Church Member. Many in the congregation will know her parents Bob (recently deceased) and Bev.

Over the past 20 plus years, Chris has followed her parents' example of volunteerism within FSA, reflecting a strong commitment to her Christian faith. She has volunteered in multiple and diverse roles making a significant contribution to FSA. As a young adult, she volunteered at the Holly Bazaar-Café Noel. During Rev. David McKane's and Rev. Kate Crawford's senior minister tenures, Chris frequently provided sign language interpretation at Sunday services. Between 2010–2021 she was also the volunteer Teen Leader organizing Sunday activities, sleep-overs, confirmation, and other social events for the FSA high school youth. This latter job has just recently been taken over by Marilyn Arthur as the new shared Youth and Young Adult Minister. In addition to Chris's volunteer roles at FSA, she brings a wealth of experience gained from working 11 years with Community Living London and 8 years with Deaf, Blind Community Services through CNIB, primarily working with young adults and adults with disabilities.

So, what are Chris's duties in her new role? Her very first duty was moving the FSA Nursery to a room off the Fireside Room and moving the High School Teen room to the previous nursery area in order to make room for the El Sistema music program – not an easy beginning to a new job! But with enthusiasm and a smile on her face, the way she approaches most tasks in her life, this relocation was completed quickly and efficiently. Chris's basic duties are to provide overall leadership for the FSA children's activities which fall into the following areas: 1. Organize supervision for the FSA Sunday morning nursery (0-3 yrs.); 2. Implement church school curricula and coordinate/teach Sunday morning church school (2 classes: junior kindergarten to grade 4 and grades 5 to 8); 3. Leadership of special children's events (notably Christ-



mas and Easter pageants); 4. Coordinate special afternoon/evening activities for young children and their families. Quite a list for 12 hrs./wk.! Chris works within and is supported by the FSA team ministry.

And what does Chris envision for the FSA nursery to elementary aged children? Her first goal is to focus on church school and rebuilding after the disruption of COVID, forming a strong, caring church family within the FSA church school. She wants to ensure children feel excited to return to church school, and are able to reconnect with their friends, make new friends, build lasting relationships, and reconnect with the larger FSA intergenerational church community. There

will be a focus on foundational Bible stories, incorporating the basics of Christian faith, helping others, and compassion. Always creative, Chris has introduced the children to a church mouse ministry – Charity and Charlie (both puppets) who will assist Chris in delivering the weekly church school message. Once per month (last Sunday of each month, 5:30 pm, beginning Feb 26) a family potluck is being planned (all ages invited) with a youth fellowship between 4:00-5:30 p.m. just prior to it. Finally, mark your calendars for the return of the always popular FSA Church Family Palm Sunday breakfast, Sunday, April 2.

Volunteers are always welcomed and badly needed in the nursery and Church School program! Just give Chris your contact information or email her at children@fsaunited.com

When you see Chris at FSA, please take a few minutes to give her a very warm welcome in her new role as Children's Program Coordinator. FSA is so lucky to have Chris on our ministry team! †



"Your Home Appliance Experts"

www.arvaappliances.com

ARVA APPLIANCE CENTRE

Bill Stewart

21593 Richmond Street N, Arva, ON N0M 1C0

p (519) 660-8314
f (519) 660-1340
bstewart@arvaappliances.com



Merran Neville

Victoria Meredith: Choral Director Extraordinaire

Dr. Victoria (Viki) Meredith is one in a million, especially as a choir director. Viki has conducted award winning choirs in the U.S.A. and Canada and we, at First-St. Andrew's, consider ourselves fortunate that she has shared her considerable talents with us over the past three years. We have been in a state of transition since Terry Head died in November 2019 and Viki generously came on board, first in February 2020 to direct the Senior Choir until the pandemic suddenly struck in March 2020. She returned in September 2021 as interim choir director while the search continued for a fulltime Director of Music.

Viki came to Canada with her husband, Dr. Henry Meredith, in 1975 when they took up teaching appointments at Western's Don Wright Faculty of Music. Almost simultaneously, Viki auditioned for and was appointed section leader and alto soloist in the FSA Senior Choir under the direction of Tim Zimmerman. She held this position during Tim's two years at FSA, Alan Barthel's years, 1977-1983, and continued as Paul Merritt became Director of Music in January 1984. Viki was also interim choir director between the departure of Alan Barthel and Paul's arrival. Her partner as organist during that time was Neil Whyte. In 1986, Viki became the Music Director/Organist at St. George's Presbyterian Church and remained there for five years when she left for the University of Arizona where she completed a doctorate in choral conducting.

Viki taught at Western for over 30 years and directed the Faculty of Music's two award-winning choirs – Les Choristes and the UWO Singers. During this time, she and her choirs earned over 20 national awards. Across her tenure, Viki

served as Department Chair, Coordinator of Choral Activities, and Associate Dean. She was the first woman to achieve the rank of full professor in the history of the Faculty of Music.

Viki has travelled the length and breadth of Canada participating frequently as an adjudicator, workshop clinician, guest conductor, and performer. She has conducted several provincial honour choirs and in 2010, she conducted the National Youth Choir of Canada. At one music festival in New Brunswick, she adjudicated a young Measha Bruegggosman where she assured Measha's family that yes, this really was a talent worthy of developing. Her book, *Sing Better as You Age* (2007), received national recognition when it was selected as the year's best choral publication. It is very appropriate for our choir. She has been invited on numerous occasions to lecture on this topic, which included several workshops over Zoom during the pandemic.

Viki is a recognized leader in choral music and an accomplished conductor bringing a wealth of experience to our choir. She also leads with a positive approach making us all feel vocally relaxed and motivated to sing our very best for her. It has been a privilege to have Viki in our midst as choir director, but also as a friend to many at FSA. As she has also joined the Laudamus Bells, we hope that she will continue to participate in our music-making in the future. †

Editor's note: Due to health issues, it was necessary for Viki to step down as Interim Choir Director, effective Jan. 30, 2023. The thoughts and prayers of everyone at FSA are with her as she recovers.





Jane Graves

United Church Women: CONTINUING ON

I find it hard to believe that we created this amazing group of women which has been a force for over 60 years. When two women's groups joined together, I remember my grandmother who was a staunch "Women's Missionary Society" member, saying, "Good, now we can all work together."

My mother, Grace McFadzen, who accomplished many things in her life, was the first woman and the first lay person to be elected Head of a Conference (Hamilton) and she was a part of the amazing group of women who started the United Church Women (UCW). In 1963, as the last chair of the Board of Women, she purchased a life membership for me. My response was, "I haven't earned it." "You will," she answered. I was a new bride in a new town and I would never have imagined the places it would take me. Somehow, I moved within the UCW from local president, to chair of Erie Presbytery, and then graduated to Hamilton Conference UCW president in a few short years. I was a mother and foster mother at that time. There were many times babies accompanied me to meetings I was chairing, and there were always "willing hands" to assist. There were so many wonderful women to lead us and make us aware of the world around us. It seemed that we, as women, were so involved in our local churches and families that we needed people to show us how the broader world really was. Lois Wilson, former Moderator of the United Church, was a wonderful teacher. She took us out of ourselves and into reality. Her book, "Turning the World Upside Down" was a real eye-opener for us.



Then I became the UCW's National President for 1990-91. The debate of the ordination of homosexuals was heavy on everyone's mind. How we struggled to understand and accept all of this. My head and heart ached with the burden, but we all learned so much and began to have a new understanding of the whole issue. I, for one, have been thankful for the new teachings that we had. When I think of the projects which were started by the UCW, the support given to AIDS victims, the raising of funds for a birthing centre in Africa and so many other projects, it is truly amazing that we have accomplished so much. We continue to support local projects and international work.

My hope is that young women of our church will be encouraged to take part in this work. Time and progress have changed so many things, but we have shown during these 60 years that we can adapt and change as well. We have accomplished a lot, but there is still much to do. We must continue onward. "We celebrate our history, rejoice to know our past, and thank God for those women, who to the world held fast. They toiled in God's service, they worshipped, worked and prayed, and following a vision they journeyed on unafraid." (Betty Radford Turcott - written for the UCW 40th anniversary) †



Barbara Plante

Mary Ellen Gustafson



Mary Ellen is a hidden gem, one of those huge talents with a quiet and very modest voice. She had the voice of an angel and we were fortunate enough to have her as our soprano soloist for 20 years.

Mary Ellen was born in Canton, Ohio, and attended Kent State University. She taught 9th grade for a year before marrying Roger. They moved to Wisconsin and then eventually to Michigan where she continued to teach. Sonja is in touch with some of her former students, who tell her what a wonderful influence she had on their lives and careers, and how much they appreciate all she did for them. It was while they were in Michigan that a friend put them in touch with the then University of Western Ontario, and Roger joined the Faculty of Music here in London. Mary Ellen taught private voice lessons and eventually, she too, joined the Faculty of Music. She assisted and then replaced Alfred Rose as Voice Professor. Soon Andrew was born, and then Sonja, and her family was complete.

In 1978, Viki Meredith, who was our alto soloist, persuaded Mary Ellen to

apply for the position of soprano soloist at FSA, where we enjoyed her beautiful singing for 20 years.

She was not just the soloist, but also a super section head. Paul Merritt writes that she was gifted with a lovely voice which she used with a skill that made every solo she sang, beautiful. As a member of the choir, she added a warm, never overpowering sound, and encouraged others with a generosity that was the antithesis of the temperamental Prima Donna. He adds, "Thank you, Mary Ellen, for all you have given our church." Mary Ellen stopped singing as our soloist because of her unfortunate multiple sclerosis diagnosis. Of course, this made a huge difference in Mary Ellen's life and in the life of her family. It was also very, very sad for FSA.

Although Mary Ellen could no longer manage the stairs, or sing with the choir, she continued to contribute her musical skills by ringing with Laudamus Bells.

She rang in the group for ten years, until that, too, became impossible. But Mary Ellen faces her challenges with admirable courage and determination, and we can all learn from her regarding dealing with life's setbacks and difficulties.

Mary Ellen told me she loves FSA for the theology and fine preaching, for the music which she continues to enjoy, and for the friendships she has made and continues to enjoy. She is also grateful for the accessibility at FSA and was delighted when the elevator was installed.

Mary Ellen is a proud grandmother to Sonja's children: Oscar, Thomas, Charlotte, and George, and to Andrew's sons: August and Aaron. Grandson August has gifted her with 2 great-grandsons: AJ and Maverick. Like all grandmothers, she says her grandchildren are absolutely wonderful and she adores them. Being with them is the best and she feels blessed to have her wonderful family.

We are blessed to have Mary Ellen in our midst. As Paul Merritt said, "Thank you, Mary Ellen, for all you have done for FSA." †

RECENT EVENTS

UCW Worship Service (October 16, 2022)

On October 16, 2022, the UCW had the privilege of hosting FSA's Worship Service, which also celebrated 60 years of UCW Service. The service's beautiful music, including the UCW Theme Song "Into Your Hands," celebrated women composers along with our talented FSA female musicians.

Nancy Howard, of ELUCO (East London United

Church Outreach) which the FSA UCW supports, spoke on the challenging work in the Marconi area. She talked about the difference youth scholarships and Camp Kee-Mo-Kee sponsorships make. Many thanks to our UCW members, especially our worship leader, Helen Guthrie, who made the morning a success. †



Laurel Kenny



Helen Guthrie



Jane Glaves



Nancy Quinn



Millie Bates

Customized Wealth Management

Great advice pays off.

Paul Creighton
Investment Advisor

Brian Dunn
Senior Investment Advisor

Creighton-Dunn & Associates
One London Place 1900-255 Queens Ave, London, Ont
Tel: 519-646-3004 | Fax: 519 679 8848
nesbittburns.bmo.com/creighton.dunn

BMO  **Private Wealth**

© Registered trademark of Bank of Montreal, used under license. BMO Private Wealth is a brand name for a business group consisting of Bank of Montreal and certain of its affiliates in providing private wealth management products and services.

Certified ADP Compression Fitter



Get measured, fitted and informed by our specialist, Deborah Topping

To make an appointment, please email dtopping@yurekpharmacy.com or call 519-963-1142 ext 4022.

 **YUREK** 
PHARMACY & HOME HEALTHCARE

555 Wellington Road
London, ON N6C 4R3

yurekpharmacy.com



Helping You Feel Better™

**Intergenerational Trivia and Potluck Event
(February 5, 2023)**

On behalf of the shared youth and young adult ministry team, thank you to everyone who attended the intergenerational trivia and potluck event on Sunday, February 5. We had so much fun gathering together with 60 people of all ages learning new facts, but more importantly meeting others from the various churches and other communities that gathered. Thank you to all who volunteered to help make this event a great success. †



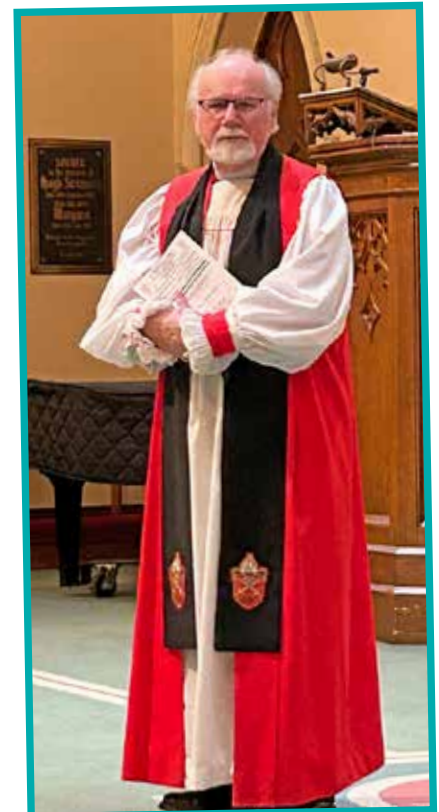
Mission & Outreach Sunday: (February 5, 2023)

We were pleased to welcome Julie Ryan from Indwell to speak to us about their current projects.. †



Pulpit Exchange: (January 22, 2023)

To mark Christian Unity Sunday, St. Paul's Cathedral and FSA exchanged preachers. We were honoured to welcome Bishop Robert Bennett to our Sanctuary. †



*Reconnect with life...
imagine the possibilities.*

BENTLEY
HEARING SERVICES
www.bentleyhearing.com

For all your hearing needs:
• Tests • Hearing Aids • Supplies • Noise Plugs

Springbank ☎ 519.936.5850
Wonderland North ☎ 519.473.5850
Boler ☎ 519.471.5850

Free Patient Parking at both locations



COUNCIL

David Wardlaw

The budget presentation at the congregational meeting on January 29 makes clear that we must focus more attention on stewardship, fundraising, and sustainable revenue generation – this will be a special focus of Council and the Executive Committee in the coming year.

Council thanks the search committee for the Director of Music for their perseverance and long service in bringing a search considerably delayed and interrupted by COVID to a most successful conclusion. FSA's next Director of Music is Chris Fischer who comes to us from Knox Presbyterian in Guelph and begins their tenure with us on April 10. Search committee members are Stephen Adams, Ardath Finnbogason-Hill, Sonja Gustafson, Lynda Kennedy, Merran Neville, Chris Wood (Chair).

In the fall of 2022, acting on a recommendation of the ad hoc pastoral care task group, Council took the requisite steps to obtain approval for recruitment for a part-time Pastoral Care/Visitation Minister. Following approval from the Council, the congregation, and Regional Council, a search committee has been formed and began its work in February.

In December 2022, FSA renewed a major partnership, first established for the winter of 2021-22, with Ark Aid Mission to provide overnight shelter for 40 homeless people per night from Dec. 1, 2022 to Mar. 31, 2023. Also in December 2022, FSA entered a long-term collaboration with the Aeolian Hall Performing Arts Centre to house the El Sistema music program for children and youth. The alignment of values and the fit with our three pillars (Faith, Music, & Arts), and with FSA's three priorities established in the fall of 2022, are extraordinary for both partnerships.

Thanks to everyone who is volunteering time and talents to serve as officers of FSA, committee chairs (and thus members of Council), and members of teams and groups working under the auspices of a committee – you are essential to the ongoing success of FSA. Council thanks departing members Heather Locking-Cusolito (completion of term as chair of Membership and Nurture) and David Knoppert (resignation as chair of Mission & Outreach) for exemplary service. †



MISSION & OUTREACH

Barb Dalrymple



Ann MacPhail

The Mission & Outreach committee is currently without a chair which is not ideal. We will try to continue our work with members of the committee taking turns chairing the meetings.

Indwell

We were privileged to have Julie Ryan, the Community Engagement Coordinator for Indwell, London, as our Mission Sunday speaker in February. FSA looks forward to continuing our association with Indwell as they renovate the former War Memorial Children's Hospital and Health Services Building on South Street to provide 138 deeply affordable apartments. Embassy Commons on Dundas Street is now fully occupied.

St. Paul's Social Services

The need is greater than ever for non-perishable food and personal care products. Please leave in the shopping cart near the office window in the Atrium.

Ark Aid

A shout-out goes to Pat Pettit, a member of our committee, for arranging a donation of 225 slightly used fitted single sheets from London Health Linen Services for our guests from Ark Aid.

White Squirrel Golf Tournament: Saturday, June 10

It's time to put a foursome together for this very enjoyable day at Ironwood. If you would like to help, find hole sponsors, provide silent auction items, or volunteer some time, please contact David Knoppert davidknoppert@sympatico.ca or 519-668-4063.

East London United Church Outreach (ELUCO)

Food Security: Each of us has noticed an increase in our grocery bills as we go through the grocery store check out! The increase in the cost of essential food items is more acutely felt by the Marconi community, where it becomes more and more difficult to stretch limited dollars to purchase nutritious food for young, growing families. With our generous partners, ELUCO continues to provide food security programs to help support families through this crisis: Harvest Bucks for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables at local markets; new faces are finding their way to the ELUCO Breakfast Snacks and School Lunch Programs (at the ELUCO Marconi Unit), keeping our staff and volunteers busy; our once weekly Welcome Wednesday Lunch at Rowntree Memorial United Church resumed indoor lunches, serving between 40 – 50 individuals/week. During 2022, at the ELUCO Food Cupboard at Gethsemane Gardens, our volunteer team served 402



Families, (i.e., 738 adults, 274 children, 2 babies) – a 25% increase from 2021.

ELUCO Programs: With the reduction of COVID cases, ELUCO is now able to offer more group programs/workshops and individual counselling. Next steps include additional sessions on employment readiness with resumes, letters and interview tips; literacy appreciation with books, rhymes and activities in conjunction with the London Public Library Outreach Team; and continued individual support for anxiety and depression. With the support of a recent grant from the Westminster College Foundation, new workshops on Grief, Addiction, and Mental Health will be offered by our Community Outreach Worker, Nancy Howard, during 2023.

Thank You

Thank you, on behalf of the families ELUCO serves, by bringing hope and joy to their lives with your generous contributions to our 2022 Christmas Share Program to which First-St. Andrew's donated \$2807 in grocery gift cards. Thank You! Overall, congregations, UCW groups, individuals, and Jansen Christmas Toy Drive contributed food, gifts and gift cards to support 103 families. Beautifully knitted hats and mitts were included with each Christmas package. The combined Youth Ministry of Siloam, FSA and Metropolitan collected food, household and pet items during Advent to donate to the Marconi families. A special thanks to all our volunteers and donors. On-line donations can be made at the following site, <https://www.eluco.ca/>. Together we can make a difference!†



MUSIC

Merran Neville

The BIG news is that a new Director of Music has been appointed! Chris Wood, chair of the search committee, made the announcement in the worship service on Sunday, February 5, to the great delight of all present. The search committee is also relieved that this long search, begun in August 2021, is successfully concluded. We are excited to welcome Chris Fischer who will be taking up this position and moving to London on Monday, April 10, 2023. Search committee members are Stephen Adams, Ardath Finnbogason-Hill, Sonja Gustafson, Lynda Kennedy, Merran Neville, Chris Wood.

We have been richly blessed throughout the search by the music leadership of Paul Merritt, both organist emeritus and interim organist, and Viki Meredith, interim choir director. See the Tribute article about Viki on page 9 of this *Tidings*. Recently, Viki stepped down due to health issues. We are keeping her in our thoughts and prayers. Kathy Frank, with assistance from Richard Frank, has stepped up to direct the senior choir. We are more than grateful for Kathy's willingness

to take on this position and to lead the choir through Easter.

The senior choir was privileged to sing four anthems in the truly inspirational Memorial Service for Enid Merritt. The large choir of 64 singers included the current choir members, returning choir members, singers from other churches and the Royal College of Church Organists. All wished to remember Enid for her tireless contributions to the music program over many years, to celebrate her kindness to many people, and to support Paul.

We are approaching a season of concerts and two special Easter services. Mark your calendars for the following dates.

- March 8, 7:30pm – the second visit of the Tuskegee University Golden Voices Choir
- Friday Noon Lenten Recitals:
 - March 24 – Richard Frank, saxophone; Lynda Kennedy, piano; Paul Merritt, organ
 - March 31 – Laudamus Bells, Richard Frank, Director
- May 21, 3:00pm – *Love in three four time* – Sonja Gustafson, soprano; Francesca Ranalli, mezzo soprano; Chris Wood, tenor; Alastair Smyth, bass; Lynda Kennedy, piano; Grace Yip, piano; Katerina Juraskova, cello; Gary McCumber, clarinet
- June 7 – 7:30pm – FSA Strings concert, Igor Saika-Voivod, Director

The Good Friday service will be held at FSA and the senior choir will be performing “Eternal Light, A Requiem” by Howard Goodall. On Easter Sunday, we once more welcome our Brass Quartet.

So much to look forward to!

†



MEMBERSHIP & NURTURE

Heather Locking-Cusolito

Our committee is in a state of transition following the retirement of Heather Locking-Cusolito as Chair. Leadership will be rotating each month.

- We are very pleased to acknowledge the decision, first by Council and then by the Congregation at a special congregational meeting on January 8, 2023, to support the hiring of a part-time pastoral care minister.
- A search committee consisting of Don Jones (Chair), Ardath Finnbogason-Hill, Heather Locking-Cusolito, Susan McKane and Deanne Pederson with support from Rev. Kerry Stover as Liaison from Antler River Watershed Region, has been formed and the position has been posted to Church Hub. We are also thankful for the help of Steve Elson in forming the committee and calling the first meeting.
- A successful Newcomers' Friendship Group coordinated by Glenna Hall was held on January 18 and was attended by members of the committee and five new or returning

members of the congregation.

- We anticipate holding a New Members Welcoming Service in the Spring.
- Membership and Nurture extends thanks to members of each committee which has volunteered to prepare and serve coffee each Sunday. †



Affirm Report
Karen Low



Anne-Louise Jannaway

Affirm, a sub-committee of Membership & Nurture, has begun to meet once again to look at how we might continue to foster an atmosphere of inclusivity and to welcome diversity at FSA. While maintaining projects, activities and relationships of the past (Red Scarf campaign, Pride events, an association with Regional HIV/AIDS Connection), we are excited to look forward to new ventures and opportunities. How might we better address the social needs of the LGBTQIA2S+ community within our church congregation? Are there other ways we might continue to build community? As London continues to evolve and to welcome a wonderful wealth of cultures and beliefs, do we reflect an acceptance and engagement with these changes? In a spirit of reciprocity, is there possibility for advocacy and networking in the community beyond First-St. Andrew's? These things and more we will continue to be open to as we gather.

"Nothing about us without us" is a slogan used to communicate the idea that no policy should be decided by any representative without the full and direct participation of members of the group(s) affected by that policy. In its modern form, this often involves groups that are marginalized from political, social, and economic opportunities. The phrase has its origins in political movements going back to Poland in the 1500s. It's been a rallying cry for democracy ever since. The term came into use in disability activism during the 1990s. Its use has since been expanded beyond the disability rights community to other interest groups and movements. With that in mind, we would like to invite you to come join the Affirm Sub-Committee. Watch for our special events, and so

participate in the advancing of the beloved community that is First-St. Andrew's United Church. †



Archives Report
Don Jones

The Archives Committee has been busy planning and sorting the Archives Collection so that it can be stored in the new Archives Room. El Sistema has the use of the old Archives Room, and the collection was placed in boxes and moved to the new room. The task of the committee now is to unpack the boxes and place the collection in an appropriate order in the new room. The unpacking has largely finished but the collection needs to be organized in a logical fashion.

Digital storage is an emphasis with materials when possible. The Committee has so far purchased a 2 TB portable disk drive to store the items that can be digitized and have systematically backed these items up to the Microsoft One-Drive (cloud). Not everything can be digitized and in discussions, committee members have decided that some items should be kept in hard copy format. In some cases, we have decided to keep both digital and hard copies. For example, the blueprints that have been used for renovations and building projects in the church are stored both digitally and in large tubes for future reference. There are many photographs that have been saved both digitally and in hard copy.

The space for the collection is smaller than the previous Archives Room, so some decisions about what to store and what is extraneous to the collection will have to be made. We are always looking for willing workers in this committee and if you are interested in helping in this endeavour, please contact Don Jones, a current member of the Archive Committee, or leave your name with the FSA Office Manager, Kathryn Skelly. †



UCW
Nancy Quinn

In the summer of 2022 Nancy Quinn represented the FSA UCW at the 2022 National UCW Conference, "Continuing in Hope," (60th

Covers
Designers' EDGE
BLINDS | SHUTTERS | DRAPERY

Your Shade and Drapery Experts since 1987

In-Home Consultation
Showrooms Open M-F 10-5

297 Exeter Rd. London 519-652-0222
1950 Hyde Park Rd. London 519-660-3861
www.coverscanada.ca

MENEAR WORRAD
& ASSOCIATES

Will & Estate Lawyers

Michael A. Menear LL.B. | Karen E. MacDonald LL.B. | Daniel J. McNamara LL.B.

478 WATERLOO ST, LONDON • 519.672.7370 • www.menearlaw.com

Anniversary) held in Nova Scotia. The keynote speaker, Canadian journalist Sally Armstrong, spoke on current global transformation. She stated that we are in the midst of the 4th wave of feminism, starting in 2012, and identifies a transformational *current of change*, which invites everyone to take part. Taking form in movements such as globally educating girls and the “hashtag: Me Too” movement, this current of change opposes the *currency of power*, which only a few have. For more on the history of gender inequality and how we can transform, see Armstrong’s book, *Power Shift*. The National UCW five-year project, “Women for Change in Zambia” – a project that empowers girls in attaining education – has raised over \$109,000.

We are excited to have resumed our *Boutique Bazaar*, after a hiatus due to COVID, on Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022 alongside a special evening on Friday, Nov. 18, featuring the artisans. Many thanks to Glenda Robinson, Head Convenor, the FSA Bazaar Conveners, the many volunteers, our artisan friends and especially our enthusiastic shoppers. We enjoyed personable hosts, antique treasures, beautiful jewellery, baked confections, delectable preserves, gorgeous knitwear, carefully stitched delights and music treasures . . . Once we have rested, we can’t wait to do it all again . . . next year! After expenses, \$10,584 was raised, half of which goes to benefit our UCW charities such as Anova, My Sister’s Place and ELUCO. The second half (\$5,292) supports our beloved FSA.

On Sunday, January 15, 2023 our FSA UCW held their Annual General Meeting (virtually) and the 2023 proposed UCW Budget was approved. Retiring UCW Executive members, Louise Slater (Membership and Programing) and Jeane Stewardson (Correspondence Secretary) were thanked for their many years of faithful service. Jan Hendry, retiring Rummage Sale Coordinator – fortunately staying on as an Executive Member -- was thanked for her many years of industrious service alongside her husband, Jim Hendry, in organizing the UCW’s Annual Spring Rummage Sale. Laurel Kenney will advertise the Rummage Sale position at Council. People are welcome to get in touch with Jan to get more details about the position.

We are in the planning phase about a potential lunch on Monday, May 1, with a guest speaker – please, stay tuned.

Please mail your Green Envelope cheques, made out to "FSA United Church Women," to FSA, "Attention: UCW." Your generosity and faithfulness are much appreciated. †



COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Jim Silcox

Have you ever shopped on Amazon? Unless your name is Rip Van Winkle you know that retailing has gone through a major revolution in the last ten years as online shopping

has become a feature of almost everyone’s every-day life. You may be surprised to know that FSA has now joined the ranks of those offering the chance to purchase items from the comforts of your living room. Before Christmas we started to set up for this. Creating “the front end,” the website you see and the way for you to enter your order and your credit card data, proved to be the easy part. Setting up “the back end,” the mechanism by which your money is transferred to the church’s bank account proved a bit more daunting, but all seems to be working now. Our first item for sale at the newly named “FSA Shop” site is Robyn Butt’s book, *The Window Sonnets*. Go to our Bulletin Board Page and find out how you can join the ranks of FSA’s online shoppers.

We have been cutting our teeth on our new livestreaming equipment since October and are ready for the next step. With the help of Steve Elson and the Planning Committee, we are developing a fee-schedule for those wishing to use our equipment and personnel to livestream non-worship events, such as weddings and funerals.

The Planning Committee has also been working with C & M to submit a grant proposal that would enable us to enhance our social profile and tech offerings. A big thanks to Barrie Evans for taking the initiative on this proposal and to Lorna Gunning Fratschko for providing her marketing expertise. Stay tuned to find out if the proposal is successful. †



FAITH FORMATION

*Allyson Watson
(Christian Development)*



*Jo Ann Silcox
(Worship)*

The Worship and Christian Development Committees are experimenting with a new monthly joint format in recognition of the overlap in their functions.

Worship, under Joshua’s leadership, has initiated a series of pulpit exchanges across denominations as well as within the United Church spectrum itself to address the pressing needs of our own city as well as the those of the larger world in which we now operate, and in the face of diminishing individual congregational resources, calling us to join together in being Christ’s hands and feet. We look forward in the spring to a New Members Sunday which will honour Confirmands from last year as well this year, as well as new adult members who have enriched our fellowship since Joshua’s arrival.

Christina Lindsay has begun co-ordinating the Christian Development ministry for children in conjunction with Marilyn Arthur’s enthusiastic work with youth and young adults both within FSA and from other UCC congregations, including Siloam and Metropolitan. A growing youth attendance testifies to the power of these programs.

Adult Bible Study, led by Joshua, is stretching us in new ways to articulate our faith, recognizing that we may need to

find expression in a variety of disciplines beyond the biblical texts themselves, if we are to remain relevant to the larger world.

Small, but faithful groups, such as the Men’s Brown Bag Lunch, the Book Club, the Knitting and Sewing groups, and a host of others are providing a new multi-media approach to kindling a faith community. †



Youth & Young Adult Report

Marilyn Arthur

It is in the season of Lent that we are invited to “sit in the wilderness” to reflect on our lives, whom God is calling us to be, and how we want to be in this world.

This season can be a rich time in our lives, but it can also be difficult as we ponder the many opportunities that we have in our lives and wonder if we are really living the way that God is intending. It is with such pleasure and a great blessing that we have a faith community that surrounds us that we can rely on and be with as we struggle, embrace and share gratitude for all we have, and for all that can and will come into our lives.

I am incredibly grateful to our young people and the faith community for calling me to be one of the people who has the opportunity to walk alongside their lives, supporting and encouraging them to be who they are, to embrace their gifts, their flaws and their uniqueness. It gives me such joy to be in a space where young people are gathering, to see the excitement in their faces and hear it in their voices when they come together. Hearing that they feel a sense of belonging and community with each other within the church community is incredible. Thanks be to God for providing community, providing peers who walk alongside us in our journeys, and for loving and cheering us along the way.

Our high school youth have regular opportunities to gather together for recreational outreach and leadership opportunities that enable them to build community, relationships and to learn about their leadership styles, gifts and skills.

Our young adults also have a weekly opportunity to gather to discuss their faith questions and engage in some outreach initiatives. We gather for “Hops and Hope” pub ministry, enjoy getting-to-know-you activities, and engage in biblical and faith discussions. Other recreational activities are planned for just plain fun and to help form relationships. †



PLANNING

Steve Elson

The following reflect highlights of what the Planning Committee is working on at the present time:

- Kathryn Patton and Nancy Johnson of the Planning Committee along with volunteer

Glenda Robinson are exploring opportunities to promote FSA’s beautiful sanctuary and related space as a wedding venue for the wider community. They are in the process of developing ideas and plans for how this concept will generate additional revenue for FSA.

- Barrie Evans, Laura Wood, and Kerry Hill are taking the lead in developing an approach to strategic planning for FSA. A preliminary SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis has already been initiated and an approach to strategic thinking has been tabled with the Planning Committee – more to come.
- In partnership with current live stream operators at FSA, the Planning Committee has developed and approved a position paper on live streaming that, if approved by Council on February 21st, will set the stage for live streaming at FSA to grow and flourish. This too provides an opportunity for revenue generation based on live streaming special events.
- The Planning Committee is going to develop a position paper on the future use of social media at FSA and is currently advertising for people to help develop a robust approach to social media (using volunteers).
- The Planning Committee is going to work with the Property and Finance Committees to undertake a review of the fees FSA charges for events, use of space, etc.
- Laura Wood (wearing her Chair of Finance hat) has briefed the Planning Committee on FSA’s pending financial realities and the committee will be taking a close look at how it can contribute to FSA’s response. †

Bob Peel
PEEL PRODUCTIONS

We can transfer your old tapes, photo slides, and movie films for modern viewing.

(519)203-5000 | info@peelvideo.com | peelvideo.com

Mount Pleasant Cemetery (London) Inc.
Cemetery | Crematorium | Transfer Service
Chapel | Reception Centre

Mount Pleasant Cemetery
303 Riverside Drive
London, ON N6H 1G2

Oakland Cemetery
390 Oxford Street West
Owned & Operated by
Mount Pleasant Cemetery (London) Inc.

Tel: 519-434-6504 Fax: 519-434-2961
www.mpcemetery.ca



CLIMATE ACTION LONDON

Mary Ann Hodge

Climate Action London's newest campaign, CONNECT to the London Climate Plan, is in partnership with the London Environmental Network, ReForest London, and Pillar Non-Profit Network with the support of the City of London and a goal of reaching 10,000 Londoners. We anticipate hiring 3 summer students this year to help with this campaign and we have applied for a grant for funding to help us scale up our work.

In March, we launch the third annual online native plant sale. The proceeds from this sale will once again support expansion of the pollinator garden in Kiwanis park, a project led by Bill Guthrie.

Climate Action London is one of the key organizers for EarthFest 2023, happening on Earth Day: April 22. This year's theme is "Celebrating Environmental Action in London." It will be a jam-packed afternoon on Dundas Place for a tree give-away; in the Central branch of the Library with speakers and programming, including children's programming, a forest experience in the outdoor reading garden; and in Citi Plaza with dozens of environmental nonprofits engaging with Londoners (and lots of music!).

Speaking of music, did you know that as a UNESCO City of Music, London is now required to support the UN's Sustainable Development Goals? (One of which is climate action). Did you know that the city's commitment to build 47,000 new homes does not require them to be future-ready to meet London's climate goals? You can read about these and other local environmental issues by signing up to receive

our weekly newsletter (<http://eepurl.com/hhK8Ff>)

I invite you to visit our website ClimateActionLondon.ca to CONNECT with our campaign and subscribe to our weekly newsletter. We look forward to CONNECTING with you. †

Bulletin Board

SAVE THE DATE!
 Saturday, April 1, 7:30pm
 at Siloam United Church.
 Come and enjoy an evening with **The Voices of Broadway**, and support ELUCO. Tickets \$25 at the door or in advance, online at Eventbrite (small handling fee applies).

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

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

All donors receive a tax receipt and are recognized in the Friends of Music list on the FSA web site at <http://www.fsaunited.com/donor-page>

Donations can be made online through the FSA Donations page and choose "Friends of Music" for your gift reason. You can also donate by cheque payable to "First-St. Andrew's United Church" memo: "Friends of Music - Donation"

Answers to the FSA History Quiz (page 20)

3. (c)
 2. (a)
 1. (b)

AUSTIN & TAYLOR
 HOME FURNISHINGS INC.

1350 Fanshawe Pk. Rd. W. London, ON N6G 5B1
 ph. 519.473.5400 fx. 519.473.1305
www.austinandtaylor.com

HARRIS
 FUNERAL HOME LTD

Traditional Services ❖ Cremation Alternatives

For preplanning information visit
www.HarrisFuneralHome.ca
 or call 519-433-7253

Family-owned & operated since 1962

STREETCITY REALTY

DANIELA SANDS
 SALES REPRESENTATIVE

☎ 519.649.6900 ☎ 519.902.1065

danielasands@gmail.com
www.streetcityrealty.com

519 YORK STREET, LONDON ON N6B 1R4

Milestones

Deaths

- Pat Sole – Dec. 2, 2022
- Willis Buckingham – Dec. 10, 2022
- Madeline Rogers – Dec. 2022
- Enid Merritt – Jan. 8, 2023
- Bert Wilson – Jan. 29, 2023
- June McKay – Feb. 19, 2023

Marriages

- Jeffrey Beynon & Catherine Shuttleworth – Dec. 29, 2022
- Chris McGivern & Katie Hunter – Jan. 21, 2023



*Judith Walker
& The Archives Committee*

Time to test your memory:

Generations of singers and musicians have expressed their faith and their joy through music for almost 200 years. The concept did experience a rather rocky start.

1. The choir of St. Andrew's Presbyterian requested that Session purchase an organ. The request was denied. The choir then:

- (a) Appealed to Presbytery
- (b) Went on strike
- (c) Joined the choir of First Presbyterian Church

2. The organ was finally installed in 1888 at which point the Minister, Rev. John Scott:

- (a) Quit
- (b) Organized a joint choir session with First Presbyterian
- (c) Enlarged the choir

3. Meanwhile, in 1857, a small melodeon was installed at First Presbyterian Church causing much offence at Presbytery. Two men were sent to the church to:

- (a) Assess the importance of the melodeon to the service
- (b) Learn the amount paid for the instrument
- (c) Remove it

Oakcrossing Retirement Living
a peopleCare community



BOOK YOUR TOUR NOW!

Get ready for something new in retirement living! Offering a large variety of spacious studios, one bedrooms and two bedroom suites. Enjoy beautiful decorated common areas, indulge in our culinary delights and experience all the best that retirement living can offer, rolled up in one fulfilling new lifestyle.

Don't miss out! Call Andrea today!



(You can find the answers on page 19)

➤ www.Oakcrossing.ca ➤ 519-641-3131 ➤ Info@Oakcrossing.ca