

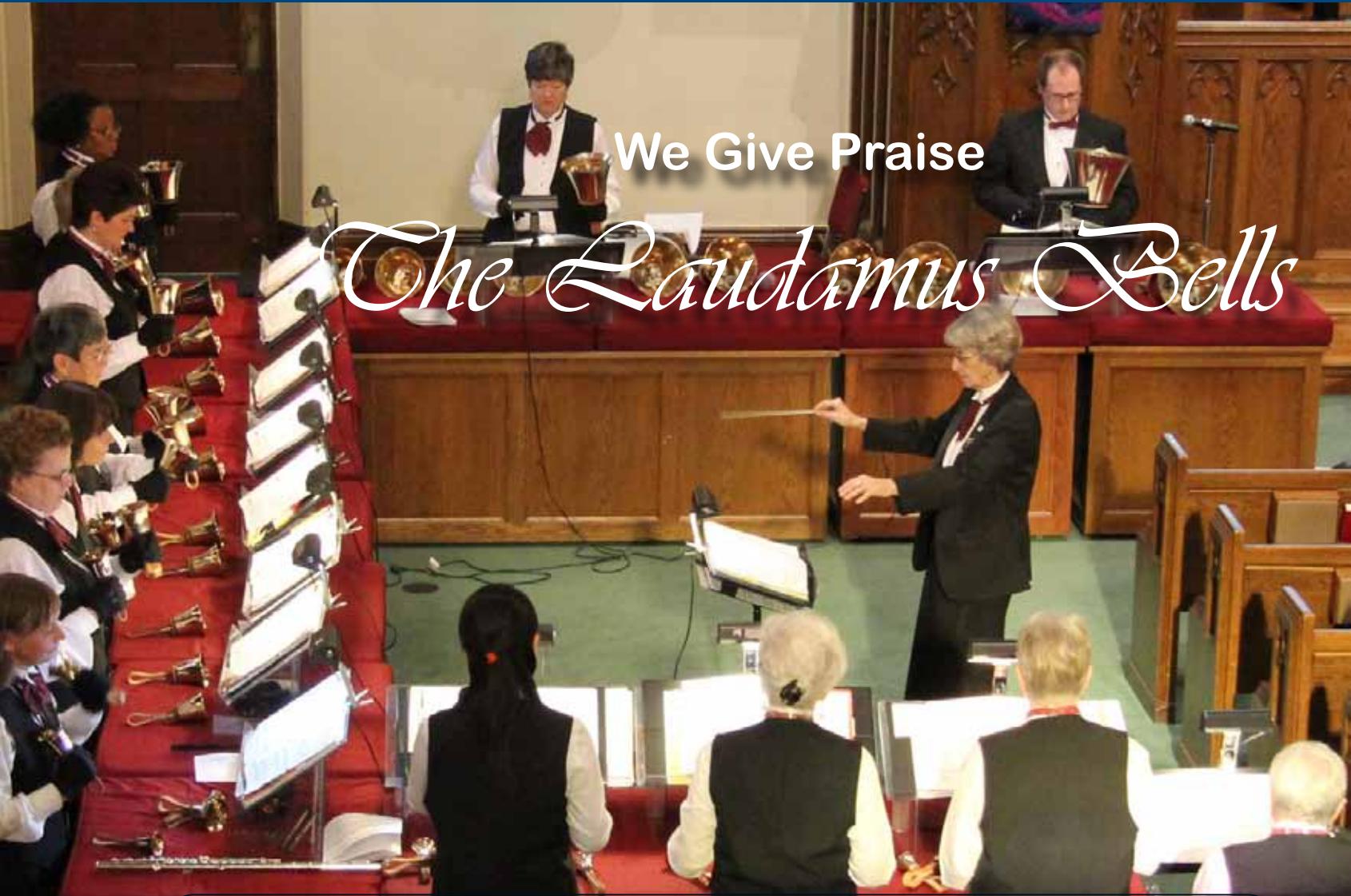
Tidings



Vol. 22 - No. 1
Lent/Easter 2012

We Give Praise

The Laudamus Bells



INSIDE

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

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www.fsaunited.com

Printer:

Sterling Marking Products

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

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

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



MANAGING EDITOR'S MESSAGE

David Flynn

This is the first issue entirely organized by Pat McGregor, with the great help of Jim Silcox and his artistic layout ability. My wife Pat and I were in Guyana on our annual birding tour and arrived back late Saturday before the *Tidings* planning meeting the next day. Pat had prepared what we call the "Tidings Content Planner," and members of the *Tidings* Team modified this and either suggested writers or volunteered as authors.

This issue reflects both the penitent season of Lent and Holy Week and the celebration of Easter and its promise of new life. Although I am writing this before the Annual General Meeting and before reading the reports of the Trustees and the Chair of Council, I am sure that as we look back to the past year—the deaths of long-time members, our worries over the budget—we will also plan confidently for the future of this great congregation. Jo Ann Silcox's Worship report is a wonderfully encouraging look at the ways we are widening our vision both within our walls and with other congregations.

In this issue, we remember Al MacIntosh, get to know Shelly Pinkard and profile the Wakes, as well as being introduced to Bronwyn Tufts of the next generation. Out of the more than 65 ongoing programmes we have singled out for this issue what happens behind the scenes in our two Bible studies. Any suggestions for future Behind the Scene articles?

Bob Swartman describes his and Laura's trip to the Maritimes last June and especially the construction site of the third *Bluenose* sailing ship at Lunenburg. Tell us about your own travels or other personal vignettes for future issues—I will also be asking you directly for an article.

We are always looking for new members of the *Tidings* Team and, again, be prepared for my gentle request for your help.

pdflynn@rogers.com



One Sunday morning a cool cat came to FSA . . .

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM WORSHIP

- Sundays, March 4th, 11th, 26th and April 1st—*Jesus in Your iPod*, the continuation of our lenten sermon series

FROM CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

- Wednesdays, March 7th, April 4th—Continuing with *Introduction to the Mystics* with Kate Crawford
- Labyrinth Walk, Friday, March 30th in Proudfoot Hall
- Sunday, April 1st—The Big Breakfast, an intergenerational Palm Sunday event with proceeds to Nicaragua mission

FROM MUSIC

- Lenten Concerts** continue on Fridays, March 2nd and March 9th at noon followed by lunch prepared by Thames Culinary School for just \$5.00
- Baroque Splendour** with Paul Merritt and orchestra on Sunday, April 22nd at 2:30pm

FROM MOE

- April 16th—Grow-A-Row kick-off
- May 14th—St. Paul's Daily Bread Soup and Sandwich dinner at the London Club
- June 9th—White Squirrel Golf Tournament and Dinner at Ironwood Golf Club

FROM UCW

- April 28th—Semi-annual Rummage Sale
- May 23rd—Potluck Supper

CHANGES

DEATHS

Lucille Stanley: September 15th, 2011

Margaret Bowie: December 29th, 2011

Dorothy McPhedran: December 30th, 2011

Margaret Lankin: January 1st, 2012

Al MacIntosh: January 13th, 2012

Arlene Thompson: January 30th, 2012

Ella England: February 7th, 2012

BAPTISMS

February 12th, 2012

Andira Shirley Ann Silcox: daughter of Chris & Monique Silcox

Gabriel Rhys Silcox: son of Tim & Allison Silcox

COUNCIL REPORT



George Jolink

As you read these pages, spring is upon us. We have entered a new season in the church year and in our daily lives. Everywhere the signs of awakening are present and we are encouraged by what the future holds for us. I am reminded of a slogan we used in the past at FSA. It is time for us to "Rejoice, Renew and Reach out." We rejoice because we are so blessed to belong to a church family like First-St. Andrew's. Each year we renew our commitments to this place and we reach out to the broader community through our words and actions. Thank you all for your ongoing support of FSA and for your support of the Council.

At the Annual General Meeting we took time to reflect on our past year and to plan for the year ahead. Council continues each month to address the budget, property, Christian development, membership, marketing, outreach and other areas, in order to ensure that the life

of FSA thrives in the heart of this city. When the occasion arises we also pause to celebrate the accomplishments of those at FSA who have made significant contributions. This winter we all recognized the UCW for 50 years of service to FSA and the community. Council has also been busy addressing our staffing needs. As I write this column we are preparing to receive the JNAC report and to launch the search process based on the recommendations, pending approval at a special congregational meeting. We recognize that our staff have been working tirelessly on your behalf for some time now, and we look forward to being able to provide support with additional staff

to meet the needs of our members. Special thanks to the JNAC for its work and the recommendations presented based on your input.

As we move through the spring and enjoy all that this time has to offer, let us remember each other in our prayers and model our vision as an inclusive Christian family, encouraging spiritual growth through worship, friendship, learning and action.

NOTE FROM KATE



STATEMENTS OF FAITH

The Rev. Dr. Kate Crawford

If you have been at worship any Sunday since the beginning of January, then you have had a taste of the United Church of Canada's newest statement of faith, *Song of Faith*. It was approved for use in 2006, but is not widely known yet. It is long! We are going to be reading from it for 12 weeks, from January until March, just to get through it once!

The reason we decided to use the *Song of Faith* in this season at all is that it, like two other of our statements of faith (the 1949 statement, and the 1968 *New Creed*), is the subject of an important vote. The General Council of 2009 initiated a 'remit' which proposes adding all three statements of faith to our Doctrine. What does that mean? A 'remit' is a vote, which in this case will take place in each pastoral charge and presbytery across the country. An absolute majority must vote in favour for this to return to the General Council of 2012, where it also must pass by a majority in order to be approved.

It is this complicated because this remit concerns our Basis of Union, the document which creates us as the United Church of Canada. In order to change the Basis of Union everyone must be in agreement.

All this fuss about doctrine? Don't we all know what

we believe? Well—sort of. Some do! Some don't really care—their faith is lived out more in what they do than in what they say. But it is important to have sound doctrine, a set of beliefs we all share. Currently, our shared doctrine is an old document, first written in 1908. It is full of very old language, some very old theology, and the usual exclusive language of the turn of the twentieth century. Some folks are saying "It needs to be updated."

Since we also have these three statements of faith mentioned above, the remit considers adding each of them to the doctrine section. Our Council has already voted against adding the 1949 statement of faith. In February we will conduct the vote on the 1968 *New Creed*, and in March will vote on the *Song of Faith*.

It has been an interesting process for the members of Council to read these documents, to consider them carefully together and to talk about them before conducting the vote. Some members of the congregation have also weighed in—both for and against—although only members of Council can vote.

So, next time you're in worship, pay attention to that little section of the service following the sermon. Try those words on for size, and ask yourself this: is this what I believe? For the whole text of the *Song of Faith* see the United Church of Canada's website: www.united-church.ca.



VIEW FROM THE PEW



THE EVOLUTION OF GOD

Steve Elson

I recently read a book called *Dancing with the Sacred: Evolution, Ecology, and God*. The author, Karl Peters, puts forward the proposition that we need to change our traditional concept of God and the sacred because it needs to be understood in the context of what we know scientifically about the way the world has evolved—and continues to evolve. He says that it's no longer appropriate to think of God as being personal—that is, as being a divine entity that intervenes in human life the way many think—even using personal pronouns like 'he' is out of place. Rather, we should think of the term God as a symbol of the creative force that is in and runs through all living things, human and non-human alike. God is not a 'power' like we usually use the term.

One of the reoccurring criticisms of traditional religions, including our own, is that its thinking, its

language, its concepts and its rituals have not evolved in the same way as our thinking about other spheres of our life. For example, most of the biblical texts we reference are at least 2,000 years old. And while it's true that lessons and messages transcend time, many do not, and at times it takes skilled mental gymnastics to 'make them work.' To put it another way, why not use non-biblical texts to learn?

If we are going to evolve in our thinking about God and the sacred, we need to be prepared to give up the comfortable and familiar and try on new things. The words we use, the hymns we sing, the concepts we espouse, the rituals we use all deliver important messages about our understanding of the world and how we relate to the sacred and divine.

If the words no longer work, if the hymns say things that no longer reflect the evolution of our thinking and beliefs, if the rituals no longer say what we believe, then maybe it's time to consider changing them.

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



REMEMBERING



AL MACINTOSH

The Rev. Tony Gazzard

When John Eberhard called to tell me of the death of Al MacIntosh my immediate response was one of sadness and loss. Then, as I recalled who and what Al was, I felt a profound sense of gratitude.

In the African film entitled *I'll Sing Not Cry* there is the story of Pastor Ngonga, whose beloved wife had just died. Great numbers of people came to the funeral. They sat on the ground wailing, Christians and non-Christians alike, blending their voices in a song of despair. Pastor Ngonga loved his wife but that day he stood beside her coffin and cried in a commanding voice, "Stop this yelling and howling, my wife was a child of God. She has gone home to her Father. Today we are not crying. We are singing!" With that he led



mourners in a triumphant song of praise, thanksgiving and victory. In the same way I respond to the death of Al MacIntosh with praise, thanksgiving and a sense of victory. Al was a committed Christian gentleman, a wonderful loving husband and a truly supportive father and grandfather. He served his country with distinction at home and abroad, and he shared his Christian faith through his loyalty, love and generous service at First-St. Andrew's United Church.

We remained friends long after I left FSA in 1988 and I was grateful to enjoy the overnight hospitality of Grace and Al on more than one occasion. If he had faults I never knew them. He was everything I thought a Christian gentleman should be.

I extend my deepest sympathy to his family, and pray that his spirit will continue to be present in both his family and FSA, and indeed through all of us who were his friends. 

THE NEXT GENERATION



BRONWYN TUFTS

Nancy Howard

While there is a possibility you have yet to place a name to her face, there's no doubt you will recognize Bronwyn Tufts. Ever since her family came to FSA many years ago, she's taken an active role. You might have met her greeting or serving at Coffee and Conversation; perhaps watched her lighting the Christ candle or gathered with the children; probably heard her singing with the Joyful Singers. Being a member of TNT means an overlap in children's and youth activities as well. Bronwyn had a lead role in the Christmas Eve pageant and participated in the Advent youth service. A gentle spirit, Bronwyn enjoys babysitting and often helps at Big Circle time.

Bronwyn is in grade 7 at Northview Public School, and likes to stay involved. She gives voice to the Social Justice Committee and Student Council. As well, Bronwyn represents her school competing with cross country, soccer, basketball and volleyball teams.



Her favourite subjects are the arts, especially drama, dance and music. She plays trumpet in the school band. Bronwyn enjoys hanging with her friends and laughs at how they have mapped out their entire lives, knowing full well that is not how it might pan out. She'd like to follow in the footsteps of her aunt and teach the arts when she grows up.

Bronwyn's extracurricular activities include playing ringette, soccer and swimming. She expresses her creativity and love of the arts by drawing, scrapbooking and through piano lessons. Outdoors she loves to go camping, roasting marshmallows and playing Man Hunt. There hasn't been much snow this winter but Bronwyn has fond memories of building snow forts with her sisters and brother. The oldest of four children, Bronwyn appreciates the extra privileges and responsibilities that allows, but is not at all impressed when one of her siblings tattles. She loves to go shopping with her mom, and one of her favourite things is family night when everyone sits around the couch to watch a movie. "Nemo seems to be a hit!!" Can't wait to see what God has in store for this amazing young lady. 

PROFILE



WINNIE AND DAVID WAKE

Ellen McKim

If there is anything the world needs to have more of, it is people like the Wakes. It was so refreshing to meet true environmentalists, custodians of nature, preservers of wildlife, dedicated to making and keeping our city a better place in which to live.

In 1979, David, attracted by the music at FSA, became a member of the choir and the church. Winnie, a teacher from PEI, met David when they were both board members of the Canadian Nature Federation, marrying in 1984.

Recently retired from the Ministry of Transportation, David continues his lifelong focus on the preservation of Westminster Ponds, a unique wildlife area within the city. Although the extension of Adelaide Street is no longer a threat, there are always other issues to address.

David and Winnie also direct much time and energy towards preserving other natural areas in the city.

Within the church, David still sings in the choir, serves as a lay liturgist and takes photographs for *Tidings*.



Recently, he chaired the committee that brought Bishop Spong to FSA, drawing a large attendance to morning service, as well as the afternoon lecture.

David and Winnie are active members of Nature London (McIlwraith Field Naturalists), serving as its archivists. The club, which dates back to 1864, is one of London's oldest organizations. As volunteers they lead field trips, helping others experience nature first-hand. They also assist with the *Cardinal*, Nature London's quarterly, which has a large following.

Winnie founded Nature in the City, a series of six illustrated talks held each January and February at the Central Library. Drawing around 200 people, these popular educational talks welcome all, including families with children age ten and up.

Winnie's pet project is monitoring Chimney Swifts, threatened birds that nest in chimneys throughout the city in the warmer months. Before flying south as the weather cools, they gather in large masses to roost in chimneys overnight.

Winnie and David make a formidable team. We are proud to have them as members of FSA and of their contribution to the environment and quality of life for everyone.



BEHIND THE SCENE

BIBLE STUDIES

Jan Hendry Jim Hendry

We at FSA are very fortunate to be able to participate in two stimulating studies of the lectionary readings under such excellent leadership.

that don't seem to belong in the Bible but certainly don't always resolve them. We break for refreshments part-way through and enjoy the warmth and friendship of the members of the group. Some participants have been coming to this Bible Study for many, many years and others are fairly new to the group. Anyone wishing to deepen their faith is welcome. No knowledge or experience is needed.

The Sunday morning Bible Study, meeting at 9:00am in the Sun Room, is an excellent way to stimulate your mind and heart in preparation for Sunday's worship service. The study is led by Jo Ann Silcox, whose knowledge and background in biblical studies keeps us well-informed of the historical meaning and current understanding of the passages. Join us for coffee and a relaxed, sometimes hilarious, informative study of the current passages for the worship service.



THE BUILDING



THE BUILDING: TRANSFORMATION

Jim Hutchinson

The year 1938 brought the greatest changes to our building ever. Linking the two buildings created a parlour on the main floor with church office, minister's study and board room above. The previous parlour was used to create a studio for the new music director, and dramatic changes to the sanctuary gave a whole new look to the worship area. Removal of the side galleries opened the windows to view. Removal of the central pulpit and choir loft, along with the change from curved pews to straight ones and a new centre aisle leading to a chancel, changed the whole vista. The new chancel window gave spectacular colour to the focus of worship.

When the congregation walked from First United during a November Sunday service along Queens Ave. and into the refurbished St. Andrew's, they must have been amazed at the transformation!

On the right is a photo taken from the balcony showing the sanctuary as it looked prior to the renovations 



VIGNETTES



A VISIT TO BLUENOSE II

Bob Swartman

Laura and I took a short holiday in mid-June to Nova Scotia. We don't have relatives there but we always enjoy a "tear" in bluenose country. Lunenburg is at the heart of bluenose country with two ships bearing the name *Bluenose* having been constructed there, and now a third hull is under construction. *Bluenose I*, built in 1921, was a working fishing schooner that won many races on the Atlantic under Capt. Angus J. Walters. It foundered on a reef off Haiti in 1946 but has been commemorated on our dime since 1937. *Bluenose II* was built in 1963 using the original plans but was laid up and de-constructed recently. A new hull, shown in the picture, will have the masts and sails from *Bluenose II* and carry her name. The shipyard is right by the water in Lunenburg harbour adjacent to fishing boats



and a three-masted barque. The site is enclosed in a huge fabric cover and open to the public; students act as guides and are able to answer most questions concerning any of the Bluenoses.

We visited the new hull for *Bluenose II* on a Saturday, and on Sunday morning attended the Central United Church, one of six white, wooden churches clustered in the downtown area of Lunenburg. The church is just around the corner from the colourful houses shown in the



picture on the left. The congregation recognized us as "away" and gave us a very warm welcome. We met a "Mr. Greek" whose name came from an ancestor who had been recruited by

a press gang of the Royal Navy in his native Cypress. The unwilling sailor was eventually released from service and given land near Lunenburg. His last name was too difficult for the navy and the settlers to pronounce so the family is still called Greek. 

GETTING TO KNOW



SHELLY PINKARD

David Flynn

Shelley "is a Southern girl by birth," and dreads travelling in snow, so—she lives downtown, near FSA.

On her first visit to our church, Louise Slater insisted she come down for Coffee and Conversation and before she knew it, she was part of our family. She finds Kate's sermons "a gentle breeze calming and relaxing your soul," telling the stories of the Bible in a way "easy for all to understand."

Shelly came here from St. Petersburg, Florida, to work as a contracting officer with the US military, and is scheduled to return in August, 2013. In Florida she has numerous relatives, including a daughter, and 22 aunts and uncles and the same number of first cousins.

Although her stay here will be brief, she is already very involved, playing in Laudamus Bells, and active in UCW—for which she writes the reports for *Tidings*. She is also a *Tidings* representative on the Communications and Marketing Committee, using her expertise to help them prepare press releases.

For relaxation—besides practising the handbells—Shelly likes to travel. She also loves planning gatherings of, and cooking for, friends. Like many of us, she has several books on the go, from different genres: *Straight Talk* by Steve Harvey, *Sin in Soul's Kitchen* by Andrew Oye, and *Happily Ever After* by Nora Roberts.

She feeds her own soul through attending worship services—and then passing on the "spiritual bread" she receives there, through service to others.

Shelly lives by the motto: Don't worry about the past because you cannot change it; don't worry about tomorrow for it is not promised to you. Place your emphasis on today for it is a present. She also likes her mother's advice: "Spend the first six months of the year minding your own business, and the next six months staying out of everyone else's business. At the beginning of the new year repeat the process."

We are really fortunate that the snow brought Shelly to FSA and that our warm welcome kept her here. She demonstrates that even in a short time, people can make a great impact. We welcome you, Shelly.



NOTEWORTHY



Just in time for the 200th anniversary of Dickens' birth, Nancy Johnson's sister, Marion, has written an adaptation of one of his beloved novels, *Great Expectations*.

Nancy co-produced the play and it was given its world premiere on February 2nd at the

Wolf Performance Hall. Directed by Don Fleckser and produced under the auspices of the London Public Library and Woodfield Productions, the play ran through to February 10th. By all accounts it was a great tribute and a great success. Our hats are off to this ambitious, theatrical pair.



Marion Johnson



Nancy Johnson

PAST EVENTS



Children's Pageant, Christmas Eve



"A Taste of Burns," January 21st



50th Anniversary of the United Church Women, January 29th
with Joy in the Harvest Drum Choir

**WORSHIP****That all might be one . . .**

Jo Ann Silcox

The 2009 JNAC report echoed the congregation's plea that we work to replace a silo mentality with the wide open embrace of Jesus' high priestly prayer that *all might be one*.

As we progress through the liturgical seasons of Christmas, Epiphany, Lent and Easter, your Worship Committee rejoices, with you, at the multiple evidences that *both a shared vision and a shared commitment* are steadily becoming part of our corporate life at FSA.

The collective and collaborative accountable ministries of Mr. Paul Merritt, the Rev. Tom Hiscock, and the Rev. Dr. Kate Crawford increasingly model for us joyful corporate worship within our sanctuary, and an increasing commitment to shared worship initiatives with our neighbours. Good Friday celebrations at Metropolitan this year will include input from FSA, Met and Dundas Centre.

A growing contribution on the parts of lay liturgists (some now being trained to become lay preachers), lay readers, candle lighters, ushers and

greeters, and spokespersons for the various ministries within the church remind us weekly of the many hands and hearts which together comprise the whole people of God.

Our musicians, leading not only in performance but also congregational praise, lift our souls as well as our minds to new heights of thanksgiving to the Holy One in our midst, as we explore contemporary as well as traditional forms of music.

The Men's Brown Bag group—hearing our plea for 'healing' of our rapidly failing sound system, has generously initiated a fund-raising campaign to ensure that our services can be heard not only throughout the sanctuary but also for those listening on the web.

The UCW's financial generosity and the Property Committee's expertise have enabled the installation of a chancel railing to ensure access for all.

And perhaps best of all—all of God's children—infants, toddlers, junior and high schoolers and their wonderful young parents—are making their presence known in a multitude of new and life-giving ways in worship—from choirs, to youth services, to the children's focus every Sunday morning where they teach us how to pray and play and praise and even occasionally dance!!

**MUSIC**

Paul Cooper

On January 21st, 2012 we started the musical year with our tenth annual **A Taste Of Burns** dinner. A very special thank-you to Enid Merritt and her committee for all the work that makes this possible.

Sunday, February 6th **Baroque Fest (2)** was a very successful afternoon of more Baroque gems—carrying on the theme from our fall programme—with soloists, organ and instrumentalists. Featured was Bach's *Cantata 106*.

On Friday, February 24th, Paul Merritt's former student **Aaron James** gave an organ recital at 7:30pm in the sanctuary. Aaron is a wonderfully accomplished organist. This past year Aaron was the winner of the 2011 Royal Canadian College of Organists' National Organ Competition.

Friday Lenten Noon Recitals (12:00-12:30)

- February 24th—Bob Kennedy and Gary McCumber, clarinets and Lynda Kennedy, piano.
- March 2nd—FSA Young Performers, accompanied

by Lynda Kennedy, piano.

- April 9th—The Bellissima Ringers handbell ensemble.

On Sunday, April 22nd at 2:30pm the senior choir of First-St. Andrew's, along with soloists, and orchestra, will present **Baroque Splendour**. This programme will include Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Handel's *Coronation Anthems*, which he wrote for the coronation of King George II and Queen Caroline in 1727 and which have been used all, or in part, at every coronation since. Tickets for the concerts are only \$10.00. This very economical price is possible because the Friends of Music fund offsets the cost of these performances so that ticket price is not a barrier to anyone wishing to attend. Use this programme as an opportunity to invite friends, family or neighbours to attend the performance and the post-performance reception with you. This may be the event that sparks their interest in our congregation and sees them joining our church family. It is also a wonderful way to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

Our 2011/2012 Eberhard vocal scholar is Jordan Baldwin—a member of the senior choir. We welcome Jordan to this role for the coming term.



CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

Allyson Watson

As always we are busy with activities from our youngest members to our oldest. Church school is working on their STARS. Children have been given a coloured five-point star on which their family can list five specific acts or behaviours to improve the lives of others, protect our environment, work for social justice and otherwise make a difference. Please check out the bulletin board in the Fireside Room to see what our families have been doing.

Some special workshops have been planned for the spring months during church school. The first was in January and focused on drumming. It was a huge success and we look forward to more fun opportunities

this spring.

The Big Circle breakfast will be back on Palm Sunday, so mark your calendars for this yummy get-together.

Our youth had a sleepover in January and managed to get a little bit of sleep before joining us in the service Sunday morning. In February, seven of our youth and three chaperones attended Worshiplude in Ottawa.

Kate is currently leading a series on the mystics. A Labyrinth Walk is scheduled for March 30th, which will be led by Mary Hamilton. We hope you will join in this restorative experience.

Lastly, we welcome Glenda Pennington to our committee and would like to thank Cynthia Simpson for all of her hard work, leadership and enthusiasm as our Chair over the last few years.



COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Jim Silcox

To fulfill a need to have a simple small pamphlet which serves to welcome newcomers to the church and inform them of the many and varied activities that are going on at First-St. Andrew's, the C&M Committee has put together four pages which we think will fill the bill. If you haven't noticed it already in

your pew holders, *Here and Now* will soon catch your eye. We want it to be handy for anyone who would like to take a copy home and to pass on to others with an interest in making us their church home.

We continue to work on the development of a "grand plan" for bulletin boards for the church, and are negotiating with the Property Committee to work out how that can be accomplished. Once they are in place, we hope to have a bulletin board policy that will ensure that all notices are current and that they don't end up on the wrong boards.



FINANCE

Harold Jackson

Retirements have presented unique planning challenges for First-St. Andrew's United Church (FSA) in 2011. Appropriate resourcing strategies to keep FSA on target with its mission to be "*an inclusive Christian family encouraging spiritual growth through worship, friendship, learning and action*" have been a specific focus in the near term. Specifically, a modified JNAC process has been underway to determine needs and strategies to manage Pastoral Care and Christian Development.

The balanced budget forecast approved at the Annual Congregational Meeting on February 13th, 2011 has guided our financial management this past year. Through the generosity, dedication and hard work of all, this 2011 goal has been realized. In fact, the Finance Committee approved transfer of all the Unrestricted Trust Fund income received in 2011 to the Capital Reserve

Fund. As a result, 2012 begins with a healthy reserve to respond to non-Avis Report related capital projects. A balanced budget has been approved for 2012.

We are indeed fortunate to have a well-qualified and dedicated Finance Committee at FSA to guide finance decision-making support. The members include: Michael Bancroft, Dennis Dalton, Carol Foley, Harold Jackson (Chair), Doug Jones, Debra Low (church administrator), Don Reid and Donna Travis. We wished Susan Scorgie a happy retirement after more than 10 years of dedicated service in the role of church administrator at the end of September 2011. We were indeed fortunate to recruit the expertise and experience of Debra Low to replace Sue. Our collective thanks to Sue and Debra for their support of the Finance Committee in 2011.

You are encouraged to make FSA your favourite charity in 2012, if this is not already the case. Your continued support and generosity will assure that this great congregation continues to deliver the promise of being "**At the Heart.**"



You can get monthly updates on the current projects of the **Property Committee** by going to [our website](#) then scroll to "FSA Times" and click on "Property" or go directly to www.fsaunited.com/FSAnews/Property.html



FINANCE COMMITTEE: 2012 NARRATIVE BUDGET

Harold Jackson

A narrative budget transforms a line item budget into a faith action story. Using descriptive terms, it relates stewardship expenditures in terms of our mission to be an inclusive Christian family encouraging spiritual growth through worship, friendship, learning and action.

- 1. Worship (33%):** Our congregation is led in ministry by the Rev. Dr. Kate Crawford, assisted by the Rev. Tom Hiscock and Director of Music Paul Merritt. Our spiritual home is a historic sanctuary where the liturgical seasons and events of the year are celebrated. Special services feature guest speakers, our youth or adult groups. It is this leadership and home that make our spirits soar.
- 2. Friendship (16%):** Ongoing care and support for all members and friends of our congregation is a priority. Ministers carry out critical visits, assisted by congregational volunteers who help communicate the "good news" happenings at our church to those unable to be present on a regular basis. Supper Club, Family Potluck suppers, the Brown Bag lunch, Coffee and Conversation, Moms and Tots, along



with special nights like the Taste of Burns supper bring us together in celebration of our life at First-St. Andrew's (FSA).

- 3. Learning (16%):** Sunday School, God Squad, Teens in Transition, Bible study, the Proudfoot Lecture series and special events, all help in our greater path toward ***understanding and seeking the Holy within us, among us, in Scripture and beyond.***
- 4. Action (35%):** FSA proudly supports a number of outreach programmes locally and internationally. Hospitality meals provide healthy meals for up to 200 needy London guests on Monday evenings in Proudfoot Hall. Meals on Wheels, St. Paul's Daily Bread, LIFT, ELUCO and Grow-a-Row receive our support. The United Church Women (UCW) actively supports several local chaplaincies and crisis centres. Music ministry provides many concerts that open our sanctuary to the local community. The Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada receives 18% of congregational givings, along with a significant donation from UCW. Such international projects like Los Quinchos, Amnesty Write for Rights, the Dorcas Widows of Uganda and international disaster situations receive direct support.



STEWARDSHIP

Judith Walker

It is 2012, and the 180th year of FSA's service at the corner of Waterloo and Queens; I often wonder what our founders would make of the world in which we live. What an incredible history we have and what an incredible opportunity to re-dedicate ourselves to keeping their vision *At the Heart* alive and in service for the benefit of our community.

How to transform our mission as "*An inclusive Christian family encouraging spiritual growth through worship, friendship, learning and action*" into a working document that will meet our needs now and in the future, has been our challenge.

In addition to creating a plan to raise funds, we have attempted to change the view of stewardship from a once-a-year financial pledge campaign to one where every member is engaged in understanding their personal responsibility as a steward of God's many gifts, given to us, and with accountability to one another and to our faith. Each year we acknowledge this responsibility

through our financial support to our congregational Annual Pledge Campaign.

How we manage to meet these needs will require creative, thoughtful and courageous choices if we are to ensure FSA continues as a vital member of the faith community in London, nationally and internationally. As with many churches, our numbers are declining, which in turn affects the work we value and wish to carry out. It will be up to each of us to be part of the solution moving forward.

As we move into a new year I would like to thank the 2011 committee members, David Manness, Debbie Schram and Katherine Wonfor for continuing this journey with me. We welcome Harold Jackson (officially) to the team along with Robin Procnier. We each welcome the support of George Jolink and Dr. Kate as we wrestle with the issues, the opportunities and the rewards of the work of stewardship.

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee I would like to thank each of you for the generous support that you provide to FSA each day as leaders, teachers, community volunteers, donors and as friends.



THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Proudfoot Legacy Tree Policy

John Eberhard

At the recent annual meeting the congregation passed a policy that will have long-term implications for FSA. The Proudfoot Legacy Tree recognizes 'end-of-life' gifts to First-St. Andrew's United Church provided for in the last will and testament of the testator donor.

Individuals who leave an 'end-of-life' gift to First-St. Andrew's United Church will be recognized by the addition of a leaf to the Proudfoot Legacy Tree.

There are a number of ways in which one can be recognized with a 'leaf' on the Proudfoot tree. These include legacies, bequests and other 'end-of-life' gifts such as:

- Bequests (donations through your will) in cash or in kind or legacies;
- Residual interest in estate value;
- Publically listed securities;
- Gifts of life insurance;
- Charitable remainder trusts;

- Gifts of property;
- Annuity;
- Residual value of retirement assets (RRSP or RRIF).

When a legacy, a bequest or other gift provided for in the last will and testament of the donor is received by First-St. Andrew's United Church, the Memorials Committee of the Board of Trustees shall make a recommendation to church Council, through the Board of Trustees, for suitable recognition. A leaf appropriately inscribed will be added to the Proudfoot Legacy Tree recognizing the legacy or bequest or other testamentary gift. A notation is concurrently made in the Memorials Book to recognize this gift.

This policy arises out of the Memorials Committee of the Board of Trustees. It is part of a broader initiative dealing with long-term giving fostered by the Stewardship Committee. This policy is part of the 'long-term' giving strategy developed by church leadership to ensure that each member of the congregation has the opportunity to provide for a sustainable congregation for generations to come. All are encouraged to consider FSA in their last wills and testaments.



MISSION, OUTREACH AND ENVIRONMENT

Barb Dalrymple

Observer

April is the month to purchase or renew your United Church *Observer* subscription.

GROW-A-ROW—Canadian Food Grains Bank

Great news! FSA begins its seventeenth year with our partners, St. Mary's United Church. Our combined donations, including the crop, totalled \$16,225.00 in 2011. CIDA's matching grant of 4:1 brought the grand total to \$81,125.00. Since 1995, with the 4:1 ratio from CIDA, our two churches have provided over \$1,000,000 in aid. We are indebted to Tom and John McLarty for their donation of land for the crop. The CFGB, together with the support of CIDA, was able to provide food, nutrition and development assistance of over \$238 million to over two million people in 35 countries in 2011. Beginning on April 16th, we start working on our second million dollars.

St. Paul's Daily Bread

With the ever-increasing unemployment and food and shelter costs, our client base is also increasing, and the

need is greater for those gifts you drop off in the white baskets and shopping cart. Please join MOE members and attend the St. Paul's Daily Bread annual Soup and Sandwich fund-raiser again this year at the London Club on Monday, May 14th. Mark your calendars and watch the bulletin for further information.

White Squirrel Golf Tournament

MOE's annual fund-raising and fun golf tournament and dinner at Ironwood in Exeter will be held this year on Saturday, June 9th. As always, we are looking for hole sponsors (\$150), silent auction items, many golfers and volunteers. If you can help, contact Diane Knoppert or Jean Knowles. Watch the bulletin for further information.

East London United Church Outreach

Congratulations to Nancy Howard as she has increased her work in the Marconi area to full-time. Thank you to FSA members for donating your time, talents and fund-raising efforts.

Mission/Volunteer Trip

This trip is being led by the social enterprise "COMPANEROS" for those interested in travelling to Managua, Nicaragua. If you are interested in experiencing life in a developing country, contact Janice Elliott.





UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

About God's Business

Shelly Pinkard

If you have not taken the time to check in on these hard-working women in the church, then you are being left behind in their dust! These women of business conducted their first annual meeting of 2012 where they established a business plan, budgeted for the year and rolled out a calendar of events, all while smiling and fellowshipping with one another. I looked around and observed that though many of these women have retired from careers, they are still hard at work in God's house. They go about this business humbly, smiling and bringing smiles to others; sometimes through long hours and a lot of hands-on activity.

If you thought that they only handle fund-raisers and made charitable donations, your socks had to be blown away at the UCW church service. This service demonstrated not only the versatility of this group, but their willingness to step out of the box and diversify

worship service. They embraced that there are several ways to give praise and worship. However, they did not stop there but brought a difference through the doors of First-St. Andrew's. They had us toe tapping and moving in the spirit in a different way, and it was good.

Now some of you I am sure are not convinced that these Sisters of Soul can keep up this momentum for the rest of the year. Hold on to your seats, because these women have also participated in the annual Presbytery meeting held at Richards Memorial United Church, the World Day of Prayer at St. Paul's Anglican Church, and hosted a programme featuring Bonnie Bohen. All of this and it is only the first quarter of 2012.

It is not too late for you to come out and join these women in praise, worship and work. In the coming quarter they will host the biannual Rummage Sale (April 28th), a potluck supper (May 23rd), and Camp Kee-Mo-Kee Day (June 18th), just to mention a few of their scheduled events. Let us not forget the infamous annual Holly Bazaar scheduled for November 24th. ☺



SAFE FOOD HANDLING COURSE

Donna Travis



Jane Westmorland

During the fall, some members of the Hospitality Meal, Funeral Committee and Music Committee attended the Safe Food Handling course. As of October 2011, whenever food is offered we need to have one person supervising who has taken the Safe Food Handling course.

We made the observation that we are doing fairly well in most things, but there are some important changes we all need to make:

- Prior to preparing food, workers must wash their hands in the washroom outside the kitchen; wear gloves if they have a cut or a band-aid and wear a full apron.
- Food must be reheated to 165 degrees F. Thermometers are beside the stove.
- Food can stand at room temperature for no longer than two hours.
- Food preparation surfaces must be cleaned with a chlorine solution.
- Dishes must be washed, rinsed in water and then rinsed in a chlorine solution. They must then be left to air dry. **No tea towels should be used.** ☺

SUPPER CLUB SERVINGS

June McKay



The winter/spring season has been another memorable one for our group. Consider this your invitation to join us for any of our events. Invite a friend to join you and come along. We meet at 6:00pm for a superb potluck supper, followed by a timely and interesting programme.

On April 24th our guest will be **Eric Coates**, the artistic director of the Blyth Festival. Since 1995 Eric has worked in a variety of disciplines, including acting and directing, with four seasons at the Stratford Festival.

On May 29th we will wind up our season with guest **Libby Dalyrymple**. She will talk about her work volunteering with Friends of Honduran Children.

We extend special thanks to Marion Wilson and Eva Bettger, who have graciously acted as leaders for our sing-songs while Paul Merritt gives his broken wrist a chance to heal. Get well soon, Paul.

Questions and suggestions? June McKay 519-471-5668. ☺

Do You Know?

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WINDOWS ON FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S



Pancake Supper, February 21st



The Great Cookie Caper of January 15th



The God Squad on Youth Sunday, December 11th

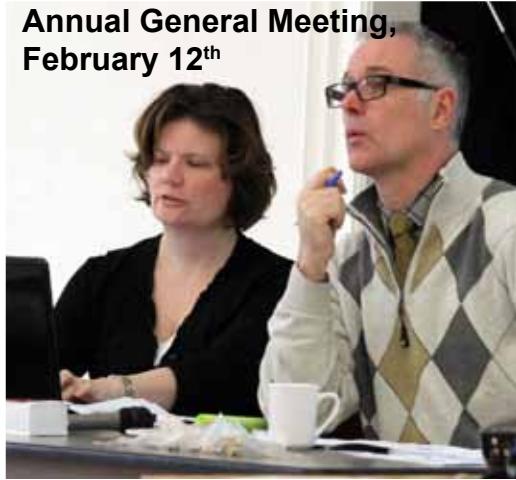


Filling in for Paul ...

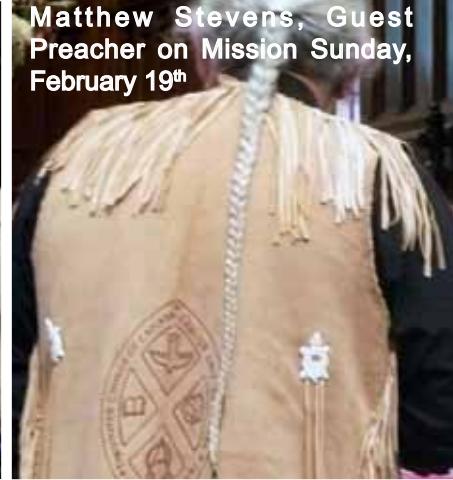
Lynda Kennedy



Nancy Jackson



Annual General Meeting,
February 12th



Matthew Stevens, Guest
Preacher on Mission Sunday,
February 19th



Guest Soloists, January 22nd
John Tessier & Sherry Steele

FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S MINISTRY

Minister of Worship and Administration

The Rev. Dr. Kate Crawford

Supply Minister

The Rev. Tom Hiscock

Director of Music

Paul Merritt



Church Administrator

Debra Low

Administrative Assistant/Receptionist

Maureen Scarborough

Custodians

Geoff Bottomley, Valerie DeJong

