

First-St Andrew's
UNITED CHURCH

Where liberal theology meets the best of tradition



Tidings

Vol 24, No 1 – Lent/Easter 2014

THE RESURRECTION STORY RETOLD

(PAGE 4)

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Tom Hiscock

Some Thoughts on Pastoral Care

A number of years ago I was called to a congregation whose minister had died of cancer while serving the pastoral charge. As with many cancer deaths, his was a rollercoaster of good and bad days, but he was able to work almost to the end of his life. Obviously some of the work of ministry was not done during his illness. He and his wife were able to cover Sunday services but pastoral care was often not done. Needless to say, when I arrived the congregation needed someone to take care of them after years of taking care of their minister and his family. It took almost three years to remove the backlog of need generated by the minister's illness.

Pastoral care is hard to define. When it is not delivered no one notices at first. People can get by on their own for a long time. Often people feel uncomfortable asking for care, so the provider has to know where the need is likely to occur and offer care in a non-threatening manner. Occasionally pastoral care is refused the first few times it is offered. People have to be ready to receive help before the help can be delivered.

Grief of all kinds often is the topic of pastoral care. Every time something shifts in our lives we need to mourn the passing of the old before we are ready to embrace the new. Anticipatory grief is as strong as any other of its forms, whether it is worry that life could change from the death of a loved one, or perhaps a move to a new location.

Thank goodness pastoral care is not all grief work. It can also be the celebration of wonderful moments in life. Weddings, baptisms, birthdays and renewal of vows are excellent examples of moments that need marking for mental and spiritual health.

Help your ministers at FSA by letting us know what you need and how we can be most helpful in caring for you. **S**



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Our Mission Statement
 First-St. Andrew's United Church is an inclusive Christian family encouraging spiritual growth through worship, friendship, learning and action.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

from UCW

- April 26th—Rummage Sale

from Music

- March 7th, 21st, 28th—Friday Lenten Noon Recitals catered by the Thames Culinary School
- March 30th—*The Beauty of Peace*, The FSA Choir with orchestra
- April 27th—Joyful Singers' Musical Presentation
- May 29th—*Never on Sunday*, The FSA Choir

from Council

- May 23rd—FSA hosts London Conference Ordination Ceremony

from Worship

- April 18th—FSA hosts the Good Friday Service with Metropolitan and Dundas Street Centre United Churches

from MOE

- June 14th—White Squirrel Golf Tournament

from the Brown Bag Lunch Group

- March 4th—Pancake Supper

CHANGES

Deaths

- November 27th, 2013—Ruth Hill
- December 18th—Alan McDonald
- December 31st—Ruth Coghill
- January 1st, 2014—Dorothy Vipond
- January 24th—Marion Kestle
- February 13th—Ross Strickland

Baptisms

- December 22nd, 2013—Myles Thomas Cooper-Cox, son of Alicia Cooper-Cox and Conor Cox
- December 22nd—Briana Rochelle Asseltine, daughter of Laura and Ian Asseltine
- January 12th, 2014—Thomas Andrew Logan Appleton, son of Sonja (Gustafson) and Tom Appleton
- January 12th—William Jagger Pow, son of Laura and Stuart Pow
- January 12th—Mahendra Agurwal

COUNCIL REPORT



Jo Ann Silcox

As the Easter edition of *Tidings* goes to print we will have moved at warp speed into five Liturgical seasons in as many months—from Advent to Christmas to Epiphany to Lent to Easter. Three of those seasons have schooled us in the discipline of faithful watching through times of anxious waiting for that new thing, which would this year be revealed in Christmas and in Easter. The waiting, in the long run, has been good for us, as it has forced us to slow down, to re-examine the old old stories, and to take the time to seriously consider how we might be agents of seeing them unfold in new ways this year.

As Council and its committees have wrestled with waiting and wondering and worrying about the future of our church, we have been greatly comforted by the knowledge that all of you are there with us—reflectively and actively preparing the way for those new things

which are yet to be fully revealed, in order to ensure that First-St. Andrew's lives out the Gospel mandate to reflect the one who is the Way, the Truth, the Life and the Light in all that we do.

This has been a wonderful time of intense congregational feedback ensuring that the whole people of God, all of those called to servant priesthood in Christ's church, move out of self into service, out of church into community, out of the known into the astounding realm of the brand-new things God promised through the prophet Isaiah, in store for God's people.

"This has been a wonderful time of intense congregational feedback . . ."

As we embrace the wonder of Resurrection this Easter, Council does so with the confidence that in Christ and with ALL of the saints—we are ready, willing and able to step forth in faith into new life together.

As we as one allow ourselves to step out into the unknown, we do so as those prepared to leave behind the seven last words of a former church era—we've never done it that way before!

NOTES FROM KATE



It is astonishing to see how creatively our congregation is striving to Deepen the Welcome at FSA:

- We have recently started an experiment with a group who teach yoga teachers how to excel in their practice. We will be sharing our space occasionally with them, and benefitting from the positive energy they will be creating in our building.
- We have been encouraged by some of our members to be openly affirming not only of gay and lesbian Christians who come to find safety in our community, but of many other groups of marginalized persons

as well.

- We are seeing some of our guests from our hospitality meals coming to worship, accepting the invitation not only to eat with us, but to worship with us, and to enrich our community by making us more diverse economically.

Deepening the Welcome might mean digging down inside our own vulnerabilities and aversions in order to become more expansive and hospitable. I think we welcome best when we can say, “We are not perfect! Come be with us!”

I hope you find your own way to go deep this year. S



VIEW FROM THE PEW



THE RESURRECTION STORY

Steve Elson

On an annual basis as part of the church calendar we are asked to re-experience the resurrection story. In its most basic form it's a classic tale involving fellowship and sharing followed by betrayal, injustice, politics, death and finally resurrection, or life after death. It's one we all know; after all, it's one of the cornerstone stories of Christianity along with the birth of Jesus story. I use the term “story” because it's unlikely, in my view, to have happened as described but to have been developed over time to serve a larger purpose. That purpose was to create, for those who believed that Jesus was qualitatively different from other prophets, features that would put him outside the human realm—namely a virgin birth and a demonstrable life after death. Who can compete with a claim like that? Exactly. And it worked.

At the same time I think there are two underlying

challenges with holding on to this version of events. The first is that from a literal point of view it's simply very difficult to buy into the idea of the story being real. It defies everything we know and experience in and about human life. The second is that it portrays God as being an entity that can enter into and direct human life in a very specific and literal way. While there is no doubt that many tales in the Bible, especially in the Old Testament, describe God this way, it's one that essentially does not work in a contemporary context.

So what keeps the resurrection story alive beyond tradition and old habits? Two things come to mind: one is that the resurrection story is a metaphor for how very difficult and challenging experiences have the power to transform and enable us to adopt new and different ways of being. The second is to know in a profound way that we are not alone; that from a spiritual perspective we are part of a greater whole that unites all things and that our ability to understand and appreciate that is a resurrecting experience.

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

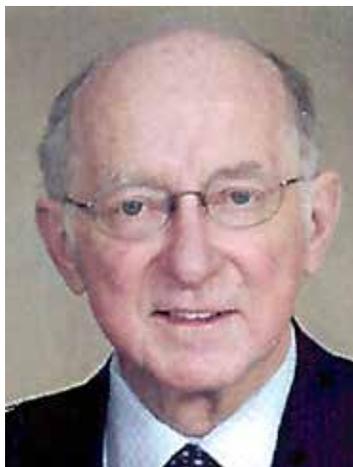
REMEMBERING



TED KOSTECKI

David McKane

Ted Kostecki (1941–2010), minister* within FSA from 2000 until 2010, was a natural networker and team player, which probably stemmed from his hockey days. Ted was married in FSA by Alex Farquhar to Shelly, now a retired teacher and choir member. Their daughter Lisa (Andrew Wylie) is a dentist in Vancouver. Ted grew up in Toronto, and after graduation from Waterloo University worked on air for a radio station in Kitchener before moving to CKSL in London as a reporter. Ted was the “voice” of the first Canada–Russia hockey series, in addition to covering City Hall and the courts. His natural on-air ability and people skills saw him move to CFPL television for 25 years as an on-air presenter, editor and producer. In 1999 Ted suffered a life-threatening heart attack and after a year of recovery he changed career paths, becoming a designated lay minister and assuming the role of minister of communications on the team of FSA. It was a natural fit for his many gifts and talents. Ted was Chair of the Communications Committee for Middlesex Presbytery, a member of the Conference



Communications Committee and of the Executive of the national Church. In addition to our scouring London for the best burgers, Ted initiated the Christmas and Easter postcards to apartment dwellers in the downtown, as well as FSA flyers in pizza boxes to targeted areas of the city. He produced radio and television spots during Advent and Lent advertising church programmes and services. When the tower was re-clad with new copper it was Ted’s foresight and creativity that made him save the old copper cladding, out of which the maple leaves for the Proudfoot Legacy Tree in the atrium are produced. Ted also found the wood carver who created the tree. Warm, gentle and creative, Ted was a valued member of the FSA ministerial team. If you wish to look for Ted’s legacy look no further than the Proudfoot Legacy, the Proudfoot Tree, the Men’s Brown Bag, which he co-founded with the author and the *Tidings* which you are reading. §

**David explains that “There are three streams of ministry within the United Church, ordained, diaconal and designated lay. All are ministers. Historically it applied only to those ordained but it confused funeral homes and hospitals when a ‘minister’ who was not a ‘Rev.’ called, so we changed the rules.” Ed.*

NOTEWORTHY



Jim Silcox

We are proud to note that our own **Ken Wright** was named to the Mayor of London’s Honouree List for 2014.

A dentist and professor at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, he founded the school’s Dental Outreach Community Services (DOCS) programme, which is responsible for the beautiful smiles on the faces of many folk in the low-income sections of the city. Although it started as an outreach programme, involving students on a



volunteer basis, now, six years later, it has evolved into a permanent part of the fourth and final year of the dental curriculum.

The award comes with the added recognition that this is a way of life for Ken. In *Western News* it was noted that Ken (as well as his wife, Jean) have been dedicated community volunteers and fundraisers for many London organizations, including the McCormick Home, SARI and the Scatcherd School.

Well done, Ken! You can read more at http://communications.uwo.ca/westernnews/downloads/wnews-pdf/2014/WN_Jan23_Web.pdf §



TOTS AND TUNES AND TEDDIES, TOO!

Marg Trethewey

On Wednesday evenings, while the Junior Joyfuls practise with Joanne Richardson and the Joyful Singers rehearse in the sanctuary with Paul and Enid Merritt, there is another even younger group, Tots and Tunes and Teddies, Too, in the nursery classroom already becoming choristers.

T+T+T2, (age four and under), mostly younger siblings of the JJs (four to eight) and the JSs (eight and up), are singing and rhyming, moving in rhythm, performing finger plays, hammering the floor with hands and feet, stretching tall as steeples while rhythm sticks click the tick-tock of clocks, fingers climbing mallet handles like monkeys on tree trunks. We dramatize songs, poems and picture books with a menagerie of “stuffies” —birds, bunnies, beavers and, yes, teddies,



too! Singing and acting out “There Were Ten in the Bed” has tots and teddies rolling on the floor with giggles for all.

Songs and rhymes, whether drawn from traditional repertoire or newly created for T+T+T2, are chosen to develop musical competence and confidence. Amid all the play and silliness, bodies and voices are developing musical essentials of rhythm, pitch and expression. Parents and grandparents participating with the children play the important role of “Bucket Brigade,” carrying the tunes as the children learn to express beat and rhythm with hands and feet (large and fine motor skills), to match pitch, text and melodies in tune with the group.

By the time the children in T+T+T2 are old enough to wear the blue smocks of the Junior Joyfuls, they will each have their own bucketful of songs and musical abilities to carry with them as they participate in the musical life and worship of FSA. §



MEET RILEY LANGLEY!

Kelly Kabat

Riley Langley is an upcoming confirmand who was baptized here at First -St.Andrew’s. She is a vibrant, growing young woman whom we’ve witnessed blossom into a spiritual contemporary right before our eyes.

Riley is 15-years-old and is in grade 10 at Oakridge Secondary School. She is an “all Canadian” type who loves being with her friends, watching film and television, playing video games and spending time with her family at their summer cottage. She also enjoys biking and camping and credits much of her happiness to her participation and experience in FSA’s God Squad.

In February, Riley and the God Squad team travelled to Ottawa’s “Worshiplude” where they—along with about 500 other youth from all over Ontario—spent the weekend playing, sharing and worshipping God. Sleeping in the basements of various churches, they enjoyed city highlights including the Rideau Canal



and the Canadian Museum of Nature. Then they all came together for a giant worship service called “The Point” that included a band, singing, drama and skits! The report from Riley was that the energy was incredible and the experience was nothing short of “amazing.”

“There are a *lot* of young people like me who are interested in God, church and spirituality,” Riley commented.

Like many young people, Riley is uncertain about her future plans. She currently is active at FSA each month volunteering at one of the Hospitality Meals. Social injustice strikes a chord with her and she can imagine a future in a role such as a personal care worker or someone who cares for others.

“I consider myself to be an advocate against bullying,” she says. “I feel all should be treated the same.”

If there is one message that she would like to share as she moves closer to her confirmation day it is that she is “glad and proud” to be in the confirmand programme, and she is looking forward to becoming an official member of the FSA church and community. §

PROFILES



PATRICIA (PAT) TRIPP

Pat McGregor

Pat Tripp was born and grew up in Scarborough, graduating from the University of Toronto with a Master of Library Science degree, and moving here to take a position as business librarian at the Central Library. This work involved helping people find business-related information, collections development and programming, work she continued until her retirement in 2007.

Pat came to FSA in 1989; she knew a couple of people here, and appreciated the proximity to where she lived. When asked what kept her here, Pat replies that she likes the sense of community within the congregation, and particularly the emphasis on social outreach.

A skilled seamstress, Pat is a member of the Canadian Embroiderers' Guild and quilts and knits as well. She also likes to read in her free time.

An interest in wildflowers and our natural areas led her to the local naturalists' group, Nature London, and, along with our Winnie Wake and other team members, each year chairs the committee that organizes the Nature in the City six-week lecture series held in January

and February at the Central Library.

Being a member of the Communications and Marketing Committee enables Pat to utilize her marketing skills. Not one to toot her own trumpet, I went behind the scenes to wrinkle out more information about her contribution to this committee, receiving the following comments from someone obviously in the know:



“Pat is a thoughtful, humble and very capable member of the committee. She has a wide knowledge of the media and how to access them for benefit of getting the word out about various church events. When we are invited to help a church unit with a project, she is the one who works out the timelines and the appropriate ways to make it known. I have found her to be a diplomat who shows high respect for the point of view of others with whom she is dealing ... a rare gift in someone who has so much knowledge

about a system and how to make it work. Many people do not appreciate how complex it is to move the handles and levers of the media and Pat does. However, she never loses patience.”

I consider myself fortunate to have Pat as a friend, and we are fortunate at FSA to have her in our midst. §

TRAVEL



ALASKA—ONE DAY OR ONE ADVENTURE AT A TIME

Bob and Heather Vosper



Last August we were fortunate enough to cruise the Inside Passage from Vancouver, and partake of some of the beautiful scenery from the warm and comfortable environs of a cruise ship. Cruising was a new experience and the ship provided us with an adventure each day, gourmet meals and nightly entertainment. We were treated to several concerts by contemporary violinist Doug Cameron, and a New Zealand entertainer who played the harmonica, resembling in looks and actions our very own David McKane.

Two of the highlights were whale watching and a close-up view of the Hubbard Glacier. This east Alaskan glacier, nicknamed the “Gallop Glacier,” is rapidly advancing into a pristine area known as Disenchantment Bay. It’s a mammoth structure of ice—North America’s largest tidewater glacier, 76 miles long, 7 miles wide,

and 600 ft. tall at its terminal face; a history lesson to be sure. The ice you see at the face is approximately 450 years old and is over 2000 feet thick at some locations. We saw the glacier “calving” as it expelled icebergs, some the size of buildings, into the sea—quite a splash!

An afternoon of whale watching outside of Juneau gave us an opportunity to see both killer and humpback whales in their natural habitat. Under a sun-filled sky, these giant mammals performed for us with such grace and beauty, all against the backdrop of crystal clear waters and snowcapped mountains. On the way back, sea lions lazed on an ice flow, seeming to not have a care in the world.

Alaska is a land of exceptional beauty. Our visit only scratched the surface of the incredible wealth of experiences that await one on such a trip. As an octogenarian, travelling with his daughter, I felt blessed to be able to cover the distance and partake of such awe-inspiring sights.

Reflecting on the days at sea makes one once again marvel at God’s wondrous creation, and give thanks for the gifts of eyes to see, ears to hear and taste buds to savour. §

VIGNETTE



WHAT'S A MYSTIC?

David McKane

Theologian Karl Rahner (20th c.) writes that “the Christian of the future will either be a mystic, one who has experienced something, or he (she) will cease to be anything at all.” Drop that word “mystic” into a conversation around the water cooler or even at coffee hour after church and you will experience a wide range of reactions. At a Brown Bag lunch I recently shared one such mystical experience in my life that created a conversation about such experiences in the lives of others. Contrary to what many think, such spiritual encounters are not always like those experienced by Francis of Assisi or Teresa of Avila.

Have you ever felt everything in your life is a gift? Have you ever been so moved by a piece of music or a dramatic performance that your heart shifts within you, or been stopped in your tracks by a flight of geese overhead or a cardinal at the bird feeder, or (you name it) and felt tears of



gratitude well up within? Have you ever inexplicably forgiven someone who has deeply wounded you? If your answer to one or all of the above is yes, then welcome to the fellowship of “everyday mystics.”

Bernard McGinn, who is a contemporary mystic and theologian, defines mysticism as “that element of Christian belief that concerns the consciousness of the transformative presence of God.” As Athanasius of Alexandria put it in the 4th century, “the Divine became human so that humans might become divine.” Evelyn Underhill (20th c.) notes five stages on the mystical path by which the self is liberated from the control of the ego for some new purpose in the world: 1. Awareness of one’s imperfections; 2. Awareness of the Holy Spirit in one’s life; 3. Contemplation on this reality; 4. Confusion and doubt often called the “dark night of the soul,” and 5. A sense of union with (or presence of) God.

Thus poet and mystic G.M. Hopkins writes, “The world is charged with the grandeur of God ... and the Holy Spirit over the bent world broods with warm breast and with—ah! bright wings.” §

ON THE WILD SIDE



ANOTHER KINGLET TALE

Pat McGregor

Last issue we heard about a Ruby-crowned Kinglet that met a tragic end. Here is one with a happier outcome.

One day last fall we heard that sickening thud which can only mean one thing—a bird had flown into a window. We investigated and discovered a little Golden-crowned Kinglet flat on its back, wings outstretched, lying on the steps outside a patio window. We were relieved to see it was breathing, appearing unconscious from the



effects of the collision. Having consulted Winnie Wake on a previous occasion about the best way to help birds who have injured themselves in this way, and being told that keeping them warm was a priority, Gavin gently gathered it up, brought it into the house and sat

holding it in his hand to preserve its body heat.

After a while this beautiful little bird opened its eyes and started to show signs of life. It was taken back outside, placed on the step, and shortly thereafter took off into a nearby tree, seemingly none the worse for wear, other than maybe a bird headache if there is such a thing! §

BEHIND THE SCENE



WHAT IS AN M&S ENTHUSIAST? THAT IS I.

Barb Dalrymple

How did I become one?

I don't really remember. I must have volunteered! I didn't apply for the job, nor was I nominated. Prior to 2001 FSA had a separate Mission & Service Committee of which I was member. Because it was a small committee at that time and because some of our interests, such as ELUCO, overlapped, it was decided that the M&S, Stewardship and Outreach committees combine into a new formidable committee—SMO, which has morphed again into the formidable MOE.

In the annual report that year, my name on this new committee was listed as M&S Energizer! I don't remember feeling like an Energizer Bunny, though I was energized by this new committee, all of whom let their light shine on the marginalized in London, in Canada and beyond.

What is my role?

From the United Church website, I quote, "It is the

role, privilege, and joy of the M&S Enthusiast to inform and excite our members about the M&S Fund. We also encourage pride in the United Church of Canada, its work, and the difference we can make in the world when we speak with ONE VOICE. It has been said that for Christians, giving is not an option; for United Church members, the Mission & Service Fund shouldn't be."



Is it difficult?

Not at FSA, because historically and currently our members are strong supporters of M&S. In 2013 we were #4 across Canada in givings, thanks in part to our amazing UCW who were #2. Our MOE Committee and I try to keep you informed through my contact with London Conference and the National Office as to what's happening in the world of M&S. I also appreciate the great support of Dr. Kate.

Why am I in this role?

Because I believe very strongly in the M&S Fund. My dream was for FSA people to visit an M&S-supported project. That happened with the Nicaraguan trip. §

PAST EVENTS



Amnesty Write-a-thon Lunch, Jan 26th



Aubrey Harris, speaker

COMMITTEE REPORTS



WORSHIP

Kerry Stover

The following passage was extracted from *The Confused Protestant's Guide to Lent* by Aaron M. Carter

The Basics

- The word "Lent" means springtime.
- The practice dates back to before the 4th century.
- It's a 40-day period of fasting and reflection leading up to Easter (actually 46 days but we don't count Sundays).
- It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Sunday.

Ash Wednesday

- This is the kick-off to Lent, and there is sometimes a worship service.
- During the service ashes are put on the forehead of the worshippers.
- The ashes are usually from the remains of burning the palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday services.
- In the Bible, ashes are symbolic of mourning, mortality and repentance. This sets the tone for the season. Lent is all about remembering the sacrifice of Jesus, and lining ourselves up with it in some small way.



Fasting

- The 40 days of fasting corresponds to the 40 days that Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness before he began his ministry.
- Is there a place for Lent for protestant types like me? Absolutely! Lent isn't just a Catholic thing (a lot of Protestant traditions participate), it's a Christian thing.
- The practice is rich in more than just history and symbolism. It's a truly meaningful way to prepare ourselves for the biggest celebration of the year, and to remind us of the sacrifices Jesus made for us.

How do I Fast?

It is recommended to set something aside that will consistently remind you of the sufferings of Jesus. Here are a few suggestions:

1. Cut out a modern convenience that you use regularly (walk rather than use the car, limit cell phone use, give your microwave a break, etc.);
2. Cut out sweets (tough to define that one!);
3. Stop drinking coffee, or other stimulants (tea, The Dew, Red Bull, etc.);
4. Don't eat out for 40 days (saves you cash!);
5. Consider unplugging from social media.

No matter what you do during this Lenten season, may God draw us close, and prepare us for a fresh experience of Good Friday and Easter. §



CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

Allyson Watson

The Christian Development Committee is continuing to work hard to bring you innovative programming.

Over the past year this committee has been working above and beyond in the absence of a staff person to help support all of the programmes we offer at FSA. When you see one of the CD members—(Michael Feeney, Katie Glaves, Nancy Howard, Chris Lindsay, Susan McKane, Deanne Pederson, Glenda Robinson, Monique Silcox and Jo Ann Silcox)—please be sure to thank them for all of



their effort. We would like to especially thank Deanne Pederson who is stepping off this committee to pursue other things at FSA after too many years to count.

She has continuously brought leadership and guidance to our nursery and our committee. Thank you Deanne! We will miss your gentle insight and warmth.

Chris Lindsay took four of our young people to Worshiplude in Ottawa for a fabulous weekend. The God Squad and TNT are working on their youth service for February 23rd.

We continue to need new volunteers for teaching church school and TNT. If you are interested please contact me. §



U.C.W.
Jay Snyder

January 2014 Meeting Notes:

The January meeting featured Jan Watt from Komoka UCW who spoke about her annual trip to Matagalpa, Nicaragua. She will lead a group this year on February 10th for ten days of work under the umbrella of Mission Ventures of Canada. While in Nicaragua, she will teach women of the mission and area how to prepare nutritionally healthy meals using local foods, and how to make sweets to sell on the streets to help support their families. Each woman they assist receives a cloth shopping bag containing articles to assist them in these efforts.

Lorraine MacDonald, leader of our FSA sewing group, gave Jan a great collection of buttons, and the group will make some bags for the mission team Jan is leading to Nicaragua.

Upcoming U.C.W. Events:

March 7th: World Day of Prayer service at FSA starting at 2:00 pm. This year’s theme is “Streams in the Desert,” written by the World Day of Prayer Committee in Egypt. Guest speaker for the event is Dr. Adel Mattar.

April 26th: Spring Rummage Sale

June 4th: General Meeting

November 8th: Holly Bazaar

December 3rd: Annual Meeting

§



FINANCE
Harold Jackson

Deepening the Welcome

“Trust is the glue of life. It’s the most essential ingredient in effective communication. It’s the foundational principle that holds all relationships.”

- Stephen R. Covey

In 2013, the financial support received from local church revenue sources and forecast trust fund investment revenue transfers was insufficient to meet the original plan to be operationally deficit free. During the year, certain unforeseen expense challenges were experienced. **After factoring local revenues a deficit of (\$118,181) resulted, which was reduced to (\$45,044) with trust funds assistance.** Importantly, reserves accrued from prior years were used to fund the additional expense requirements presented in 2013. Financial details can be found in the **Review Engagement Report** of our chartered accountant and auditor Gary E. Mason, contained in the 2013 Annual Report. The following table serves to present 2013 results compared to 2012.

	2013	2012
LOCAL EXPENSE		
Personnel	\$399,336	\$322,845
Operations	\$164,994	\$135,567
Outreach	\$140,144	\$110,769
Programs/Services	<u>\$42,323</u>	<u>\$43,253</u>
Total	\$746,797	\$612,434
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(\$118,181)	(\$18,450)
TRUST FUND ASSISTANCE		
Unrestricted	\$60,000	\$30,000
Restricted	<u>\$13,137</u>	<u>\$14,667</u>
Total	\$73,137	\$44,667
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) with ASSISTANCE	(\$45,044)	\$26,217

The budget forecast for 2014 has been prepared to clearly identify sources of revenue available to fund expense plans. A modest deficit of \$9,000 is being forecast. This will be funded using Operating Reserves reported at 2013 year-end as \$44,345. With the commitment and cooperation of all committees, this forecast can be managed. Importantly, the support and leadership from our paid staff will be a significant contributor to plan achievement.

You are encouraged to make FSA your favourite charity in 2014, 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.”**

§

	Actual 2013	Actual 2012
LOCAL REVENUE		
Givings	\$482,774	\$484,164
Rentals	\$57,600	\$59,710
Fundraising	\$56,726	\$23,352
Special Projects		
/Appeals	\$9,082	\$3,437
Miscellaneous	<u>\$22,434</u>	<u>\$23,321</u>
Total	\$628,616	\$593,984



MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL

Jeanette Morgan

What is the mandate of FSA's M&P Committee? The short version is that your M&P Committee acts as a sounding board for employees so that they have an opportunity to raise concerns and/or receive guidance when they feel a personal/work-related issue is not being addressed. Each committee member is assigned to a staff member to ensure a means of communication between the staff member and the committee. This includes all staff.

The committee is committed to confidentiality and, therefore, providing detailed reports on activities is not possible. What I can share is, in addition to employee issues, your M&P Committee has been very busy this year. We have:

- updated the Staff Handbook of policies (see *FSA website*). We have uploaded the handbook to the website so that documents can be shared with other churches. The policies can be downloaded and edited to suit their own needs. I am happy to report that we have been contacted by other churches commending us on our work and will use our handbook for that purpose;
- completed hiring processes for custodian, church administrator, atrium steward;

- initiated the hiring process for a youth and young family coordinator;
- conducted annual staff reviews;
- provided assistance to the new M&P Committee of Dundas Street Centre United Church.

We are continuously involved in any FSA meetings or discussions where activities may affect an employee's workload, change in work duties or hours.

M&P is also responsible for maintaining the Clark Education Fund. This year we have supported applications for:

- J. Silcox—Emmanuel College courses;
- P. Merritt—organ tour, Europe;
- K. Stover—ministry leadership courses;
- Sponsorship of the Meditation Group Retreat Day in October;
- Three FSA youth—portion of travel costs for Nicaragua project.

We strive to be forward-thinking and pro-active on issues that may affect our employees, and to ensure that they have a safe and healthful environment in which to work.

Your M&P members are: Jeanette Morgan, Bruce Moor, David Wake, Jane Hill, Jane Eberhard, Linda Badke, Kathryn Patton. §



COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Kelly Kabat

The Communications and Marketing Committee remains busy promoting various happenings at First-St. Andrew's. Committee members aim to uphold a consistent FSA brand, which is often a challenge with so much happening. Church messages can be seen, read and received in many locations including posters, letterhead, mailings, the church website and bulletin boards. Doug Gonder, committee chair sets strong standards and works closely with members to standardize information that appears in public.

The Communications and Marketing Committee can be an essential component of successful promotion. This past fall, C&M assisted in the marketing of the Holly

Bazaar held in November and organized by the UCW.

Jim Silcox designed a poster that was delivered to other city United Churches, public libraries and to UCW members for distribution. It was also posted on the FSA web site, in *Tidings* and in the weekly church bulletin. Bob Swartman ensured that the church sign on the front lawn promoted the Bazaar to the public. Social media (email and Facebook) helped to get the word out. Pat Tripp wrote media releases and contacted various electronic and print events listings which resulted in coverage by several print and online publications, and Doug Gonder played a large role in keeping the committee focused and organized.

The 2013 Holly Bazaar is said to have been "the best ever," which clearly is due to the hard work of the UCW members. However, Communications and Marketing Committee members also are proud of their role in attracting a record number of shoppers! §





MISSION OUTREACH ENVIRONMENT

Barb Dalrymple

Many thanks to those who donated to Typhoon Haiyan Emergency Response and/or bought gifts from the Gifts with Vision Catalogue. UC members across Canada donated over 1.5 million dollars for typhoon relief and purchased over \$200,000 gifts from the catalogue. The catalogue may be used for birthday, anniversary or other special gifts.

Thank you also for the \$400 donated to our Nicaraguan travellers and for writing letters for Amnesty International.

As a Lenten project, our MOE Committee is asking those who wish to consider donating new school-aged children's socks to be distributed by the Mission Store. These donations may be placed in the shopping cart near the mailboxes.



The Comfort Quilts group meets once a month to make quilts for Project Linus. Project Linus donates these quilts to "children who need a hug." They go to children who are at Children's Hospital and Ronald McDonald House, among other organizations which

are in contact with children who need extra support.

Nancy Howard, director of ELUCO, attended the "Health as a Right and a Public Good" Health and Poverty Policy Summit in Ottawa. The event was by invitation only and presented by the Dignity for All (DfA): the campaign for a poverty-free Canada, which is a national initiative calling for federal leadership and action to combat the structural causes of poverty. A variety of civil society groups, including health, anti-poverty, labour and faith-based organizations attended. There were presentations, including a review of draft federal recommendations on health as it relates to poverty, and group discussions to refine these recommendations.



2014 White Squirrel Golf Tournament

Mark your calendar now! The 8th annual White Squirrel event will be held on Saturday, June 14th at the Ironwood Golf Club in Exeter. The day will include golf, (9 or 18

holes), a putting contest, a roast beef or vegetarian dinner and a silent auction. You don't have to be a golfer to participate. Non-golfers can enjoy a nature walk instead of golf or just come for dinner. This would make a great Father's Day gift!



Monday Hospitality Meals Programme

Jeanette Morgan

The Monday programme at FSA continues to serve hundreds of clients. Numbers attending have grown significantly over the years. In 2013 our average was 146 per night.

I must say that, as Team 2 leader, my eyes have been opened to the complexities of running such an important service. I am so impressed by how many dedicated and caring volunteers we have, many of whom are not FSA or United Church members.

From week to week, we strive to provide healthy, wholesome meals. We receive bread and dessert donations weekly from Costco and Tim Horton's and we are so very grateful to those who donate additional food for the cause.

Our current teams, leaders and their respective meals are: Team 1 (Margo Christodoulou)—macaroni and cheese; Team 2 (Jeanette Morgan)—chili; Team 3 (Chris Lindsay)—baked beans; Team 4 (Cherry Bulmer)—ground beef/vegetable pasta. All teams also serve salads, breads, desserts, coffee, tea, milk and juice.



We have been blessed to have Jane and Mike Westmorland for many years as our coordinators and truly appreciate their hard work and dedication. Jane has recently stepped down as coordinator and we will miss her dearly, but we are happy to announce that Mike will continue to buy the supplies.

Our new coordinator(s) are Joanne Girvan and Katherine Wonfor. A HUGE thank you for stepping up to the plate ... no pun intended.

That's what's cooking on Monday evenings at FSA.

Should you wish to donate or volunteer, please contact Joanne Girvan.

§



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Power of a Legacy:

The Jean Brown Story

Allyson Watson

We are very blessed at FSA to have a special endowment bequeathed by Jean Brown (2006) in support of our youth and young children. The interest from this fund allows FSA to provide many extras that we may not have been able to do within the confines of the FSA CD budget over the past few years. It is not just youth who benefit from the proceeds of this money each year but the entire congregation. Here are some of the things that we thought you might not know which have been possible due to Jean Brown's generosity:

- the Fireside Room and all of the side rooms have been painted;
- a stable nursery staff is provided for our youngest members;
- the Joyfuls, Junior Joyfuls and Tots & Tunes & Teddies Too are supported;
- Sing for Your Supper is subsidized;

- youth have been supported to go to Nicaragua;
- Worshiplude, youth forum, the God Squad and TNT rooms have been furnished with comfy furniture;
- those brightly coloured furnishings and new tables and chairs for church school are all from the fund.

These are just some of the examples of how FSA has benefitted from this generous bequest. The Jean Brown Committee meets in October every year and reviews submitted requests for funds for projects or events.

This fund, thanks to the Board of Trustees, has grown from \$500,000 to \$574,000 as of December 2013. Yes, that's \$74,000 of growth and all the benefits listed above!! This bequest has helped to initiate some new policies at the church, which we all benefit from. The imminent arrival of the bequest with receipt of equity investments stimulated the Board of Trustees to write an Investment Policy (written in November 2007 and approved in January 2008) that allowed up to 30% of the asset value of the church trust funds to be invested in equities. Previously, only fixed income investments and cash were allowed to be kept in the trust funds. Endowments, like the Jean Brown Fund, are indeed a blessing for FSA. §

THE LAST WORD



BECOMING AN INTERCULTURAL CHURCH COMMUNITY

Anne Cummings

What a privilege it was to spend half a day with Adele Halliday, facilitator of a workshop at FSA on creating intercultural spaces within congregations. The workshop, attended by members from FSA, Dundas Street Centre and Wesley-Knox, was very interactive in small groups as we worked through applications and understandings of the concepts presented. For understanding the subtleties of culture, Adele used an iceberg with the top 10% representing external culture (includes objective knowledge that is explicitly learned) compared to the bottom 90% of internal culture, which includes our subjective, unconscious beliefs and attitudes. When cultures clash, it is on these deep, hidden values.

We then examined our own personal power and the power given to us by society because of such things as our education, racial identity, language, sexual orientation, socioeconomic class. All of these categories bestow more privilege on some groups and

less on others. Adele defined privilege as an invisible package of unearned assets that we can cash in every day without being aware of them. She provided very helpful explanations and handouts that listed many unconscious, everyday activities that are examples of privilege: white, heterosexual and non-transgender privilege. She further explained that equality does not mean homogeneity. What is important is the process of arriving at equal treatment and opportunity. For example, if three people of varying heights are trying to look over a fence, they do not need the same size box to stand on because the tallest person does not need as much help as the shortest person.

Becoming an intercultural church includes **welcoming**, through inclusive language; being **relational**, by incorporating different cultural perspectives; **adaptive** to change when change is needed; **justice-seeking**, by addressing racism and white privilege; **intentional** by creating spaces for courageous conversations; and **missional** by being active participants in God's mission. The positive outcome is that when we make changes to welcome one group of people, the result is that we create space for other groups to feel safe. You can find a link to the workshop contents on the church homepage <http://www.fsaunited.com> under "LGBTQ Info Board." §

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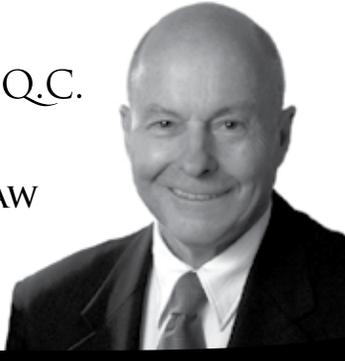

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Commissioning for Nicaragua, Jan 26th



BFF at FSA



Covenanting with the Confirmation Class, Jan 19th

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