

Tidings



FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
Where liberal theology meets the best of tradition

VOLUME 18 - NUMBER 4

Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2008

FRONT PAGE

John Dominic Crossan, in his Proudfoot Lecture, contrasted the way of Empire—peace through victory—with the way of Jesus—peace through justice. It is the old theological issue of Pax Romana—might makes right—versus Pax Christi—love makes right. Every generation and every person wrestles with this polarity.



David McKane

The easy spiritual question is the question of morality—what is right and what is wrong is generally self-evident. Thus, we can accept societal rules and live reasonably ethical lives without too much thinking. This is, however, the approach of peace through victory—victory of society over the individual.

The tougher spiritual question is how to go beyond mere morality to live as a holy people. Do we become the kind of people who, breathing in harmony with God, breathe in harmony with the Universe, breathe out goodness, the kind of people who, rather than simply living by the rules, struggle to make the world a better place? It is one thing to choose between good and evil. It is something different to distinguish between the impulses of a holy heart and the cravings of the self, the struggle to decide how much I should give up—sacrifice—in order to make life better through justice for others. Being a moral person and being a holy person are two very different ways of being.

As holy people, as people intent on living in the presence of God, we need a light to guide us, to show us the way. Long ago the early disciples recognized such a light, such a way, in Jesus. St. John, in his gospel, says that "This true light which enlightens everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world...yet the world did not know him" (Jn. 1:9,10). This light, says John, "has become flesh, has lived among us and draws us into his glory" (John 1). This light that

shines in Jesus leads us beyond our self-centredness. It is a light that draws us beyond our personal cravings. It is a light that guides us to our deepest and our highest sense of self until we too become "enlightened", until we become light.

It is not an easy path to follow. It is, like physical fitness, a daily grind. We become the matrix, the environment in which this struggle takes place. Perhaps that is why so many settle for the moral life, the good life, the way where someone else will tell us what is right and what is wrong. Advent is a time for discerning, a time for "listening to our deepest longings", as Julian of Norwich puts it, "a time to become aware of the world's great longing for justice", a time, in the words of Isaiah, "to make the desert bloom again." The easy approach, to attain peace through victory, is merely a truce. Ask any family with teens. Peace through justice, on the other hand, creates harmony in the family and in the heart.

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David Flynn

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

by David Flynn

We begin again the church year, a beginning repeated for two thousand years. What remains constant is the Story. A story has a beginning in time. It has a physical and a social context. The plot of the story moves through events, embodied by characters. Finally, a story needs a unifying

theme.

So, FSA is a Story—we also had a beginning, described by Gavin McGregor's ongoing account of William Proudfoot's establishment of the Presbyterian church in London. Our physical context is the church building but we are also embedded in the social context of London and the world, as reported in the MOE activities.

The plot of FSA as a Story happens whenever there is an event such as the Rummage Sale or Bazaar, the musical celebrations, and all the activities listed in the Program Guide. And do we have characters! From more recent members, the Ngs, to the Pattisons and Pleiters, to past stewards such as John McKim.

Finally, the theme of FSA as a Story emerges in Crossan's Proudfoot Lecture on the first Christmas and Easter, in David McKane's Front Page on living the holy

life, and in Steve Elson's View from the Pew of G_d.

A story needs to be told—and Tidings is one of the tellers of FSA as a Story. To do this better, Council has approved the use of discrete advertisements that will enable us to use some color printing. Council has asked us to develop guidelines for ads and we would like your input.

In the end, though, FSA as a Story lives in us—we embody that Story, the story of Jesus which begins anew this season. The Tidings Team wishes everyone a warm Christmas and a serene New Year.

ECLIPSING EMPIRE

The 2008 Proudfoot Lecture

John Dominic Crossan

by Susan Shelstad

A sizeable group prepared for this year's Proudfoot lecturer, the premier historical Jesus scholar, John Dominic Crossan, by viewing and discussing the DVD series, "Eclipsing Empire: Paul, Rome, and the Kingdom of God." Every Wednesday evening in October we explored Crossan's fresh insights into the authentic Paul, his message of the Kingdom of God, and its challenge to Roman imperial theology. Topics included Paul's vocation, character, mission, theology and letters. For many who agreed with Crossan's statement that many people find "Jesus appealing and Paul appalling" we experienced a new-found appreciation of the apostle Paul. The series, from the people who brought us "Living the Questions" and "Saving Jesus," was filmed in high-definition across Turkey, Greece, and Italy.



J. D. Crossan

Crossan's lecture on Monday, November 3rd, was entitled "The Last Week and the First Christmas." 330 tickets were sold to an audience of our own members as well as people from other denominations, faiths, and from as far away as Windsor. Crossan began the lecture with a slide presentation on "the matrix" that is necessary for understanding the texts of the First century biblical world. Jesus as Lord versus Caesar as Lord, Peace through Justice versus Peace through Victory, and an overview of the importance of a communal resurrection for the early church, are some of the topics which were covered in the lecture. A question and answer period followed the lecture. The Middlesex Presbytery Resource Centre was on hand to sell a selection of Crossan's books, and he graciously signed many books at the end of the evening.

Current Issue

TIDINGS

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Submissions are accepted only from members of the First-St. Andrew's Family. The Tidings Team reserves the right to select and edit submissions. Obtain information from Group and Committee Secretaries or members of the Tidings Team. The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors, not necessarily those of First-St. Andrew's Church.

Next year's Proudfoot lecturer is Amy-Jill Levine, professor of New Testament Studies at Vanderbilt University, a self-described, "Yankee Jewish feminist who teaches in a predominantly Protestant divinity school in the buckle of the Bible Belt."

COUNCIL REPORTS

by Stan Hill, Chairperson

The Council of First-St. Andrew's United Church has been hard at work during this Fall term in a number of areas.

Council has established the position of Volunteer Coordinator. This volunteer position will have the responsibility for assessing the needs of FSA and deciding what roles can be played by volunteers. This is not to take away from the many and varied roles currently played by volunteers at FSA but to support and enhance the work done by these individuals. I am pleased to announce that Donna Travis has taken on this assignment. Donna is excited about her new responsibilities—she has already recruited a new Chair for a Council Committee. Our thanks go out to Donna!

You will recall that, recently, we received a report from an architect, Alan Avis, regarding the structure of this beautiful, but aging, building we call First-St. Andrew's. Your Council is working to establish a Capital Fund-Raising Committee, chaired by Debbie Schram, which will have the daunting challenge of raising the funds to bring about the repairs to and the restoration of our church building. Keep tuned to this channel. Many thanks, Debbie!

A Needs Assessment Committee has also been struck. This Committee's task is to chart a course for FSA into the future. What would we like First-St. Andrew's to look like 10-15 years from now? In what new directions should our Church be moving? What would our staffing needs be like down the road? And so on. This is a tough assignment—but a critically important one in terms of long-range planning. We are indebted to Rocky Moretti, Chair, and the members of his Committee.

As we enter the Advent Season, may I take this opportunity to wish all members of the congregation a blessed and meaningful Christmas.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Harv Taylor for delivering a prayer shawl from the Knit Wits to Piercey McLean, our former Associate Minister, in Victoria to comfort him after Ruth's death this past spring.

MUSIC MAKES THIS CHURCH GO AROUND

by Anne Cummings

Music Awareness Sunday, October 26th, featured the FSA Strings and Paul Merritt playing an exhilarating Bédard organ concerto as the prelude, to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the installation of the Casavant organ. Seeing our five musical groups perform that day makes us thankful for all who contribute to our music program.

We are fortunate at FSA to have a musical 'Dream Team' of highly professional volunteer leaders. Terese Sirek Ng is a music teacher with the Catholic School Board and brings that expertise to her work with the fifteen Junior Joyfuls. Jean Wuensch, their accompanist, is a composer and retired UWO music professor. Laudamus Bells is directed by Barb Plante, a former music teacher who, over 35 years, has developed this group to its high level of performance.

FSA is the only church in London with a string ensemble and our excellent group exists because of the vision of Bruce Richardson, a retired music teacher (Central), cellist and bagpiper. The Kennedys, former music directors at First Baptist Church, have added much to the FSA music program, with Bob, also a retired music teacher (Montcalm), occasionally directing the FSA Strings and playing clarinet in the services. Lynda is an exceptional accompanist and often accompanies the choir, strings, and solo instruments, as well as playing Sunday services when Paul is away.

One of our most frequent instrumental soloists is flutist, Anne Cunningham, a Montessori music teacher. We are also grateful for our many other solo performers, too numerous to name. Our Dream Team is led by organist and Senior Choir Director, Paul Merritt. He and Enid, in addition to accompanying and directing the Joyful Singers, plan our excellent Concert Series, and provide the leadership and support that allows all of these groups to flourish.



Stan Hill

In Memoriam

We were saddened to hear of the death of Emily Woods on Sept. 14, in Guelph where she and Murray had retired. Emily was our Christian Education Director from 1981-85 and 1990-97, Some of us had spoken to her the previous month at Jean Comfort's 90th birthday celebration.

OUR CHURCH TOMORROW Re -Imagining Congregations

by *Bob Slater*

What do you imagine the church of tomorrow will be like? Laurel Kenney, Jackie Williams, and Louise and Bob Slater of FSA went to Five Oaks to get some ideas. According to the presentation we saw, since the formation of the United Church of Canada in 1925, we have passed through two phases and are entering a third. These phases are “the church triumphant”, “the uncomfortable pew”, and now “the time of new beginnings” when we are challenged to get rid of past baggage and focus on relationships and mission.

In Canada, 3 million people identify themselves as United Church, yet only 10% of those are found in a United Church on Sundays. What are people looking for? Help, home, hope? A commitment to compassion? Our congregation and our community are one and the same. Through the grace of Christ, we can help people in the community with their lives and destinies. How we choose to do this will create the future of our congregation.

If we can arrange for this presentation at FSA, please come to it if you can. Insights and ideas will be yours to take away and consider.

THE VIEW FROM THE PEW

The Nature of G_d

by *Steve Elson*

We use the word ‘God’ in everyday life, inside and outside of a religious context, but I’m not sure we share a common understanding of the word.

We know that the concept of God has evolved over time. Multiple gods have been replaced by a single, unifying concept of God, at least within most mainline religious traditions.

What we think of as the nature of God also has evolved. We are less inclined to think of God as an entity that controls human affairs—some version of the ‘old man in the sky’. Still, we tend to think of God in human terms with human attributes. We tend to make God in our own image rather than the other way around.

More recently, God is interpreted as entirely spiritual in nature. ‘God within us’ means we all have an inner journey to discover, in our own terms, what this means. ‘God in all things’ means that our experience of God outside ourselves is understood through experiences of the world and in the lives of others.



Steve Elson

It makes little sense to suggest that God can be ‘known’ in any ordinary sense of the word. Whatever God is can only be hinted at. The Jewish tradition expressed this by writing the word YHWH without vowels—God’s name is literally unpronounceable—to illustrate this point. So, by writing G_d, we are acknowledging and respecting the ultimate mystery of God.

As for God’s role in human affairs, that’s something we have to discover for ourselves. Personally, I find comfort in thinking that there is something beyond ordinary experience that gives us inner strength, and the capacity to grow and evolve an understanding of ourselves and the world around us.

That’s the way I see it from the pew.

LIFT UPDATE VICTORY HOUSE

by *Paul Mansell*



Paul Mansell

Great progress has been made on the LIFT housing project at 446 King Street over the past few months. The latest update: it’s bricked, the windows are installed, the appliances will arrive mid-December and the estimated completion date is late December. The building will be known as “Victory House”. It looks good! Take a drive by and

see what we’ve accomplished together. Thank you to all the generous donors who made this much-needed project a reality.

UCW REPORT

by *Mary McKim*

The Wednesday and Thursday Units have joined ranks. Twenty women enjoyed a potluck lunch at Annabel Logan’s on a beautiful day in September. Jean Gorwill and Ina Cavers, our oldest members, were present. The Pattisons hosted the October meeting with Joan Bancroft as speaker. Next meeting is Wednesday, Dec. 10th at 2:00 in the Parlour. The place, time and day for 2009 meetings of the Wednesday/Thursday Units is yet to be decided.



Mary McKim

The Tuesday evening unit welcomed David Flynn in September and his presentation on the history, sociology and theology of ancient ruins in Greece and Turkey. Dorothy Jones was the guest at the October meeting, and talked about the Canadian Suzuki Music Program.

The Rummage sale netted \$1665. Donations had to be cut off on Friday—more workers are needed to help sort donation the day before the sale.

The Holly Bazaar, held on November 15th, was the usual success. We made approximately \$ 9,000. Thanks to all who helped and contributed.

The General Meeting, November 26th, was a supper in Proudfoot Hall with Tori Adam reporting on her summer experience in Ghana—she received financial assistance from the FSA UCW. The Joyful Singers and Junior Joyfuls entertained.

There will be a UCW Church Service on January 25th. In lieu of a sermon, there will be a brief drama presentation. Several members will meet to plan the service.

The Annual Meeting will be held Feb 1 after church in the chapel.

If we have another Antique Sale in the Spring there will be no Rummage Sale.

Proposed names are being considered for Life memberships in the UCW.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Taste for Justice

by Janice Elliott and Jane Westmorland



“Taste for Justice” is a fun and inspiring way for us to support Amnesty International's work to promote and protect human rights for everyone, everywhere.

During the month of February, MOE invites FSA to participate in this event.

We are encouraging you to invite a group of friends to your home for a “Taste for Justice” Dinner. At the dinner, your guests could:

1) Sign a “Message of Hope” card to be sent to prisoners of conscience in China, in Zimbabwe or in the Sudan.

2) Write a letter, either during the evening or take it home and complete later, to help free prisoners of conscience, protect refugees, abolish the death penalty or end “disappearances” and torture.

3) Instead of spending money on your usual dinner contribution—bottle of wine, flowers or hostess gift—consider making a donation directly to support the research and campaign work of Amnesty International. You can donate by cash, check or credit card and a charitable tax receipts will be provided.

The host could serve a simple meal—using the FSA Hospitality Meal menu as a guide—and donate what

would normally have been spent on a more lavish meal to Amnesty International. As well, this meal could be a way to get to know people in the church in the more informal setting of your home.

In January, at Coffee and Conversation, Janice Elliott and Jane Westmorland will be available to answer questions, and will have host kits available for those who would like to host a Taste for Justice evening.

For more information on Amnesty International's “Write for Rights” annual event in March, look in the MOE section of the Tidings Program Guide.

PCSA Conference

by Maureen Scarborough

Sue Scorgie and I recently attended the three-day 12th annual PCSA—Professional Church Secretaries Association—conference in Owen Sound, along with Church Administrators, Administrative Assistants and Secretaries from all over Southern Ontario.

The conferences are an opportunity to “regroup, regenerate and refresh”. The networking, socializing and theme-related workshops are tools to help us in our day-to-day jobs. The support and trust builds each year as we meet. We leave feeling connected with others in our field. The daily life of a church administrator can be very busy—but also very lonely, depending upon the congregation you work for. At the conference we shared informal stories as well as learning more about administration, computers, database management, historic rolls, mailings, financial statements, physical office space, security, rentals, and how to cope with situations involving members, clergy, committees and the public. We came away feeling very fortunate to be at FSA.

In the May 2008 Observer there was an article called “How to find (and keep) a super church administrator: Running a church office demands special know-how”. Not only do administrators need to be computer savvy, they must have bookkeeping skills, the ability to do basic pastoral care and put out small fires—not the kind ignited by matches—custodial skills such as changing light bulb, unplugging toilets, salting icy entrance ways, restarting boilers, plus calendar and scheduling techniques, multi-tasking skills, patience, and . . .

This year's theme was “Peace” and featured a Peace Labyrinth workshop, a tour of Beth Ezekiel Synagogue, a bus tour of Owen Sound and a Tai Chi demonstration. We also heard two inspirational guest speakers.

Sue and I appreciated the opportunity to attend and look forward to next year's conference.

THE LEGACY OF WILLIAM PROUDFOOT

The Proudfoot Path

by *Gavin McGregor*

15-year old William Proudfoot is on his way to commence studies at Edinburgh University. Crossing Manor Bridge he glances into the river and sees a trout barely holding its own against the current. He wonders if he is like that fish in choosing the path of the Ministry. Parishes had long experienced hardships and injustices



**Old Manor 'Brig' between
Manor and Peebles**

from corrupt landowners and their patronage of the Established Church. In consequence, he has chosen to follow the breakaway Secessionist Church, which supported the separation of Church and State. This meant that Secessionist congregations maintained their own church buildings and called their own ministers. In particular, he is inspired by both the humanitarian work of the Rev. Thomas Leckie—the Secessionist minister in Peebles—as well as the powerful preaching of the Rev. Dr. John Brown in the nearby parish of Biggar.

The feel of the stone parapet against his fingers reminds him that even this old 'Brig' was built in 1702 with money diverted by its patron Lord William Douglas from the stipend for Manor Kirk—he feels sure he has made the right decision.

William continued on his way to Edinburgh and studied arts and humanity under Professor John Hill. Graduating with distinction in 1807 he was accepted into the demanding five-year theology program at Divinity Hall in Selkirk, conducted by the celebrated Secessionist educator, Professor George Lawson.

Licensed on April 6th, 1812, he became a relief preacher, travelling to over 70 parishes before getting his 'call' from Pitroddie in Perthshire and becoming ordained in August, 1813.

By battling the currents that opposed him—the long years of education, the rigorous training at Divinity Hall and the hard practical experiences at Pitroddie—he developed the spiritual muscle and grace required for his missionary work in Upper Canada, undertaken when he was in his mid-forties.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

Thelma and Derk Pleiter

by *David Flynn*

Did you know that Derk was a jazz trumpeter with various bands during the early forties, and then a Lancaster Bomber pilot? Later, he worked on secret projects with the Defence Research Board. He credits his mother's encouragement to question everything with influencing his choice of a career in physics.

Did you know Thelma started nursing during the early fifties' polio epidemic, and continued working with communicable diseases until they both retired here from Ottawa twenty years ago?

Both Thelma and Derk come from here—Thelma from near Embro; Derk from Old South. They met while Derk was a student at UWO, married and had three children—Shelley lives in Kingston, Michael in Calgary, and Phillip in Ottawa—and two grandchildren.

They were involved in Neighborhood Watch and Distress Centers in Ottawa and in London where Derk was Acting Director for a short time.

They were active in church work wherever they lived. After attending other churches here they chose FSA—they were warmly welcomed and found spiritual strength, community outreach, thought provoking worship and an outstanding music program.

In turn, they helped with the Hospitality Meal and attend the Supper Club—where Derk is a telephoner. Thelma likes the wide choice of groups—she is a former member of M&S and the Visitation Committee, attends UCW, Bible Study, and is a member of the Prayer Chain. Derk attends the Brown Bag Lunch where he explores the question, "What makes us tick?" Although he usually reads science/philosophy books, he now also reads in theology, and has detected a convergence between science and religion.

Thelma keeps busy with her large extended family—she was 9th in a family of 14. Influenced by the spiritual strength of the families they grew up in, finding their church family at FSA after many years elsewhere, the Pleiters have come home.



Thelma and Derk Pleiter

MOE REPORT

by Barb Dalrymple

We welcome Marilyn Beach and Liz Galbraith. New members are always welcome. We especially need people interested in the environment.

In October we prepared and served lunch to 27 children at the ELUCO site. The ELUCO staff thanked us for the lunch, along with our donation of 2 picnic tables and the repair of two others for their backyard.

Now is the time for the Christmas Share program, in conjunction with St. Paul's Daily Bread, whereby 220 families receive gifts and food boxes. Just choose a gift tag from the White Christmas Tree in the Sanctuary. As well, please continue to use the white baskets for your food or cash donation to St. Paul's Daily Bread. Thank you for your past support. In addition to food, \$315 was donated in October.

Four qualifying Habitat for Humanity families were handed keys to their new homes on Kipp's Lane in October. Our thanks to FSA members for helping feed the volunteers—who worked 52 days to build these homes. The goal next year is to build 6 homes.

Great news! FSA raised \$6,421 plus \$3,862 from the crop grown for Grow a Row. Our partner, St. Mary's U.C. raised \$5,000. CIDA's matching 4 to 1 program resulted in a grand total of \$71,310 for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Our crop was grown on land generously donated by Tom McLarty.

\$463 was sent from FSA to the United Church as an Overseas Relief Offering in response to its Cuban and Haitian Hurricane Relief Appeal.

MOE members delivered four loads of batteries to the Hazardous Waste Depot as part of our environmental activity. The Depot is now open Wednesday to Saturday, 10.00am-3:00pm.

As of December 1, juice and milk cartons may be added to your Blue Box.

Unwanted flower vases may be returned to your local florist. Gammage's makes a donation to Women's Community House for each vase received.



Barb Dalrymple

Remembering God's Stewards

Dr. John McKim

by David Flynn

Do you remember John McKim? He and Mary joined FSA in 1953 when John opened a pediatric practice. Their five boys progressed through SS, Junior Choir and Confirmation. Inspired by Angus McQueen, the McKims went to India in 1960 where John opened a Pediatric Department and Mary taught psychiatry.



John McKim

Back in London, John established a medical training program in India using visiting UWO instructors. Later, he started Medical Electives Overseas for final year students, supported in part by Middlesex UCWs. He ran for the provincial legislature in 1971, losing to John White the provincial treasurer, in a feisty campaign.

In 1972 he headed a Red Cross team for three months in Bangladesh following their war of independence. Later, he helped organize a children's ward in Dacca, named in memory of their second son, Ian.

He founded Childreach, a parent resource center, in 1975. Begun with volunteers, it is now a multi-service agency serving children, parents, and caregivers, used as a model by the Ontario government for similar programs elsewhere. There is a mural of John on the outside front wall of the Childreach Centre. He also helped organize a medical clinic at Children's Aid, which bears his name.

John and Mary separated in 1976 and both remarried—John and Ellen were married in the FSA chapel and John acquired four stepchildren. John and Ellen took many trips with a lawyers' group for whom John provided medical supervision. In later years they wintered in Mexico where he was involved with a children's orphanage.

John was an athlete, loved to socialize, and was a long time member of the Baconian Club, where he delivered his last amusing paper just weeks before he died in 2004 at the age of 81.

FSA was an important part of John's life. He took special interest in our Outreach programs and also served as an Elder. His generous spirit touched the lives of many people at FSA, as it did people around the world.



PROFILE

Anne and Fred Pattison

by *Ellen McKim*

Tranquil, modest, sincere, intelligent, caring, dedicated, adventurous—all describe Anne and Fred Pattison.

Anne enjoys the fellowship of the Wednesday Morning UCW group, as well as the Gone Fishing programme where she helped plan and cater dinners, a labour of love, as Anne has always been involved with young people in one capacity or another.

Although born in Scotland, Fred had the opportunity to attend Cambridge, where he earned two doctorates in chemistry, resulting in his teaching there. In 1947 Fred came to Canada where he obtained his third doctorate, this time in medicine.



Anne and Fred Pattison

In 1950, newly married, the Pattisons emigrated to Canada. Their life here has been varied and adventurous. They spent two years in the isolated Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland, where Fred was the only doctor for 6,000 souls, turning a nursing station into a hospital. Anne fondly remembers being referred to as the "doctor's woman" and was expected to know all things medical as well. They grew to know and admire Newfoundlanders.

Prior to this, Fred taught chemistry at both Dalhousie University in Halifax, and UWO where he became Head of the Department.

Later he was Director of Student Health Services at UWO, greatly admired by students and staff.

He was also Director of the Sexually Transmitted Diseases Clinic at Victoria Hospital, and voluntarily worked with young offenders at the jail, helping them to find a better way of life.

Fred is a gifted pianist, and has given two solo recitals on the CBC. Today he plays in little groups with his musical friends, enjoying these get togethers immensely.

Both Anne and Fred feel blessed, having had four children, six grandchildren and each other.

These are the kind of people that make up our congregation. We are blessed too.



Ellen McKim

GETTING TO KNOW...

Terese Sirek Ng and Wai Ng and Anna

by *Jean Wright*

Terese Sirek Ng has been our alto soloist for four years, and for many in the congregation, they know only her glorious voice. When she directs the Junior Joyfuls, however, we have a chance to see not only her but her beautiful daughter, Anna, and Wai Ng, her husband, filming the singing.



Jean Wright

Growing up in Toronto, Terese's home was filled with music, but she said she had a gravelly voice and wasn't allowed to sing in the school choirs! At fifteen, on her own initiative, she started taking singing lessons. She did degrees in music and German at U. of T. and then travelled in Europe, singing in Brussels, Paris and Amsterdam.

Meantime, Wai had emigrated at thirteen from Hong Kong with his parents and five brothers, graduated from medical school at U. of T., did his residency in neurosurgery, and his Ph. D. in neurobiology.

They met and married after a mutual friend took Wai to hear Terese sing. When his training ended in 2001, they chose London over other cities because of the combination of professional opportunities and the lifestyle of our small city.



Terese and Wai Ng

Terese started teaching music for the Catholic School Board but after Anna was born in 2003, she ran a Kindermusik program in her home and taught singing and piano. Now she is back teaching school.

Their warmth as individuals and as a family is reflected in the way they talk about the support and welcome they have received at FSA. When Anna was the candle lighter, and Terese was complimented on how well Anna had done, she characteristically responded, "That's why I love you all." And what gifts they bring to all of us.

Changes...

MARRIAGES

"Love is always supportive, loyal, helpful and trusting. Love never fails!"

SEPT. 1	ALLAN STRATTON AND DANIEL LEGAULT
SEPT. 6	KAREN CRONE AND PETER WETHEY
SEPT. 13	ELSPETH EVANS AND WILLIAM HAAS
SEPT. 13,	TARA LYN HEY AND RYAN McELROY
SEPT. 20,	ERIN WEAVER AND GREGORY SANTERRE
SEPT. 27,	KATHLEEN SCHREURS AND ANDREW CORNIES
OCT. 4,	KYLA ESTEVES AND MICHAEL MACLEOD
OCT. 10,	KATIE SHEPHARD AND KELLY BENN
OCT. 25,	MARJORIE PASHLEY AND JOHN WILKINSON

Baptisms

First-St. Andrew's United Church:

A Christian Family encouraging spiritual growth through worship, friendship, learning and action



ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEC. 24	7:00PM, FAMILY SERVICE 10:00PM COMMUNION SERVICE
2009	
JAN. 23,	A TASTE OF BURNS
FEBRUARY	"TASTE FOR JUSTICE" FOR AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
FEB. 8	ANNUAL MEETING AFTER CHURCH
FEB. 24	5:30PM PANCAKE TUESDAY SUPPER
FEB. 25	7:45PM ASH WEDNESDAY LABYRINTH
MAR. 29	SUNDAY AFTER CHURCH. ANNUAL "WRITE FOR RIGHTS"
JUN. 13	THE WHITE SQUIRREL GOLF TOURNAMENT

London Conference Alternative Gift Catalogues are available for Christmas shopping. Your gifts support Mission & Service Fund projects both locally and globally. Go to www.londonconference.ca, and click "Hope Book" on the left menu or ask Maureen Scarborough in the FSA office to print you off a hard copy.

RUN THE CHURCH FOR A DAY

Celebrate a special occasion with a \$100 donation to help pay the operation costs of our the church Call the office at 519-679-8182 for more information.

September 14, 2008

Lachlan Robert Conn son of Dana (Roberts) and Mark Conn

Rebecca Shannon Skelly daughter of Kathryn (Carter) and Jacob Skelly

September 28, 2008

Jacob Ryan Bere son of Pamela (Silcox) and James Bere

Kaiden Alexander Thomas Hillier son of Amanda (Wilson) and Stephen Hillier

Tyler Christian Koustrup son of Christine and Michael Koustrup

Emylia Belle Marie Manning daughter of Ofelia and Jeremy Manning

Deaths - "Well done good and faithful servant."

JULY 30	JACK FOWLER
SEPTEMBER 17	JIM POOK
OCTOBER 7	TED BANASIAK
OCTOBER 15	EVELYN HARRIET FULLER
OCTOBER 17	MILDRED EVELYN CASH
OCTOBER 23	ROBERT JAMES PLANTE
OCTOBER 24	JEAN ALEXANDRA GUTHRIE
OCTOBER 26	LOUISE PATRICIA McLARTY
NOVEMBER 8	EDNA BOOTH HART

WORSHIP

Dec. 7	9:00am and 10:30am Advent II Advent Communion <i>Rev. Dr. David McKane</i>	Jan. 18	9:00am and 10:30am 2nd after Epiphany <i>Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad</i>
Dec. 14	9:00am and 10:30am Advent III <i>Rev. Dr. David McKane</i>	Jan. 25	9:00am and 10:30am 3rd after Epiphany UCW Service
Dec. 21	9:00am and 10:30am Advent IV <i>Rev. Dr. David McKane</i>	Feb. 1	9:00am and 10:30am 4th after Epiphany <i>Rev. Dr. David McKane</i>
Dec. 24	7:00pm Family Service <i>Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad</i> 10:00 Communion Service <i>Rev. Dr. David McKane</i>	Feb. 8	9:00am and 10:30am 5th after Epiphany Annual Meeting <i>Rev. Dr. David McKane</i>
Dec. 28	10:30am <i>Rev. Dr. Frank Meadows</i>	Feb. 15	9:00am and 10:30am 6th after Epiphany <i>Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad</i>
2009		Feb. 22	9:00am and 10:30am Last Sunday after Epiphany (Transfiguration Sunday) <i>Rev. Dr. David McKane</i>
Jan. 4	9:00am and 10:30am Epiphany Communion <i>Rev. Dr. David McKane</i>	Feb. 24	5:30pm Pancake Tuesday Supper
Jan. 11	9:00am and 10:30am 1st after Epiphany Baptism <i>Rev. Dr. David McKane</i>	Feb. 25	7:45pm Ash Wednesday Labyrinth

MUSIC

CHORAL AND INSTRUMENTAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

THE CHOIRS To sing is the thing The Senior Choir

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

The Children's Choirs

The Junior Joyfuls (ages 3-8) led by Terese Sirek Ng and the Joyful Singers (ages 8 and up) led by Paul and Enid Merritt always welcome

members. Both choirs rehearse on Wednesdays at 6:30pm. If your child/children would like to join in the excitement, please call Terese Sirek Ng (432-2894) or the Merritts (679-9173).

THE LAUDAMUS BELLS

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

THE FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S STRINGS

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



Paul Merritt - Director of Music

THE CONCERT SERIES

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

Friday Advent Noon Recitals

12:00 - 12:30 (\$5.00)

Lunch by Thames Culinary School

Dec. 5 Bruce Richardson, Cello
 Paul Merritt, Piano
 December 12 The Laudamus Bells
 Barbara Plante, Director

A Taste of Burns (Seventh Annual)

SATURDAY JANUARY 24, 2009

SEATING at 5:30pm WITH DINNER at 6:15 pm

IMMORTAL MEMORY

David McKane as Robbie Burns
 Pipes, songs, dancer,
 entertainment by "Haggis Stew"
 Supper catered by The Grosvenor Club
 Limited seating at \$30.00 per person

Johnathan Oldegarm, Organ Recitalist

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2009 AT 7:30pm

Presented through the Royal Canadian College of Organists.

Travelling clinician program
 With large video screen projection
 Admission \$10.00

An Afternoon With Felix Mendelssohn

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2009 at 2:30pm

A concert honoring the 200th Anniversary of his birth, 1809-1847.

Sonja Gustafson, Soprano, Lynda Kennedy, Piano

Paul Merritt, Organ, Aaron James, Commentary
 Freewill Offering

2009 is the 200th anniversary of the birth of Felix Mendelssohn and the musical world will mark this with numerous concerts and recordings. Our services and concerts will feature various choral and organ works of Mendelssohn that have become well known and loved by choristers and congregations. Please check the Music at First-St. Andrew's concert brochure for other special musical events.

The Choir Recordings

Once again we are selling the choir's two CDs, Favorite Hymns and Christmas is Love, with all revenues going to the church.

Self-serve displays are in several locations in the church and the CDs will be available at the office.

We are pleased to offer something new this year in the form of Christmas cards which include disc #1 from the "Christmas is Love" double CD. For \$10.00 you will receive a packet of 3 cards that are sure to bring Christmas cheer to anyone receiving them.



Program Guide

PASTORAL CARE

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

PRAYER CHAIN

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

CARE FOR THE CAREGIVER

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

Please contact Jo Ann Silcox (642-2152) for more information.

CONGREGATIONAL VISITING TEAM

Our Congregational Visiting Team comprises members of our congregation who offer ongoing support to our shut-ins. We have a visiting team of 30 who maintain contact with these members of our congregation on a regular basis, and especially at birthdays and holiday times. If you are interested in becoming involved in this very rewarding experience, call David McKane (679-8182).

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

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

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

COUNSELLING TEAM

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

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

CARING CALLERS

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

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

RIDES FOR SENIORS

If you need a ride to and from church and/or church events, please call the church office (679-8182).

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

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

Call the church office (679-8182).

Coming This Winter...

"Jesus for the Non-Religious: A lecture by Bishop John Shelby Spong" on DVD.

"Countering Pharaoh's Production-Consumption Society Today" featuring Walter Brueggemann. Another series from "Living the Questions."

CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Cradle Roll

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

Coordinator: Martha Bere
(641-6947)

Nursery

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

Nursery Staff: Lisa Chevrette and Erin Lovenjak

Church School

Family Christmas Eve Service with children's pageant: Dec. 24th at 7pm

Teachers and helpers are always needed. If you're interested, please speak to Chris or Monique.

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

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT ADULT

Teens In Transit (TNT)

For young people in grades 7 and 8. This group meets on Sunday mornings at 10:30am upstairs in the newly decorated 'Green Room' during the regular church school year.

Leader: Nancy Howard (289-0540)

Teen Confirmation Class

In order to offer a larger group experience we have postponed this year's small class to next year.

Impact

The IMPACT youth program continues to grow as it heads into the winter season. There are two Youth Groups: grades 6-8 and grades 9-12. The winter schedule includes many exciting events such

as cross country skiing, a backyard ice hockey game, skating on the ice track at Storybook Gardens and film nights. The recent additions of a video game room and a new ping pong table have been a popular new attraction in the youth room—as well as a source of occasional conflict among members for control of the Rock Band instruments!

The formerly twice-monthly IMPACT after-high school program has been extended to every Thursday due to popular demand. It meets in the Upper Room from 2:45-5:15pm

Sunday mornings during the 10:30am service, high school age (grades 9-12) young people meet in the Upper Room for a learning program.

For more information, see the FSA Web Site: <http://www.fsaunited.com> and click on Impact at the top of the page, or contact Rocky Moretti (642-4896).

ADULT DEVELOPMENT

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Meets weekly from 9-10am in the Sun Room (across from the Nursery).

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

Thursday Morning Bible Study

10am in the Parlour.

(No sessions in December.) We begin again on Thursday, January 8.

Facilitator: Susan Shelstad (679-8182)

Dream Group

Come and discover the amazing world of your dreams. We now meet on the first Friday of the month at 7:30pm in the Parlour.

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

Library

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

CD Scholarship Fund

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

Spirituality on Tap

An informal evening of a movie and discussion about it from a spiritual perspective. Watch the announcements for dates, movies and times.

Advent Labyrinth Walk

Feb. 25 2009. 7:45pm
Ash Wednesday Labyrinth



MISSION OUTREACH ENVIRONMENT

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

MISSION AND SERVICE

Los Quinchos

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

Common Overseas Relief Offerings

Alternate Gift Catalogue

Produced by London Conference. Your gifts support Mission & Service Fund projects, both locally and globally. Go to www.londonconference.ca, and click "Hope Book" on the left menu or ask Maureen Scarborough in the FSA office to print you off a hard copy.

LONDON OUTREACH

Eluco

(East London United Church Outreach)

For more information, please contact Linda Badke.

Lift (London Interfaith Team)

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

St. Paul's Daily Bread

Hunger is a year-round problem for some London families. Each month over 300 needy families visit St. Paul's Cathedral for food

assistance. They come for a variety of reasons—job losses, layoffs, disabilities or perhaps they are recent immigrants. They are allowed to receive food once every THREE months. In addition, if funds are available, and with valid proof, they may receive assistance for utility bills.

In addition to the Food Bank, approximately 175 people are served lunch week days at the St. Paul's Fellowship Centre.

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

Habitat For Humanity

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

Hospitality Meals

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

For more information, please contact Tom and Shirley Wynne (474-4768) or the Church Office (679-8182).

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF MOE

Amnesty International

Each March, we hold an annual Write for Rights event. The congregation is invited to join us for a luncheon, and an opportunity to write letters to address injustices throughout the world. Here are some examples of the power of those letters.

"Just to know that the outside world had not forgotten me...was an immense source of encouragement during those dark days." (Thich Qung Do, Buddhist monk from Viet Nam)

"When the first 200 letters came, the guards gave me back my clothes. Then the next 200 came, and the prison director came to see me...The letters kept arriving, and the president told them to let me

go...After I was released the president asked me: 'How is it a trade union leader like you has so many friends all over the world?' (Julio de Pena Valdez, Dominican Republic)

Every petition signed, every letter written, every message of hope sent to a prisoner contributes to freeing prisoners and stopping torture. This is a way that we, as ordinary citizens, can make an impact.

For more information, please contact Janice Elliott or Jane Westmorland

Environmental Sundry - Greening of the Cross

For more information, please contact Donna Travis.

Environmental Tips

Grow-A-Row

Over the past five years, money has been provided

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

At the end of the summer we celebrate the effort with a Fall Corn Coast at First-St. Andrew's, organized by MOE.

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

Observer

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

FRIENDSHIP & LEARNING GROUPS

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

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

The now amalgamated Wednesday and Thursday units will meet Wednesday, Dec. 10th at 2:00 in the Parlour. The place, time and day for 2009 meetings is yet to be decided.

The Tuesday Night Unit meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm in the Parlour.

The UCW welcomes and encourages all women at FSA to become a member of the U.C.W. and to help keep up the good work in the years ahead.

For more information contact Laurel Kenney (439-9300).

SUPPER CLUB

We have begun our '08-'09 season, and the response is, once again, very positive.

We are a group of 60 to 80 who meet 6 times each year for a sumptuous Pot Luck Supper, a sing-song led by Paul Merritt, and an interesting program.

In October our guest was Sue Vanduyhoven, a London ventriloquist, who put on an amazing performance. Her four unruly puppet friends sang

and kept Sue on her toes all through the performance.

On November 25 our guest was Dr. Doug Jones, an FSA member. who presented "Of Mice and Men" or "What makes you tick?". Doug is a professor at U.W.O. whose present research is on heart arrhythmia and robotic-assisted surgery on the beating heart.

On January 27, '09 our guest Erin Fraser will present "Bats in your Belfry." Erin has recently co-authored a guide to bats in Ontario. She is aware of our bat problem at FSA and this will be a timely and fun program.

Everyone is welcome! Come along and bring a friend.

We meet at 6:15, and dinner is served at 6:30. Let us know if you are planning to come so that we can arrange seating for everyone.

Contact June McKay (471-5668) or Shirley Wynne (474-4768) for more information.

THE BRIDGE GROUP

Find a partner and you'll be included in the schedule of who plays whom in whose home for the months of October to May. You set the game day and time for each month to suit your

convenience. Players make only complimentary comments about their opponents and partners regardless of playing experience. Hosts provide refreshments. Cost: \$30 per pair.

Contact Jean or Jim Young (681-8119).

UCW MARATHON BRIDGE

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

WE WELCOME NEW BRIDGE PLAYERS. Join and be part of fun and fellowship with friends.

Contact: Joni Pypka (681-6900) or email pagegirl@sympatico.ca .

MEN'S BROWN BAG LUNCH

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

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

Contact the church office (679-8182) for more information

ISABEL GETLIFFE SEWING GROUP

Meets Wednesdays from 9:30am-2pm from spring until the Fall Bazaar in November. Everyone interested in hand and machine sewing, cutting and stuffing is welcome. The group prepares items for sale at the Bazaar. Bring a lunch—coffee is provided.

Contact Lorraine MacDonald (433-8815) for more information.

KNIT WITS

This fast-growing, friendly group of beginning and experienced knitters meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 1:30-3pm in the parlour. Our projects include knitting warm articles of clothing for adults and children in the London community, and prayer shawls for those

in emotional or physical crisis. We welcome all who enjoy knitting or anyone who would like to learn.

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

FAMILY POTLUCK

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

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

QUILTS FOR WOUNDED SOLDIERS

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

For more information, please contact Jane Westmorland (473 1273).

Donna Ellis beside the banner that she made and donated to the church on September 28, 2008



First-St. Andrew's Ministry

- Rev. Dr. David McKane: Minister of Worship and Administration
- Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad: Minister of Christian Development
- Frank Meadows: Minister Emeritus
- Paul Merritt: Director of Music
- Ted Kostecki: Community Development Coordinator
- Sue Scorgie: Church Administrator
- Maureen Scarborough: Administrative Assistant/Receptionist
- Geoff Bottomley: Custodian