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Tidings

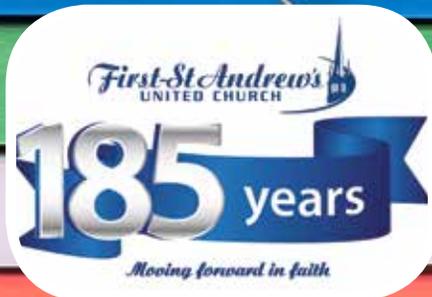
Vol 27, No 1 – LENT/EASTER 2017

HOLY BIBLE

SPIRITUALITY
IN THE
DIGITAL AGE
(See Page 3)

INSIDE

The Editor's Desk	2	Noteworthy	10
A Moment with Michelle	3	Committee Reports	11-16
View from the Pew	3	UCC — Mission & Service Fund	17
Spiritual Dimensions	4	Passing Parade	18,20
The Next Generation	5	Letter to the Editor	19
Profile	8	Did You Know?	19
Getting to Know	9	Church Staff	20



Tidings

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Published by:
 The Communications & Marketing Committee
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 London, Ontario N6B 1X6
 Tel: 519-679-8182
mail@fsaunited.com
www.fsaunited.com

Printed by:
 Sterling Marking Products

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

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Rev. Tom Hiscock



As I shuttled between hospital visits listening to National Public Radio, an interview started with Trayvon Martin's mother. Trayvon was the 17-year-old shot in Florida five years ago this February. Trayvon's mother reported advice given to her by her minister after the shooting. He told her, "This tragedy will not shape the rest of your life. This event will reveal who you are." At that moment Trayvon's mother knew she had to stand up. A person who did not want the limelight, she knew she had to fight for justice in a public way.

As you know, I have been having fun with my dad's old wood lathe, turning bowls. The minister's advice supports what I witness every day in the shop. As I gouge out the bowl the beauty of the wood is revealed. The grain patterns and "beautiful flaws" were always there, but we could not see them until the rough cuts started. The finish cuts and sanding eventually bring this beauty into full view.

Trials reveal who we are. We were always what is revealed. The push and pull of the hardship brings us into better resolution. This does not mean we should seek out difficulties to discover ourselves. Some adversity is simply too difficult to endure. This winter I read the book, *1917*, about the Russian Revolution, and followed it with *A Train in Winter*, the story of women in the French Resistance in WWII. In both situations the conditions were too horrible for some to endure but people did survive. We don't need to look for hardship, it will find us soon enough.

Be assured, when trial comes, there is internal strength just waiting to be revealed. When you see that strength in others it has probably been refined through hard times. †





Rev. Michelle Down

As Christians, Easter is a special season where we are reminded of the great potential that is offered to us in life, in death, and in life beyond death. The resurrec-

tion of Jesus Christ is a pivotal component of our Christian story; however, I do not believe that it was only a one-time event of which we are supposed to marvel at the mystery. Instead, I believe that resurrection is

a component of our faith we are called to live into on a regular basis. In fact, I believe



that God offers to us, not only hope beyond the grave, but also Resurrection Hope beyond ourselves. Resurrection Hope beyond what we have done, and what we have left undone. Resurrection Hope to heal the wounds of our hearts, and the scars we have placed on Mother Earth. Resurrection Hope

to eliminate poverty, and elevate justice. Resurrection Hope to feed a hungry world, and hydrate a thirsty land.

This Resurrection Hope comes from a power

greater than our own goodness, greater than our liberal theology, greater than our own progressive politics. It comes from

(Cont'd. on page 19)



SPIRITUALITY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Steve Elson

There is little doubt that technology, and digital technology in particular, is having a profound impact on human behaviour. It is changing the way we interact with each other and the relationship we have with our devices—some being essentially appendages to our person; just ask someone who can't get an internet connection or whose smart phone battery dies. Digital technology is and will continue to be used in many facets of our lives not even imagined today. For example:

- Technology and robotics are displacing jobs held by people—and while this is not new, the type of jobs being replaced by machines is new, and this will continue.
- The real prospect of driverless vehicles will change the way we think about driving and transportation in general.
- Technology, and nano-technology in particular, holds promise in a wide variety of ways— including creating alternate energy sources.
- Many billions of dollars are being invested in the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI)—machines that will “think” and reason according to “human-like” complex algorithms. It’s also possible that these machines will, in the future, use some form of chemistry and complex neuron-type connections to function—in other words they may no longer be machines in the classical sense of the word.

Some of the future scenarios that might present themselves may be difficult to accept and many will no doubt be challenging. Change and constant adaption will be the norm. In the midst of all this, where does spirituality fit in?

(Cont'd. on page 19)



WE LEARN WITH FIRST NATIONS ELDER, GEORGE HENRY.

Nancy Quinn

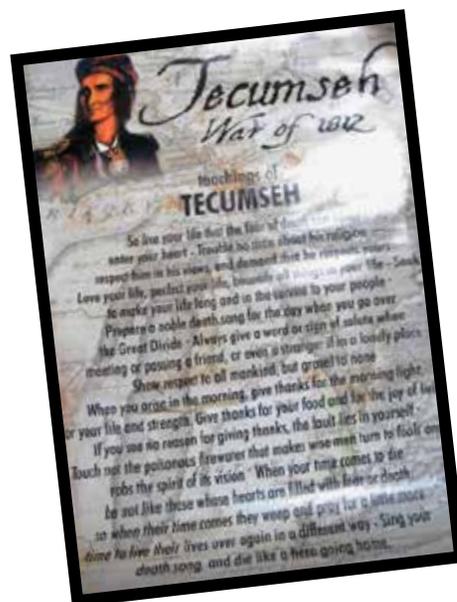
George Henry, Elder of the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, was our guest speaker for the Mission, Outreach, and Environment Service, Sunday, February 5th, at FSA. You can hear his presentation by going to our FSA website or to <https://soundcloud.com/user-422909701/audiofeb5>.

Before *The Indian Act of 1887*, George tells us his people lived by three laws: the Law of Creation, the Law of Nature, and the Law of the People. These guidelines, honouring our inter-connectedness, help people to lead balanced and harmonious lives. His people believe that the Earth renews herself every 12,000 years and that she will soon have a renewal, because of the damage done by industrial societies. Explaining the teaching importance of the eagle feather, George points out that the feathered part is larger on one side of the quill shaft—the part closest to the eagle’s heart. Symbolically, this feather reminds us that head knowledge needs to follow the way of the heart. The opposite of fear is love; when we follow love, everything comes into balance.

Tecumseh, a Shawnee warrior and great leader, is an honoured ancestor of George. Local playwright and friend of FSA, Marion Johnson, with George Henry, wrote *Like a Hero Going Home; the Final Days of Tecumseh*. The play, celebrating First Nations’ history, was performed here at FSA and at many other churches and venues. George, working with a graphic artist, created the beautiful poster, *Teachings of Tecumseh*—a photo appears

below. Teachings of Elders, such as Tecumseh, are an important source of wisdom and spirituality for First Nations people. We are grateful to Elder George Henry for sharing the wisdom of his people. By visiting <http://www.cottfn.com>, you can learn more about our neighbours, the Chippewas of the Thames.

In our FSA library you can find resources such as Bob Peel’s video, *Circle of all Nations*, and *The Inconvenient Indian* by Thomas King, along with a posted resource list. Helpful websites include: the Truth and Reconciliation Commission: <http://www.united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/truth-and-reconciliation-commission>, and the Government of Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Resource Page: <http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/index.php?p=890>. Jim Silcox reports that, “Our relationship with our First Nations friends has been chosen by the Worship and 185th Anniversary committees as a theme to reflect upon during 2017.” †



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WORSHIPLUDE

Mason Robichaud

Worshiplude is an annual trip to Ottawa in which youth and youth leaders from all over Ontario participate. We visit museums, the Parliament buildings, Rideau Canal, and many more. We usually set up base at a host church and finish with a worship service on Sunday within their sanctuary.

This year was my first time attending Worshiplude, and I'm very grateful to those who encouraged me to go. The trip started with a quick gathering at Trinity United on Friday, February 3rd, next, we were loaded onto the coach and hit the road!

When we finally arrived in Ottawa, we made our way to Rideau Park United where we set up camp. Afterwards, we took to the bustling streets of Ottawa to have supper and see what the Rideau Canal had to offer (i.e., skating, beavertails, ice sculptures, lights, music).

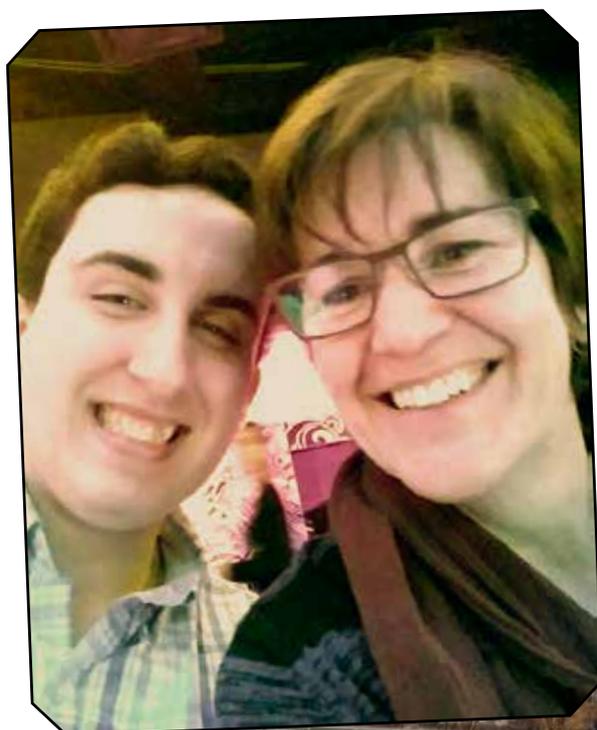
The night on the town eventually came to an end and we all gathered in the parlour of Rideau Park to play games and have fun. For most of us, sleeping on the floor in an unusual environment can be very difficult. For me, that was exceedingly true. "Lights out" was 12:00am, but I found it impossible to fall asleep before 2:30am.

Saturday morning soon arrived. We ate breakfast, conversed, and hit the town once more. We toured the Canadian War Museum, had lunch, toured Parliament Hill, skated on the Canal, and much more. A separate group skipped over to Gatineau to enjoy some other Winterlude activities.

On Saturday evening we attended a youth service called The Point at Parkdale United, and one of the speakers was our 42nd moderator, the Right Rev. Jordan Cantwell. Afterwards we all gathered again at Rideau Park to play games, had an enlightening vespers service and then went to bed.

For our final morning we attended Rideau Park's Sun-

day worship service, loaded our stuff onto the bus and headed home. Worshiplude is a great time to share our hearts and friendships, come together as humble followers of Christ and blessed children of God, and create unforgettable memories. This trip has taught me so much and I can't wait for next year. †





MRS. FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S

Paul Merritt

When Enid and I arrived in London in 1984 we were introduced to "Mrs. First-St. Andrew's." This was Jean Comfort. Over the next 32 years we learned how fitting a nickname this was, as Jean was the most faithful, hardworking and loyal church member one could imagine. Although my dealings with Jean were mainly musical, I watched with admiration her involvement in every aspect of FSA life. Anything she undertook she did with a quiet determination that left you wondering where all that energy came from!

Jean sang in the FSA Senior Choir for 70 consecutive years. Yes, 70!!! Within those years her record of attendance at rehearsals, services and other choir activities was incredible. Not only did Jean sing in the choir but she never shied away from taking on other duties, such as choir librarian. Jean preferred to work alone which meant cataloguing hundreds of copies of new music, carrying heavy piles of anthems to and from the choir room, and generally making sure every chorister had what they needed. In honour of this outstanding service the choir room was named after her.

The choir wasn't her only musical outlet, however, as she rang handbells in the Mixed Pealers with daughter Lesley and son-in-law Paul, under the baton of dear friend Helen Inch. Jean worked with Enid's Noon Recital team for many years, helping in the kitchen she knew so well. Jean was also a faithful attendee at almost every concert held at FSA, rarely letting bad weather or anything else keep her from coming.

I'm sure these are just a few of Jean's musical contributions, and music was only one facet of her church life; UCW, Session, Presbytery etc. etc. etc., all benefited from her active involvement.

We will never see another like Jean Comfort, and this should make us even more grateful that we knew her as a role model and friend for all these years. †



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JOYCE PAYNE
Pat McGregor

One dictionary definition of a dynamic duo is “a powerful pair of people.” Well, this profile will feature one half of FSA’s own dynamic duo—Joyce Payne.

Joyce was born and raised in London, living in Komoka (just outside London) for 17 years, and then to the countryside outside of St. Mary’s and Granton for three years. Growing up, her family comprised her mother, father, brother and a sister. Her family has now expanded to include her partner Michelle and, of course, Quincy, and includes “those who are in my church family, both inside and outside of FSA.”

Joyce retired from the corporate world in 2007 when her job was downsized, leaving her time to do the type of work she loves, saying: “Work for me is volunteering my time in service to God through various groups in the United Church, both at the congregation, Presbytery and Conference levels. This “work” is truly a huge blessing in my life, offering opportunity to share with so many people their hopes and dreams for their congregations and personal lives. Bringing a sense of joy to my faith involvement feeds the energy of Spirit within me.”

“Work” for Joyce also means having fun, and she enjoys camping, walking and picnicking on the beach, reading, playing board games (crokinole), working with wood, adult colouring and watching sports (particularly hockey). As a member of FSA’s Book Club she has read *History’s People* (Margaret McMillan), *Midwife of Venice* and *The Harem Midwife* (both by Roberta Rich). Books she terms “my faith development books” include *Searching for Sundays* by Rachel Held Evans,

and *The Pastrix* by Nadia Bolz Weber. Others on the ‘to do’ list are *Convictions* (Marcus Borg) and *The Reason You Walk* (Wab Kinew).

Joyce says that every morning she and Michelle spend time with a Bible passage, and discuss its meaning in the current context of their lives. She says “This daily spiritual discipline is without a doubt an energizing seed in our hearts. I subscribe to online daily devotions from the United Church of Christ and Norval United Church to further my faith exploration.”

Considering herself a “boring eater” because she doesn’t like spicy food, Joyce does love four-cheese macaroni and cheese, as well as staples such as meat and veg. She also likes barbecuing year-round.

If Joyce had the last word in this interview she says it would be: “I believe the message through the scriptures for us is very simple instruction on how to live our lives to the greatest measure ... I wonder why we humanoids have worked so hard to make it so complicated.” ☩





JACK LEWIS

David McKane

“Getting to know you, getting to know all about you,” so says the song from **The King and I**. I cannot tell you all about Jack but I can tell you a few things. The rest you can find out for yourself. Jack Lewis was born and raised in Sarnia, Ontario, attending Hanna Memorial Elementary School with his two brothers. His boyhood interests were Cubs, baseball and collecting sports cards. On graduation from Sarnia Collegiate Jack went to work in the petro-chemical industry as an accounting clerk, first for Dow and then with Dupont. After ten years he decided to go back to school and graduated from the University of Windsor with a BA in History.

While attending a wedding he met his future wife Gwen. They were married the year she graduated from UWO. Gwen taught high school for a time in Essex, while Jack attended the University of Windsor. The family, Gwen, Jack and baby Shelley, then moved back to Sarnia where Jack had secured a teaching position at St. Clair Secondary School, completing his Althouse requirements over the next two summers. For the next thirty years Jack taught business practice, typing, shorthand and accounting law, retiring in 1996 as head of the business department.

The family grew, welcoming daughter Charlotte and son Kevin. They attended St. Luke’s and Grace United churches, where Jack was active on a number of committees. In 2011 Gwen was diagnosed with cancer and died later that year.

An avid reader and always interested in travelling, Jack took a holiday in 2012 to the Channel Islands, that part of England just off the coast of France (read *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society*). While there he met Judith Walker. Returning to Canada their long distance friendship deepened until Jack moved to London in 2015 to be with Judith, and began attending FSA. Jack is active in Brown Bag and assists with welcoming and ushering. Be sure to introduce yourself to this charming man and welcome Jack to FSA. †



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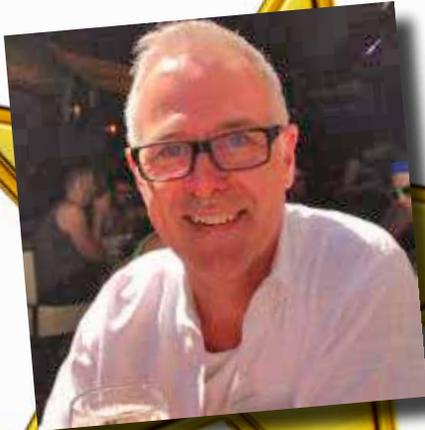

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Noteworthy



Jim Silcox

Two First-St. Andrew's folks have gained recent acclaim as thespians. On Monday, January 30th at the annual **Brickenden Awards** ceremony in the Wolf Performance Hall, **George Jolink** won the Best Lead Actor award for his role in *The History Boys*, presented by the Calithumpian Theatre Company. Our own **Tara Gonder** also deserves our congratulations for her dual roles in The London Community Players' production of *The Secret Garden*, which was named the best musical. The Brickenden Awards are handed out to mark excellence in London's established new and non-mainstream theatre groups. They take their name from the late London actor, director and playwright, Catharine Brickenden. †



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COUNCIL

How's 2017 shaping up?

Bob Swartman, Chair

I have warned in previous columns about climate change and ranted about the serious financial situation we face at FSA. I thought perhaps this time I should write about the present.

Two weeks ago I attended a rally at the London Muslim Mosque with my daughter Christine. This was a few days after the murders in Quebec City. There was such tremendous support shown at the rally by Londoners that it brought tears to my eyes. Every time I drive by the mosque I am impressed by the message on their lawn sign. Mind you, it's not a big flashy electronic sign for which we are planning. But there is usually a good Christian message, albeit from the Quoran. I wrote a letter to the Imam the day following the rally on behalf of FSA. I went back this week to make sure it had been received and I met the Imam. I informed him about our *Mining the Mystery* series and the discussion this coming Sunday with a panel representing the three Abrahamic faiths. He had

been unaware but was very pleased to know about it. He was also very pleased with the support that FSA had shown with the big card that everyone signed.

At the Brown Bag lunch this week we had two social workers who work for Goodwill and are affiliated with FSA through the Bridges out of Poverty programme come and speak to us. We are one of two London churches that support this programme with the help of several other congregations. One of the social workers we met was the granddaughter of Eileen Pyper, a longtime member of FSA, who had been baptized at FSA.

Today, as I left Farm Boy after having coffee with my buddies, I met Dr. Don Reid, another longtime member of FSA. He and Lillian attend the Salvation Army Citadel now, but he remembered my wife, Laura, and said how much he liked to work with her when she was a nurse in Obstetrics at St. Joseph's. Good memories!

I am hopeful the world will continue to unfold as it was meant to, in spite of the challenges posed by our neighbour to the south, and that First-St Andrew's will continue to provide leadership in London. †



CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

Allyson Watson

Christian Development has been busy already in 2017 and has lots planned in the upcoming months, so you will want to check everything out! On January 22nd we hosted a spaghetti dinner before the first *Mining the Mystery* talk as a fundraiser for the new outdoor sign. We are thrilled to be working collaboratively with the Men's Brown Bag Lunch group on the second *Mining the Mystery* series. Such a great group of people dedicated to enhancing our experience at FSA. The second session of *Mining the Mystery* was held on February 12th, and the next two are March 26th (with dinner preceding), and April 23rd. We like working with this group so much that we are hosting the Pancake Supper on February 28th with them; (don't let on but I may add some of them to our CD committee. ☺)

Church School has been learning the story of Joseph and his many brothers, and we are now looking at Psalm 23. We will be working on the Widow's Offering during Lent. The youth have been busy learning and exploring. They have just returned from a fantastic trip to Worshiplude in Ottawa. Many of the youth

are looking forward to participating in a Youth Forum. Also, on February 19th, our youth are hosting a Souper Sunday to raise funds for outreach. Confirmation continues as the four confirmands explore their faith with their mentors.

At the end of April on Monday nights, we will be hosting Barb McGill and Sheila MacGregor in a six-week series titled *Recomposing a Life*. Please keep an eye out for more details.

A few more dates to mark on your calendar: June 2nd–4th Camp Kee-Mo-Kee; July 10th–14th FSA Vacation Bible Camp.

Finally, for the first time we are doing a congregation-wide Lenten project. We have been working with the Worship and MOE committees to create a rewarding project for all ages at FSA. This project will be a fundraiser for the Camp Kee-Mo-Kee Heritage Week that is detailed in the article by Diane Knoppert. Throughout the five weeks of Lent we will lead you in learning about truths that have not always been told, self-reflection of blessings received and biases held, and an exploration of reconciliation for past actions. Please come to the Pancake Supper, Sing for Your Supper, or Sunday, March 5th to pick

up your Pringle can with a calendar of activities/reflections and a gratitude journal guide. †





COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Jim Silcox

There is no such thing as a “dull moment” at Communications & Marketing. We are busy this season on a variety of fronts. In particular, we are pleased to promote the **St. Andrew’s Cabaret Night, Then Sings My Soul** that the church is hosting with Victoria Playhouse Petrolia on **Saturday, April 1st at 7:30pm**. It will be a fundraiser both for the operating fund of FSA (in particular, the electronic outdoor sign fund) and the St. Paul’s Daily Bread programme. Please come out to see exceptional, talented performers from the Victoria Playhouse

present a cabaret-style event filled with inspirational Broadway, pop, country and spiritual music. You can purchase your tickets in advance (for \$25) from the church office, or buy them at the door. Call up your friends and neighbours. It’s going to be a real treat— no foolin’.

We are also working with the 185th Committee to help promote the special events this year that will commemorate this church milestone. Are you observant? Did you see the new 185th logo on the front cover of *Tidings*?

Remember, if you have an interest and a flare for marketing in any of its forms, let our Chair, Doug Gonder, know. We would love to have you join our team. There is always lots to do! †



MUSIC COMMITTEE

Merran Neville

Music at First-St. Andrew’s got off to a great start on January 28th, 2017 with *Winter Interlude*, featuring guest artists Sonja Gustafson, Francesca Ranalli, Jordan Baldwin and Chad Lowerse. Terry Head accompanied the singers. On February 26th, *Shakespeare Sings* featured performers Sonja Gustafson, Andrea Núñez, Francesca Ranalli, Matthew Dalen, and pianists Mia Bach and Holly Kroeker. Prof. Darryl Edwards brought his four performers from Toronto to join Sonja and Francesca in a delightful afternoon of music based on the words of William Shakespeare.

By the time this issue of *Tidings* hits the stands, the Friday Lenten Noon Recitals will have begun. *The Twelve*, a choir from Pearson School for the Arts, performed on March 3rd; on March 10th, Terry Head will give an organ recital, and on March 24th, the Laudamus Bells will perform. The Laudamus Bells have also played in services on several occasions during January and February. Watch for information about the Senior Choir’s concert on April 29th, *From Sea to Sea to Sea*, celebrating Canada’s 150th anniversary.

There will be beautiful music to grace Easter Sunday, including the choir, brass and the organ.

We are always most appreciative and thank the volunteers who assist at our concerts and help to make them possible. †

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

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

All donors receive a tax receipt and are recognized in the **Friends of Music** concert programmes and on the FSA web site.

Donations can be made online through the FSA donations page, choose Friends of Music for your **gift reason**. You can also donate by cheque payable to “First-St. Andrew’s United Church” with a memo: **Friends of Music**. Donations by cheque should be mailed to the church at 350 Queens Avenue, London, ON, N6B 1X6.

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PROPERTY

George Jolink

As we enter a new budget year, the Property Committee begins to look seriously at our priorities for the upcoming year. Several projects have been identified. As always, the work is scheduled on a priority basis and as the budget allows.

Some projects under consideration are:

- Repairs to Narthex entrances;
- Glass entry door system for Queen St. entrance to increase visibility into our sanctuary;
- Partial conversion of heating in some areas of the building;
- Exterior work at Farquhar House.

One project which has been adopted in conjunction with the Marketing and Communications Committee as our 185 Project is the replacement of the aging sign at the corner of Waterloo and Queens Ave. This sign is outdated technology, labour intensive and inefficient for advertising our pro-

grammes at FSA. We are hoping to replace it with a modern full-colour LED screen which can display graphics and text with animation. The sign will be controlled from a computer and can be easily programmed to change messages. This will allow us to advertise several events simultaneously and increase the visibility of our great congregation and the work that we do. This is a significant undertaking and the Property Committee, along with Marketing and Communications, are committed to raising funds. Our target is \$20,000.00. Please consider making a donation towards this project which will be a positive upgrade and will allow us to elevate our visibility in London. You may have noticed the poster in the Atrium. You can help us by “buying a light” or better yet, buying several. \$5 buys one light. So far, through the generous work of the CD Committee, the youth, C&M Committee and Property, over \$3000 has been raised. Our goal is to have the sign installed over the summer to celebrate our 185 years as a vibrant congregation in downtown London.

As always your Property Committee (which has two vacancies [hint, hint]), will address maintenance issues as they arise and continue to improve our facility while balancing fiscal responsibility. †



MISSION, OUTREACH AND ENVIRONMENT

Marilyn Beach

St. Paul's Soup and Sandwich Dinner—London Club, Monday, May 15th.

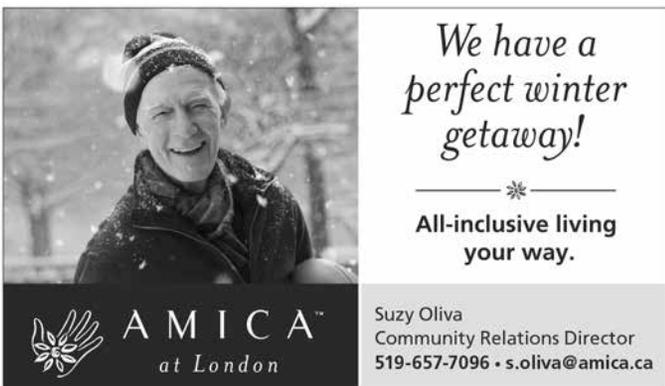
Mark your calendars and get a group together to form a table for the annual fundraiser for St. Paul's Daily Bread. This is a fun and rewarding evening with an interesting guest speaker. Cost is \$75.00—with a \$50 tax receipt—so you can help others and get a tax benefit. For further information, contact Bill and/or Jean Knowles, both members of the Soup and Sandwich Committee (519-657-9156 or knowlesjaw@sympatico.ca.)

Grow-a-Row—Canadian Foodgrains Bank

Starting in April, we will be getting our annual campaign underway, with our partner St. Marys United Church. With the Global Affairs Canada's 4–1 ratio, our two churches have raised well over \$1 million to help our neighbours in the Developing World. Envelopes with all the information will be handed out on Sunday, April 2nd, and after will be available on all the tables outside the Sanctuary.

Also, mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 10th** for the ever-popular and yummy corn roast brought to you by your MOE Committee and friends.

For further information, contact David Knoppert or Bill Knowles. †



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2017 WHITE SQUIRREL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Diane Knoppert

Save the date! Saturday, June 10th is the day for our eleventh Annual White Squirrel Golf Tournament at the Ironwood Golf Course in Exeter. This is

the main fundraising event for MOE outreach projects. This event is not just for golfers. There will be a nature walk in the afternoon, or you can just come for dinner. The format will be the same as last year—a shotgun start at 11:00am for 18-hole golfers; 9-hole golfers will have afternoon start times. Dinner will be served at 5:00. The “tee off” day for registration will be May 7th. Plan to join us! †



UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Nancy Quinn

Retrospective:

We had a lovely potluck lunch in Proudfoot Hall on December 14th, with the ukulele group SOUP performing. Life memberships were awarded to

Ann Pinchin and Jan Hendry.

On Sunday, January 22nd, Nancy Sutherland, National UCW president, gave an inspiring talk celebrating 55 years of UCW work. Kevin P. White, visiting from Wesley Knox, and Roxanne Andrighetti performed Kevin's *Bread not Stones* song, from the UCW *National Mission Project*. After a lovely lunch, we celebrated the reunion of our FSA UCW charter members, with a rose ceremony. A beautiful blue rose, symbolizing each woman's rare and special gifts, along with a commemorative Charter List, was given to each woman. We thank our fifty wonderful volunteers who made this memorable celebration possible.

Susan McKane introduced us, on February 15th, to “World Tailors,” which helps immigrant women in London become self-sufficient. She introduced several wonderful volunteers and showed how they craft beautiful aprons and shopping bags, alongside learning English and business skills. Website: <http://www.worldtailors.ca/>

Many thanks to Millie Bates for organizing the February

Phantom Tea fundraiser, and for her thoughtful, charming poetry—a delight we look forward to each year!

Upcoming:

Wednesday, March 15th, at 2:00pm in the Parlour: Rev. Pam Cullen will speak on the London Community Chaplaincy.

Monday, March 20th, at 7:00pm, Metropolitan U.C.: Come and enjoy a fun and fabulous fashion show: *A Trip Down Memory Lane*, with refreshments. Tickets (\$15.00) are available from March 1st, at the door, or call Beth (519-471-8393).

Saturday, April 22nd is the UCW Rummage Sale—many treasures to be discovered! Please bring your donated items to the stage area behind Proudfoot Hall, after April 2nd.

Saturday May 6th, at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary: The FSA UCW invites everyone to, “Remember—A Sentimental Journey,” including such favourites as: “Remember” (Berlin); “I mean to say I love you” (Hammerstein and Korngold); “I remember it well” (from Lerner and Loewe's *Gigi*); “Sophisticated Lady” (Ellington); “Two-Time Man” (Anna Russell), and “Johnny Fedora met Alice Blue Bonnet” (Andrews Sisters). FSA vocalists, Nancy Quinn and Jordan Baldwin, join with show producer and collaborative pianist Norm Abbott, music director of Dundas Street Centre, our sister United church. Admission is by freewill donation, with refreshments to follow. †



Our UCW Charter Members

(See more UCW photos on the next page.)



Roxanne Andrighetti, Kevin White



Laurel Kenney



Michelle cuts the UCW Cake



Nancy Sutherland
National UCW President



Presenting *Bread not Stones* Project at the Ontario Legislature

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**MISSION MOMENTS:
THEN**

Pat McGregor

This is the fourth in a series where we look back at some of the families who went out from FSA to serve as missionaries overseas.

No. 23

“One of our members who is rendering distinguished service on the world field is Miss Dorothy C. Hall. She was born in London, Ont., attended St. Andrew’s Sunday School, and was received into membership of the church. She graduated from Victoria Hospital in 1946 ... taking her BScN degree at the University of Western Ontario in 1952. For two years she served in a Red Cross hospital at Hawk Junction, near Wawa, Ontario. During the next two years she was matron of a forty bed hospital in Wawa. From there she went to Victoria, BC to teach in the School of Nursing.

“While at Victoria she was approached to go to Thailand to start a school of nursing under the WHO (World Health Organization), a branch of the United Nations.



She stayed there for four years and was then sent to Ceylon in charge of the nursing program under the WHO. From Ceylon she proceeded to India where she became nursing administrator in India and nine other countries. While in India she was sent to Washington, DC to obtain her master’s degree. She spent 17 years in East Asia, with her headquar-

ters in New Delhi. The WHO moved her to Copenhagen where she has spent the last four years. From there she travels for the WHO to 26 countries in Europe, including Iceland and Finland. She visits hospitals and universities and lectures in nursing. What a world traveller she has become. We are proud of her connection with First-St. Andrew’s United Church...”



**MISSION MOMENTS:
NOW**

Diane Knoppert

Barb Dalrymple



The greatest percentage of United Church of Canada Mission and Service funds is budgeted for Faith Formation: 27.9% (\$7.5 million) in 2016. Faith Formation includes “Ministries with children, youth and young adults.” As part of Faith Formation, money is allocated to 60 faith-based United Church camps across Canada, including Camp Kee-Mo-Kee located just outside London.

Kee-Mo-Kee offers weekly overnight camps throughout the summer for children ages 6–15. The regular camp programme includes music, crafts, sports and outdoor activities, all in a Christian atmosphere. This year a new overnight camp experience is being offered: for the week of July 2nd to 7th, children ages eight to twelve, can participate in the “Heritage Week” camp. The goal is to fully subsidize 40 First Nations youth to attend this camp, along with 60 other (mostly non-native) campers. First Nations Elders will run a half day of traditional First Nations programmes alongside a half day of traditional camp activities run by the camp counsellors. Children will have the chance to try archery, lacrosse and beading, as well as experience traditional music and dance.

In addition, four to six First Nations youth will be subsidized to attend the Counsellor-in-Training programme in order to be able to qualify to apply for counsellor positions in the future. As counsellors, they will have meaningful summer employment and be role models for younger First Nations campers, as well as having leadership and personal growth opportunities. In the future they will be able to lead the Heritage Week programme.

The intent is to encourage friendships between native and non-native children in order to foster greater understanding between cultures, and reduce barriers when First Nations youth attend the non-native school system.

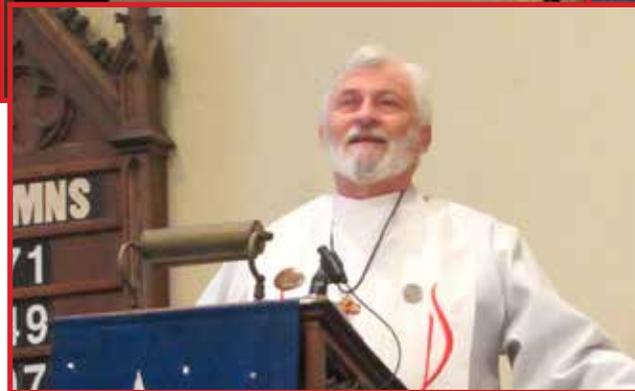
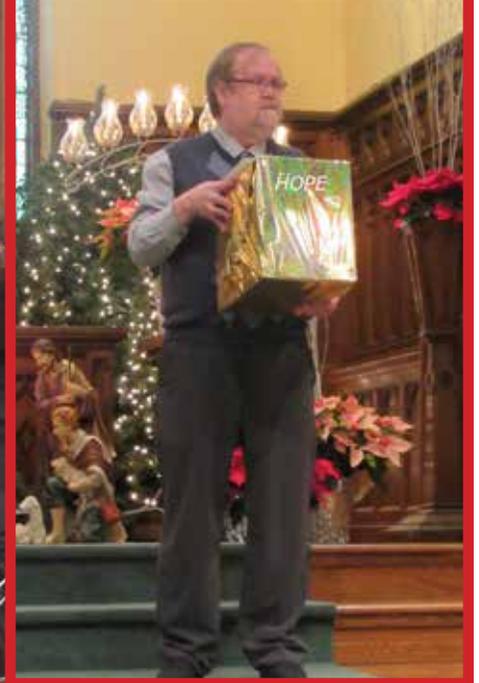
These are meaningful and creative programmes that were inspired by many of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s “Calls to Action.” They seem certain to contribute to “Faith Formation” through experiences of fun, learning and fellowship.



[Thanks to Mary Ann Hodge for the information on the new Kee-Mo-Kee First Nations camp experiences.]



Christmas 2016 at FSA



A Moment with Michelle (Cont'd. from page 3)

the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When we allow the hatred within us to die, then the gospel of Love offers Resurrected Hope, and then we are able to stand in protest against Islamophobia and White Supremacy. When we allow fear to die within us, then we are able to march in solidarity with women around the globe, for Resurrected Justice. When we allow discrimination within us to die, then we can stand shoulder to shoulder with the LGBTTTQQ community, and support bills to be passed by our government to say all

people of this land are protected by a Resurrected Equality. When we allow elitism within us to die, then we can advocate for our indigenous brothers and sisters so that clean drinking water might be the Resurrected Water of Life.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is offering new life today ... we simply have to let the biases of our hearts die off, so that we might emerge as Resurrected Disciples. May this Easter Season fill you with life, and death, and life beyond death; in Jesus' name we pray. - Michelle †

View from the Pew (Cont'd. from page 3)

All of these technological changes have a spiritual component in that they impact on human relationships, and our relationship to our human as well as physical environment. We need to ask ourselves whether the changes that come forward will bring us closer and enrich our human relationships and promote equality, or push us apart. In this context we also need to preserve space in our lives outside of the

intrusions that technology can bring. We can easily push our spiritual time aside or devalue its significance to our lives as a whole. Taking time to celebrate and acknowledge our spiritual needs brings us closer together and enriches our individual humanity and our community.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Re the Christmas issue of *Tidings*: thank you sincerely for this publication. It was excellent, and a wonderful expression of the work that clearly went into it. One could skim it, and come away with a good knowledge of what was going on at First-St. Andrew's. Even better one could sit down and read the thoughtful articles, and spend time looking at the pictures.

We are so fortunate at First-St. Andrew's to have such an editorial staff and team.

In appreciation, Jean Wright.

DID YOU KNOW?

KEEP THE DATE

from Christian Development

Spaghetti Dinner, March 26th

Mining the Mystery — Session 3, March 26th and Session 4, April 23rd

from Music

Friday Noon Lenten Concerts, March 10th, 24th

From Coast to Coast to Coast, April 29th

Children's Music Sunday, April 30th

from the UCW

Rummage Sale, April 22nd

Concert: Remember—A Sentimental Journey, May 6th

from Worship

Good Friday Worship at Metropolitan, April 14th

Easter Communion, April 16th

Greening of the Cross, May 21st

From the 185th Committee

Milestone Sunday for the 185th celebrations, March 26th

From Communications & Marketing

First-St. Andrew's Cabaret with Victoria Playhouse Petrolia, April 1st

From MOE

Grow-a-Row Campaign begins, April 2nd

MILESTONES

Marriages

Stuart McKay and Tanya Marshall, January 14th, 2017

Deaths

Young, Sharon Diane, November 16th, 2016

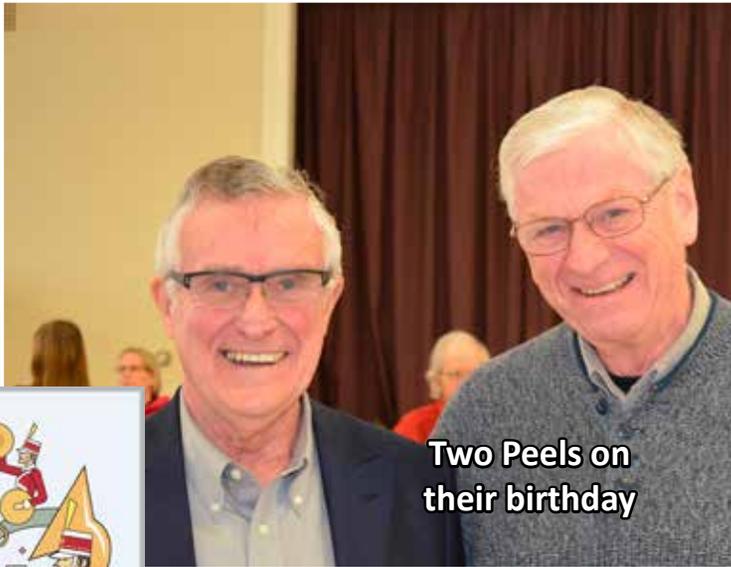
Nelson, Isabel, December 5th, 2016

McFarlane, Pat, February 19th, 2017

McLarty, Tom, February 19th, 2017



Jean & Bill



Two Peels on their birthday



Andrew & Riley
The Soup Mafia?



Better than London Transit!



Mining the Mystery
Session 2, Interfaith Discourse



Karol Boyd
on Soup-er Sunday

CHURCH STAFF

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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.