

Tidings

First-St. Andrew's United Church



VOLUME ● NUMBER

LENT, HOLY WEEK, EASTER 2007

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM AND SARAH

by David McKane



Throughout the Season of Lent the Worship Committee agreed that we learn a little more about our Jewish and Muslim cousins. We are, after all, descendants of Abraham and Sarah—our Christian community grew out of the Jewish household in the first century C.E., and Muhammad, the founder of Islam in the 7th century C.E., saw himself as a successor to a long line of Jewish prophets, with revelations which were in addition to those of Jesus.

To help us in our understanding, the United Church of Canada has produced two documents: *That We May Know Each Other* and *Bearing Faithful Witness*—both available on the United Church web site. *That We May Know Each Other*, affirmed by General Council in 2003, is a statement about UCC-Muslim relations. The document admits that from its very beginnings Muslim-Christian relationships have presented a profound theological and social challenge to Christians. Islam confronts us with the meaning of a later revelation, and the theology of differing interpretations of core faith stories.

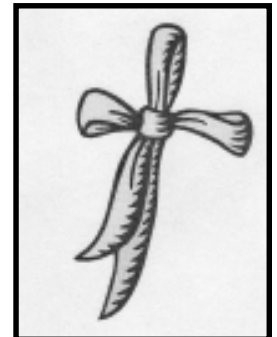
Nonetheless, the UCC affirms that both Christianity and Islam are religions of peace, mercy, justice and compassion, and that the UCC is called to a journey toward reconciliation, understanding and cooperation with our Muslim neighbours. The document acknowledges the prophetic witness of Muhammad and encourages all people of the UCC to seek out opportunities to work together with Muslims to seek justice and resist evil for the sake of the world we all inhabit.

Bearing Faithful Witness is a statement on UCC-Jewish relations, also approved by the 2003 General Council. It affirms that both Judaism and Christianity are living faiths that have developed from the same root, that the God whom we know in Jesus Christ is the same One who called Sarah and Abraham, who gave the Torah to Moses, and who put a passion for justice into the hearts of the prophets. It goes on to acknowledge a history of anti-Judaism and anti-Semitism within Christianity—including the UCC—and that both attitudes are an affront to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The document also maintains the right of the State of Israel to exist in peace and security, and states that our common calling with Jews and others is to align ourselves with God's world-mending work. To this end it encourages us to resist anti-Semitism, to create ongoing dialogue with Jews, and to educate ourselves about the Jewish faith.

These two documents are remarkable for several reasons. They recognize the plurality of our society. They confess our ignorance of other faiths, and our participation in behaviour unworthy of our own faith. They acknowledge that Christianity is one religion among many religions and while God is One, the Truth comes to us from many sources and in many guises. They also underline the necessity for us to learn from our past and engage in dialogue to understand better other faith traditions.

As we journey through Lent we will have the opportunity to “taste and see” as we welcome to FSA Haytham Mahfoud from the Muslim community, and rabbi Joel Wittstein from Temple Israel. May we be open and receptive, eager to learn and willing to grow.



Left: Rev. Barry Moore leads an ecumenical worship titled *FAITH STORY TWO: "All in the Family"* The performance took us from the very small beginnings of Judaism, Christianity and Islam to a Faith Family that numbers 3-billion people around the globe. Barry was assisted by Pianist Alan Davidson, Flautist Anne Cunningham, and Paul Merritt and the FSA Choir.

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EASTER, A SEASON OF RENEWAL....

by Karen A.M. Blachford



As we enter this Easter season, God's great earth is being renewed. Through the four seasons our natural world has the opportunity to rest, to recover and grow anew, and so, too, can we be renewed through the seasons of our lives.

During my years in London, I experienced many seasons of change. My 'winter of disability' had many cold, icy and stormy days. It was a time of learning to live within a new body of differing abilities. The 'light and warmth of spring' gradually melted away my winter as I emerged with new buds of growth; developing skills as an athlete, and confidence as a person. In the 'heat of my summer' I studied, worked and competed as I followed my sports dreams. My season of 'autumn' is what I am calling my 'spiritual season'. Autumn is enabling me to shed my 'leaves of fear' which disability often brings, to expose my branches exactly as they are; accepting myself and my disability, and understanding my personal place and reason for being in God's world.

Along my journey through the seasons, I felt the caring and nurturing guidance of the United Church family as I experienced renewal and growth. Like an adolescent leaving home to go to school, my time in London prepared me for the coming seasons that I will encounter in my new life in Kingston, Ontario.

Easter is a time for renewal, for leaving behind the heavy crosses that we have carried through our winters; allowing the love of those around us to help remove the stone that stood in our way. It is time for each of us to discard old strips of linen and free our spirits, to enable us to step through the next season of renewal.

Info-Line

DON JONES CELEBRATES 175TH WITH DVD

By Bob Slater

As his lasting gift to our church family, Don has created a professional quality DVD titled *Stories in Stained Glass*. While many people who have worshipped in FSA have been inspired by its eleven beautiful windows, few have realized all the stories they contain. In 40 minutes' viewing time, David McKane, Susan Shelstad and Frank Meadows explain them.

Favourite hymns, provided by Paul Merritt and the FSA choir, are interspersed. Helen Mahabir introduces the DVD and Jean Wright has written an interesting account of how the windows came into being. Coloured photographs complete the accompanying booklet.

The DVD will be available for the first time two Sundays before Easter—**March 25**. Price? \$20 each, 3 for \$50. To reserve one or more copies, call Maureen in the Church Office (519 679-8182) or find the Reservation Table at Coffee & Conversation.

An excellent gift suggestion for children, grandchildren, friends, former FSA members and history buffs—or yourself.

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Spring into Renewal

by David Flynn

We approach the renewal season of Easter through the reflective time of Lent. Karen Blachford, who attended FSA before moving to Kingston, writes in her article on this page about her times of reflection and renewal through the seasons of life. Other



articles in this issue also talk about moving on, and holding on—Don Farquhar on his family growing up in the manse; Gene Corbet on his maternal ancestors contending with the stresses of the Little Ice Age.

The other articles and the Program Guide reflect FSA well, a congregation remembering its past; moving into the future.

Again, check out the FSA website www.fsaunited.com in about a week from now to see this issue online .

Tidings

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Four issues yearly.

News Deadline for next issue: May 15, 2007

Distribution of next issue: May 27, 2007

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.

GOD'S STEWARD: MARGARET LEONARD

by David Flynn

"I just keep going". Indeed. Soon after Marg and Len Leonard came to London as "bride and groom" in 1950, Len began attending meetings of the "Brotherhood" at FSA, a group of Protestant, Jewish and Catholic men, and soon the young couple were invited to join FSA.

Len became a Steward and a Trustee. Both participated in the Mr. and Mrs. Club, Bifocals, and Marg continues to attend the Super Club—she told me excitedly about a recent meeting



Marg Leonard and her geraniums

featuring jazz pianist Peter Clement. Following his stroke in 1988, Len appreciated the wheelchair access, and was even happier with the new Access entrance and elevator which he used until his death in 1995.

Marg joined Delta Rho—helping edit their cookbook, "Our Best"—and is still active in the UCW, including the Sewing Group. She started the Rummage Sale—approved by the new minister, Alex Farquhar, after a previous minister frowned on holding it in the church. Five years ago she brought (from the CNIB) her Spring Geranium Sale to our west lawn.

She drove for the CNIB for 45 years until her own vision declined with AMD. She remains cheerful about her eyesight, continuing to do almost everything—but warning people that she might not recognize them.

Her children, Debbie and Charles, were in CGIT/Cubs and Scouts. All three participated in the five operas put on by organist, Barrie Cabena. The profits from Britten's *Noye's Fludde* contributed to the first set of Handbells. Marg and Debbie also helped with *Gone Fishing*, attended by Debbie's daughters Dana and Natasha. Debbie sang in the choir and attends Sunday services regularly as does Charles when he's here—he's a long distance driver.

Marg has introduced several new people to FSA, and her enthusiasm, friendly welcome—and faith—helps many of us...to keep going with her.

AN UPDATED DIRECTORY

Plans are now in place to prepare a new photo and phone directory for members of FSA. Ron and Annabelle Logan have offered to coordinate the appointments. Sittings will be held May 3-1, except Sunday, from 2:30pm-8:30. Look for more details on signup in the weekly bulletin.

PLEASE DON'T PLUCK THE TULIPS: GROWING UP IN THE FSA MANSE

by Dr. Donald Farquhar

Apart from having seven children, life in the manse during my father Alex's ministry at FSA (1964-1980) was similar to any other family. But—we did identify with the freewheeling household portrayed in the television program "Please Don't Eat the Daisies," based on Jean Kerr's memoir. Although none of us ate the daisies, one of us did pluck the heads of my mother's prized tulips.



We were a high-spirited bunch who kidded each other a lot, played all the usual games and sports, and filled the house with our friends—none of whom made much of my dad being a minister. We celebrated one another's triumphs and helped nurse each other's disappointments. We knew the joy of a new baby's arrival and the sorrow of a grandparent's death; the despair of illness and the gladness of recovery; the pain of estrangement and the healing of reconciliation. Through it all we grew—as individuals and as a family.

The last time we gathered in the manse was to attend my father's final Sunday as minister at FSA, on Easter, 1980. By then most of us were in our twenties, establishing our own lives and careers in other places. Still, we were sad to leave our family home although we knew that my parents' decision to move from London was part of the life cycle of ministry—renewal for themselves and for the Church. As it turned out, we were the last family to live at 356 Queen's, and we were touched deeply when the Church decided to attach our name to the house a few years later. We are all pleased with its current use as the headquarters for "Meals on Wheels," as the manse continues to reach out to those in need.

(editors's note: Alex Farquhar has agreed to take part in the church's 175th anniversary. He and Glennis are coming to London on the last weekend in April and Alex will preach the sermon on Sunday April 29.)



The Farquhars, circa summer 1964. Standing: Jamie, Alec. Seated Sarah, Megan, Alex, Donald, Glennis (holding Anne, later Anaya) and carrying Kathy (born three months later).

THE CLIMATE AND MY MATERNAL ANCESTORS

by Gene Corbet



This account spans four generations of my maternal ancestors, the Schmidt family, from the 1640s to the 1850s, and describes how changes in climate affected them.

Hans Bernhard Schmidt (1643-1725) lived near Stuttgart, SW Germany where he survived the Plague, the devastation of the Thirty Years' War, and the vagaries of 'The Little Ice Age' (1300-1850). Hans Jerg Schmidt (1673-1735) cultivated grapevines in one of Germany's prime wine-producing regions, the Neckar Valley. During his life-

time, fluctuations in climate, marked by waves of glacial activity, generated clusters of years with above and below average spring/summer temperatures, producing high to low vine-yields. A decade of low yields from 1740 to 1750 was probably a factor in his son Jacob's decision to migrate to New York state in 1752.

The next five years were exceptionally mild but in 1762 Jacob's farm near Albany experienced a severe drought, and the winters of 1764-5 and 1772 were long and severe. From 1779 to 1788 almost every winter had severe cold and heavy snowfall. The worst was in 1779-80 when all the salt-water inlets, harbours, and sounds from North Carolina north eastward froze over and remained frozen for a month or more—the only time in recorded American meteorological history!

Jacob (1726-1790) was an active Loyalist and after the American Revolution fled to Upper Canada where he farmed south of Napanee. Crops failed in 1788, 'The Hungry Year,' and the ensuing winter was severe. Although partly due to 'The Little Ice Age' it is probable that the 1783 eruption of Laki, Iceland had an influence. The worst natural catastrophe in Iceland's history, Laki's eruption discharged 500 million tonnes of gas along with solid material into the atmosphere. The average temperature in north-eastern North America fell by 3 degrees.

Jacob's son George (1771-1853) survived the War of 1812, and then in 1815 there was another volcanic eruption, that of Tambora in Indonesia, leading to 'The Year without a Summer' (1816). Tambora's eruption was brief but violent. It spewed a cloud of dust and ash and sulphur into the stratosphere—the sulphur bonded with water to form feather-like aerosols that circled the globe for years.

Given that the climate was already cool, the eruption of Tambora undoubtedly contributed to the chilly 'Year without a Summer' of 1816. With average surface temperatures that summer a further 1C to 3C below normal, heavy snows fell in June and hard frosts occurred in July and August, killing crops and denuding trees. Many birds and new-shorn sheep died from exposure. Men worked the fields wearing mittens, and crop failures brought economic ruin, famine, and disease.

The Schmidts experienced, endured and survived wars and emigration, and especially, extremes of temperature, but these devout Evangelical Lutherans were a hardy lot. George, my great great great grandfather, died at age 82 in 1853, just as 'The Little Ice Age' came to a close.

HAPPY HOG MA WHAT?

by Gavin McGregor

"Happy Hogmanay" was the friendly greeting I received at the first *Brown Bag Lunch* in January. "You mean, a Happy New Year," was my response. "I thought you Scots called the New Year "Hogmanay," was the swift reply. "Hogmanay means New Year's Eve—*Ner'day* is New Year's Day," I responded, but I knew it wasn't that simple.

Some say Hogmanay is the Gaelic *og maidne* meaning *new morning* and that the Gaelic for New Year's Eve is *Oidhche Challuinn*. There are plenty of other possible derivations but, the fact is, in Scotland Hogmanay refers to New Year's Eve.

Celebrating New Year's Eve goes back to pagan rituals associated with the winter solstice. My home town of Biggar lights a huge bonfire in the village square the night of Hogmanay as a way of burning out the old year and welcoming in the New; a tradition going back almost 4,000 years as an act of cleansing to allow the New Year a fresh start. It is also customary to have houses cleaned and debts paid before the year ends.

Another pagan ritual was for children to exchange gifts. Over time this *may* have evolved into the custom of "First Footing." When you are the first across the threshold of a house in the New Year, you become the *first footer* and should offer gifts of food, fuel and drink; traditionally black bun or shortbread, a lump of coal—and a wee dram.

For centuries, Presbyterians, the same folk who objected to musical instruments in the Kirk, did not celebrate Christmas Day, claiming it was a contrivance of the Pope. Christmas did not become an official public holiday in Scotland until the 1950s. Hogmanay and *Ner'day*, however, have always been holidays. In recent times January 2nd is included as a *recovery* day.

So, in anticipation of next December 31, Happy Hogmanay

AND A HAPPY BURN'S DAY...



Above: Burns night at FSA. Bruce Richardson pipes in the Haggis held by Rev. Doug Mackenzie. Bill Watson and Rev. David McKane follow.



Above: The real star of the show, THE HAGGIS

Changes...

**First-St. Andrew's United Church:
a Christian Family encouraging spiritual
growth through worship, friendship,
learning and action**

MARRIAGES

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

December 30, 2006 William Rabbitts and Gregory Kriek
January 20, 2007 Stacy Davies and Calin Raszga
February 3, 2007 Amanda Davidson and Mark Barron

BAPTISMS

"I will be with you always, even until the end of the world"

January 14, 2007 Gregory John Deacon, son of Pamela Deacon
January 14, 2007 Kara Brooke Martin, daughter of
Randy & Nicole Martin

DEATHS

"Well done good and faithful servant."

Frank Marter	December 17, 2006
Mary Vandenburg-Taylor	January 23, 2007
James Slater	January 25, 2007
Ausma Shields	January 30, 2007
Bessie Bowden	February 5, 2007
Ertle Berdux	February 12, 2007
Betty Haddy	February 13, 2007

THE SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Congratulations to the Property Committee for organizing another successful supper. And thanks to the families and friends of FSA who attended. Once again, it was heartening to see all the young children and their parents and grandparents.



LOS QUINCHOS NEWS

by Barb Dalrymple



The SMO committee is pleased to announce that we have raised over \$3,000 toward our 175th Anniversary year project—the Los Quinchos School in Managua, Nicaragua. Thank you for buying Fair Trade coffee and chocolate—our latest project is selling soup mixes. The goal is to provide a year of lunch-time meals for many of the 1,000 underprivileged children who attend Los Quinchos.

Thus far we have raised enough for approximately 130 students.

M&S personnel who visited the school recently, told us that there is now a new primary library space but with only a few books on the shelves. During Lent we are asking FSA members to contribute directly to our project—a gift of \$10.00 would purchase a book; a gift of \$25.00 would provide food and school supplies for a child for a year. Look for the specially marked envelopes on the tables in the atrium and outside the chapel.

April 15th after church is *Los Quinchos Sunday*. There will be food—hot dogs, apples and drinks—and all types of information about Los Quinchos, including a film. At the same time we will have more info on the **White Squirrel Golf Tournament**, along with the opportunity to practise and register. So, plan to attend *Los Quinchos Sunday* on April 15th.



The Soup Mix Makers for Los Quinchos: Barb Dalrymple, Susan Wark, Lillian Reed, Jean Knowles, Donna-Marie Travis, Mary McKim Mackenzie

WHITE SQUIRREL GOLF TOURNAMENT

by David Knoppert

The First Annual *White Squirrel Golf Tournament* will be held at Ironwood Golf Course near Exeter, Ontario on **Sat. June 23rd** (go to their web site to see the lovely course and brand new clubhouse). This is a fund raising project for the Los Quinchos School in Nicaragua and is being organized by members of the SMO.

This will be a best ball tournament with the emphasis on fun. We will have the entire 18 holes to ourselves with a shotgun start at 2pm. We encourage non-golfers as well as golfers to take part. The cost of golf, a cart and dinner will be \$100, a great price! Those interested in attending the dinner only may do so as well. Further information will be made available later this spring.

A TIME TO BUILD

by Paul Mansell

In celebration of 175 years of Faith in Action at First-St. Andrew's, the SMO Committee asked the members of FSA to provide financial pledges for a LIFT housing initiative to build 24 units of affordable housing at 442 King Street, which is now an empty lot. These pledges would be used to demonstrate the ability of LIFT to raise the required down payment should their project be selected.

A number of generous FSA members pledged over \$40,000 to help this dream become a reality. The success of this project would mean that 24 to 30 Londoners now residing in homeless shelters, staying with friends or living on the streets, many of whom suffer from emotional or mental difficulties, would have safe comfortable warm housing, supported by social workers. Thanks in great part to those pledges this dream is much closer to reality. The London City Council chose our project—for up to 30 units—to proceed with the help of both Federal and Provincial Government funding.



Site drawing of 442 King St., Malhotra Nicholson, Architects

By now you should have received a letter explaining how to send in your pledges. On behalf of the SMO Committee, LIFT, and the many people who will end up living healthier, better lives because of your efforts, a great big THANK YOU to all of our pledgers.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

by Paul Mansell

You are invited to take part in an Amnesty Letter Writing session in Proudfoot Hall immediately following the 10:30 service on **Sunday March 25th**. A light lunch will be served.

This is your opportunity to help those who cannot speak for themselves. This method has proved effective throughout the world for focusing international attention on unjust social issues as well as non-violent prisoners of conscience who are otherwise abandoned to the will of cruel and violent governments. The knowledge that the world is watching is often the only pressure which prevents such governments from proceeding unhindered to torture, disappear and unlawfully execute innocent citizens.

We will provide all the information you need to write an effective letter, either at the church or later at home. Please decide to do it and mark your calendar now.

GIFTS OF GRACE, GIFTS OF HOPE

by Barb Dalrymple

The London Conference Alternative Gift catalogue raised over \$90,000 during 2006. A sincere thank you to all of you who supported it.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

by Charlotte Ann Bell

Have you been wondering who the 'friends' are in this Circle? The answer is—everyone! This group meets approximately once a month, and there is a fluidity in the number who attend, depending upon the event. A recent fun afternoon of 'glo-bowling' at Fleetway, for instance, attracted adults and children. The 'go-with-the flow' attitude of the Circle meant that some bowlers continued the evening over good food at Angelo's, while others went home for supper.

The sparkling tree in the sanctuary in December represented a lot of work putting together the many limbs to create a beautiful Christmas tree. A group of carollers visited nursing and retirement homes. Over the past several years, those who liked to eat, have come to pot luck dinners—and brought the kids. Others have gone on a guided nature walk, rewarded at the end with icecream at the Merla Mae. Spiritual awareness has been deepened at events facilitated by Drs. David McKane, Susan Shelstad or Barry Moore.

These are but a few of the interesting get-togethers. The important information is that the Circle of Friends is a social time "for all ages and stages," an inclusive group where everyone is welcome and where you may attend—or not—depending upon your interests.

See the church bulletin for information prior to a planned event or leave your name with Pat Tripp (519-432-7497 or email pattripp@execulink.com) to be telephoned about upcoming events. There is always an open invitation for you to join the Circle!



ANTIQUÉ AND COLLECTIBLE SALE

by June McKay



A FIRST FOR FSA! This sale will be held **Saturday, March 31, 2007**, from 8am until 1pm and is sponsored by the Tuesday Evening UCW unit.

Donations will be gratefully received. If donors have a suggested price for an item or some interesting information we would appreciate having it attached to the item(s). Items donated will be priced and sold to best

advantage, and at the discretion of the committee.

Since this will be held 2 weeks after the Spring Rummage Sale, we are asking that items be held and not brought to the church until the week of the sale. If you prefer, we can pick them up and hold them, so that we don't confuse items with Rummage donations. Items must be clearly marked, "ANTIQUÉ AND COLLECTIBLE SALE".

These are not to be 'White Elephants' but true collectibles. All items must be clean and in excellent condition.

Assistance will be needed and greatly appreciated for set-up, selling, pricing. If you have any experience with Antiques we could use you!

Call June McKay, 519-471-5668, for more information.

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

by Mary McKim Mackenzie

At the December potluck we were delightfully entertained by the Joyful Singers and the Junior Joyfuls. Colourful bags were packed with assorted home made cookies, accompanied by handmade personalized greeting cards designed by the young choir members, to be delivered to shut-ins.

We celebrated the UCW 25th anniversary Sunday, Jan. 21st with members conducting all aspects of the 10:30 Worship service. It was a lovely service highlighted by June McKay's sermon, "Darn That Dream," telling us of the life struggle and triumphs of her father (Jeff Umphries) and her husband Jack. After the UCW service a brief annual meeting was called to approve the budget. \$8,000 was pledged to the Trustees, payable when a Capital Campaign is held.

On Feb. 14th, a bright snowy morning, eight UCW members joined a group of 120 women at Lambeth United Church for the annual Middlesex Presbyterial. It was a rewarding day. Among those recognized was Ina Cavers, the eldest member present, who was presented with a corsage. The guest speaker was Anne Martin from the National Office, responsible for "Ministry with Adults" and Editor of "Women's Concerns." Susan Eagle, City Councillor, reported that Council had withdrawn the \$2,000 budgeted each year for affordable housing, and she left a petition of protest for all to sign. Mary McKim reported briefly on the October anniversary celebration in Henan, which she attended, and which honoured the early missionaries and the start of Medical work in that province. Following a tasty lunch we enjoyed an amusing message from Lambeth's minister, Matthew Penny, who also conducted the closing communion.

Two dates to remember: **March 17th, Rummage Sale** and **March 31st, Antique Sale**. Helpers will be needed for both events.



Above and Below : The UCW December potluck.



THE PROUDFOOT LEGACY

by Ted Kostecki, Community Development Coordinator

The FSA Planned Giving Campaign, named the Proudfoot Legacy after the visionary minister who started it all 175 years ago, has grown, literally and figuratively.

Literally, the response from the congregation has been very positive, as FSA members indicate to us that they will be naming the church in their will.

Figuratively, the "Legacy Tree" has now been crafted and mounted in the Atrium... soon to be adorned with copper leaves indicating the generosity of past members of FSA.

Planned gifts help keep the ministry of First-St. Andrew's United Church vital and fresh for generations to come.

Planned gifts come first from the heart, but there are excellent estate and tax benefits as well. If you have any questions, please see your financial planner. I will also be pleased to answer any questions.

A MINUTE FOR PROPERTY

by Russ Knight



New Property Committee chair Russ Knight shows the way

As your incoming Chair of the Property committee, I have been asked to raise some of the issues now facing that committee. Although David McKane did a very eloquent job of raising these in his sermon on the day of our Annual Meeting, let me repeat some of them. The sermon, by the way, is available on the FSA website or in hardcopy in the Atrium.

Our church building is beautiful but showing signs of advancing age. In addition to the need for cosmetic help—painting of the exterior, for example—FSA's heating system needs replacement. The need for improved ventilation and cooling in the summer complicates this issue. The presence of asbestos insulation and lead paint throughout the church further adds to the problem.

A recent risk assessment by our insurance company has pointed out the need for windows in all our doors for the protection of women and children behind those doors—

okay, not in the washrooms!

The public address system and the hearing assist system in FSA are also showing signs of age. Continuing problems with the exterior floodlights, the brickwork, security issues and routine maintenance are further concerns. However, lest you think I'm full of complaints, let's remain proud of our beautiful church, and strive to keep it so!



London artist Mike Caldwell, who crafted the Legacy Tree, watches as Brian XXXXXXXXXXXX from Kellenburger Construction mounts the tree on the Atrium wall.

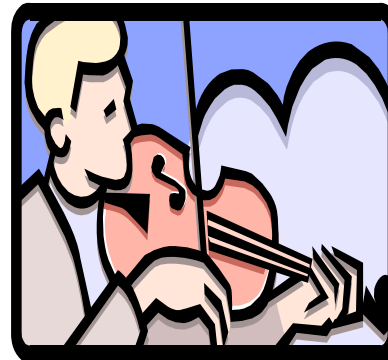
FSA Program Guide

LENT, HOLY WEEK, EASTER 2007

WORSHIP

March 11	9:00 a.m.	Rev. Dr. David McKane
	10:30 a.m.	Interfaith Service Haytham Mafoud
March 18	9:00 a.m.	Rev. Dr. David McKane
	10:30 a.m.	Interfaith Service Rabbi Joel Wittstein
March 25	9:00 and 10:30 a.m.	Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad
April 1	Palm/Passion Sunday	
	9:00 a.m.	Big Circle Breakfast
April 6	10:30 a.m.	Rev. Dr. David McKane
	Good Friday at FSA	
April 8	11:00 a.m.	Rev. Dr. David McKane
	Easter Sunday	
April 15	9:00 and 10:30 a.m.	Rev. Dr. David McKane
	2nd of Easter	
April 22	9:00 and 10:30 a.m.	Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad
	Environment Sunday Greening of the	
April 29	Cross Tree Planting	
	9:00 and 10:30 a.m.	Rev. Dr. David McKane
May 6	4th of Easter	
	10:30 a.m.	Rev. Alex Farquhar
May 13	Confirmation and New Members	
	9:00 and 10:30 a.m.	Rev. Dr. David McKane
May 20	6th of Easter	
	9:00 and 10:30 a.m.	Rev. Dr. David McKane
May 27	7th of Easter	
	9:00 and 10:30 a.m.	Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad
June 3	Pentecost	
	9:00 and 10:30 a.m.	Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad
	Communion	
	9:00 and 10:30 a.m.	Rev. Dr. David McKane

June 10	Anniversary of Church Union 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Rev. Dr. David McKane
June 17	3rd after Pentecost 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad
June 24th Hall	Begin Summer Services in Proudfoot 10:30 a.m. Rev. Dr. David McKane
July 1	Canada Day 10:30 a.m. Guest Preacher
JULY	10:30 a.m. Rev. Dr. David McKane
AUGUST	10:30 a.m. Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad



BECOME A FRIEND OF MUSIC

by Anne Cummings

Support FSA's musical outreach program, FRIENDS OF MUSIC, through donations to the Church Office in your name or as a memorial for another.

Your donations to this self-supporting fund, help to underwrite production costs to allow for affordable ticket prices for international and local artists such as:

ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET

KYIV CHAMBER CHOIR

CHORAL MASTERPIECES

ICELANDIC MUSICIANS

JAZZ CLASSICS

MASSED HANDBELL CHOIRS

Make your cheque payable to First-St. Andrew's and note that it is for Friends of Music. You will receive a tax receipt and your name on the Concert Series flyer.

MUSIC

FRIDAY LENTEN NOON RECITAL

March 23 Bellissima Ringers

12:00 - 12:30 followed by a delicious lunch by the Thames Culinary School for \$5.00

APRIL WILL BE A SPECTACULAR MUSICAL MONTH AT FSA!

On April 8, Easter Sunday the Senior choir will sing choruses from Handel's Messiah accompanied by the FSA Strings and our hymn singing will be energized with trumpets and trombones.



OUR CONCERT SERIES

offers three very exciting programs on successive Saturdays.

On Saturday, April 13 at 7:30 pm, our choir will be accompanied by a large orchestra in performances of some of the greatest and most well-known choral music of all time. In this 175th anniversary year we hope to give a taste of our musical heritage from Bach and Handel to Mendelssohn, Brahms and many others. Admission is only \$15/\$12 for a program we know you will enjoy. Do come and support your choir!

On Saturday, April 21 at 7:30 pm we sponsor an award-winning pianist from Iceland, Vikingor Olafsson. This concert will also feature cellist, Karen Ouzounian. Admission is \$15/\$10.

On Saturday, April 28 our Laudamus Bells will host a day-long workshop with guest clinician David Weck from Chicago. The day will culminate in a concert of massed ringing in the late afternoon. Please note the change in the concert time from the earlier advertised evening time.

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 for infants to two years. The nursery room is next door to the Chapel on the main floor.

Coordinator: Joeli Robertson (675-1533)

CHURCH SCHOOL

The church school will be providing a breakfast for the congregation on Palm Sunday to raise money for the Los Quinchos project. They are also planning a church school family labyrinth walk coming up soon.

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

Check out the Children's Library off the Fireside Room.

Church School Coordinators: Chris and Monique Silcox (293-3960)

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

TEENS IN TRANSIT (TNT)

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

Leader: Nancy Howard (289-0540)

TEEN CONFIRMATION CLASS

A class of four young people is underway looking forward to confirmation on May 6.

IMPACT

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

(b) Youth Group (grades 7-12) meets every two weeks and other times for a variety of activities.

(c) After high school program meets the second and fourth Thursday of every month in the Upper Room from 2:45 – 5:15 p.m.

Impact Coordinators: Dale Radoja (473-3745) and Rocky Moretti (642-4896).

ADULT DEVELOPMENT

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Meets weekly from 9-10 a.m. in the Music Room (upstairs).

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

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

10 am in the Parlour.

Facilitator: Susan Shelstad (679-8182)



DREAM GROUP

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

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

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.

OTHER 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.

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.

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 further details.

PRAYER CHAIN

Do you need prayers for yourself or others? Call **Maureen at the 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

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 the 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, please call **David McKane (679-8182)**

COUNSELLING TEAM

There is a counselling service available to FSA members, 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 at 642-2152**.

RIDES FOR SENIORS

If you need a ride to and from church and/or church events, please call **Helen and Bill Cockshutt (858-9454)**.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

A Baptismal preparation session is held prior to every Baptism (usually the Thursday evening before) to prepare the parents who are bringing their children for Baptism. We explore the meaning of Baptism, and prepare for the Sunday service. Our next baptism Sunday is May 13

Call the office if interested (519-679-8182).

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

This Committee is involved in the Hospitality Meals, preparing baby layettes, organizing food collection for the Youth Action Centre and St. Paul's Daily Bread, actively supporting the ELUCOC in special projects, working with St. Marys United Church in support of the Canadian Food Grains Bank and occupying a chair on their Board, sending two members to the LIFT Council meetings, and much more.

HOSPITALITY MEALS

This program runs year round on Mondays, 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 information, contact **Tom and Shirley Wynne at 474-4768**, or the **Church Office, 679-8182**.

ST. PAUL'S DAILY BREAD

Please keep in mind this Committee's food collection for St. Paul's Daily Bread. Baby food is also a special need and may be left at any time. Baskets are placed at the entrance of the Chapel, and Narthex and Atrium entrances of the Sanctuary, where you may leave your donations. Financial contributions are also welcome. Thank you for helping others!.

GROW-A-ROW: Canadian Food Grains Bank

by Jean Knowles

It will be time soon for the "kick-off" of our 2007 *Grow a Row* Campaign! Again we will partner with St Marys United Church. The 2006 campaign at FSA alone raised \$4,731. FSA's Tom McLarty will be the "host" again for the 2007 crop. Thank you, Tom.

Since our first crop near St. Marys in 1995, our joint fundraising has generated an amazing \$115,805. With the assistance of CIDA and its 4-1 matching ratio, this equates to \$579,025—a very impressive total upon which we plan to build in 2007—and onward.

This is a wonderful venture to assist our neighbours in The Third World, and the SMO Committee will continue to work with our most generous FSA Congregation.

The 2007 Campaign will commence in April, ending with our fun "Corn Roast" in September. LET'S MAKE 2007 ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR!!!

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. First-St. Andrew's has three units meeting monthly as follows:

The first Thursday at 1:30 p.m. in the church parlour

The second Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. at 1 Grosvenor Gate

The third Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the church 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.

FSA SUPPER CLUB

On March 27, we welcome Susan McKane, Group coordinator of MerryMount Children's Centre, talking about the work of the Centre.

On April 24, 2007, we welcome back EDUARD KLASSEN who will present a concert with his PARAGUAN HARP. Eduard was born in Paraguay, South America and now resides in the Stratford area. He has performed concerts in over 20 countries, over 3,000 concerts in all. He was our guest in March, 2006 and we all were excited and privileged to have the opportunity to hear and meet him. Don't miss this very special evening !

Mark these dates on your calendar: March 27, April 24 and May 22. Call June McKay 519-471-5668 or Shirley Wynne 519-474-4768 for more information. All are welcome.

Please feel free to come along and join this congenial group for any of these events.

BRIDGE GROUP

The Marathon Bridge Group has ended its season under the coordination of Jim and Jean Young. For information contact the Youngs at 681-8119.

THE MEN'S BROWN BAG LUNCH

Every Wednesday at noon, from September to April, a group of men meet in the Parlour over brown bag lunches, washed down with coffee and tea. David McKane is our facilitator—although we have been known to meet when he is away.

What do we talk about? Well, it's a guy thing, so 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—for example its music—to questions of a deeper spirituality. Often our discussion grows out of recent sermons. How do we personally experience the Incarnation and Resurrection? What about our personal peak experiences?

Again, being men, someone usually has an appropriate (?) joke which brings us back to reality—when we start to get too esoteric. One way or another, the hour flies by quickly. We always stop promptly at 1 but conversations may continue in the hall for a long time after. For some of us, this is our only opportunity to speak more deeply with other men.

Please join us Wednesdays at noon.

ISABEL GETLIFFE SEWING GROUP

Meets Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Everyone interested in hand and machine sewing, cutting and stuffing is welcome. Coffee is provided. Bring a lunch. The group prepares items for sale at the annual Bazaar in the fall.

THE KNIT WITS

A group of experienced and beginner knitters get together on the first Tuesday of each month from 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. They produce items for children and adults who are cold and in need in our community. For information, call Marion Wilson, 519-434-0530.



A FINAL WORD

Lent, Holy Week, Easter 2007

THE LABYRINTH

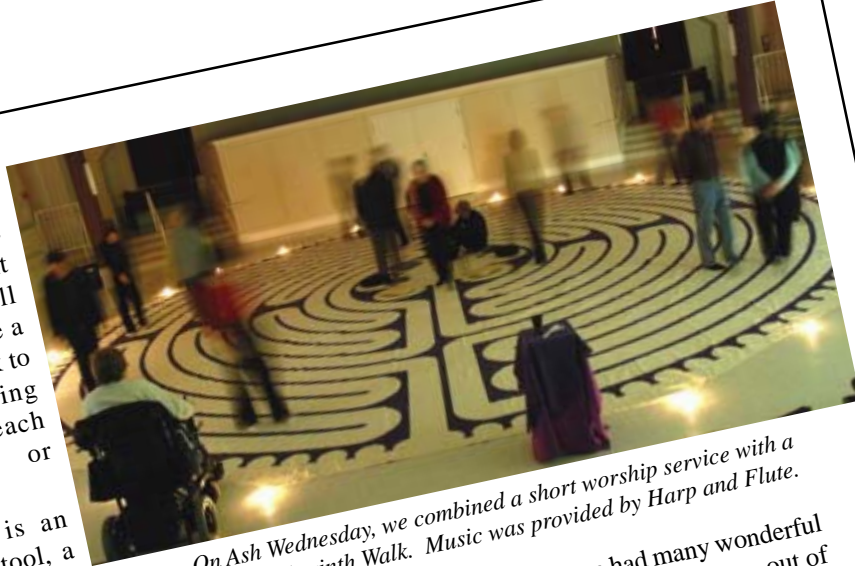
To help celebrate our 175th Anniversary, the Christian Development Committee invites all groups at FSA to have a special labyrinth walk to enrich the ongoing experience of each particular group or committee.

The labyrinth is an ancient spiritual tool, a prayer path, a life metaphor, a walking meditation. We are fortunate to have our own labyrinth, and over the past several years we have had many wonderful labyrinth walks. At our first walk we advertised in the London Free Press and had a turn-out of over 200 people! After that, we stopped advertising since the labyrinth experience is more suited to smaller gatherings. In the fall we welcomed a group from Wellspring—the cancer support center—and occasionally we have rented the labyrinth to other outside groups.

With your input, we will design a special labyrinth event to suit the focus of your group. The event will include preparation for the walk, the walk itself, and a facilitated discussion afterward on the experience. The event might also have a short worship service—perhaps including communion—along with refreshments. Each group's walk will be different, and you will enjoy the experience together as a group!

There is no cost to your group other than refreshments—if you decide to have some. The event will be one and a half to two hours long, depending on what is planned. Evenings are best for the labyrinth because candlelight adds to the experience, but we could also arrange daytime walks if you wish. You might choose to have the walk at the time of your regular meeting.

We invite you to **find yourself at the heart of the labyrinth**. Speak to Susan Shelstad (519-679-8182) or Paul Pergau (519-434-2490) for more information and to reserve a date for your committee or group.



On Ash Wednesday, we combined a short worship service with a Labyrinth Walk. Music was provided by Harp and Flute.



First-St. Andrew's Ministry

Rev. Dr. David McKane: Minister of Worship and Administration

Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad: Minister of Christian Development

Paul Merritt: Director of Music

Ted Kostecki: Community Development Coordinator

Susan Scorgie: Church Administrator

Maureen Scarborough: Secretary/Receptionist

Rusty Robertson: Custodian

Rev. Dr. Frank Meadows, Minister Emeritus