

Tidings

Vol 25, No 2 – Pentecost/Summer 2015

FIND
YOUR
PURPOSE

Some reflections
on pages 2 and 3

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Tidings

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EDITORIAL

David Flynn pdflynn@rogers.com

Jo Ann, in her Council report, speaks of a new journey for FSA, guided by the Holy Spirit. The “town hall meeting” on May 19th generated a host of ideas about the direction of this journey. In addition to short-term steps to deal with the current financial crisis, some ideas were about what Steve Elson, in his *View from the Pew*, calls “our purpose.” Is our purpose to keep this venerable old building in good condition? Is it to add members and increase givings in order to maintain our current programmes and staffing, or to preserve community among current members? Are we prepared to open ourselves to other Christian, or even non-Christian groups?

In a way, we are faced with the choice of the early followers of Jesus—do we hide in our Upper Room away from the turmoil around us, or do we go into the world to spread what we know about the Way of Jesus? Has the time come to see if our Way can be combined with other people’s journeys so that together we can share a common purpose of fostering a moral, loving way of living?

The Property Committee has considered this question for many years. Each time they choose to rent out our facilities to an outside group, they try to determine if that group shares our purpose. Perhaps the time has come to open up our property to wider uses, such as seniors’ housing or even regular apartments, in order to free the congregation from worries about building maintenance.

In past issues, *Tidings* wrote primarily about FSA members and groups. Now, the Welcoming Committee has asked us to extend our mandate, to do articles on groups which rent our building. Or, we could go even further, and write about other downtown groups, such as the Woodfield Neighbourhood, which sometimes lists our activities in their newsletter. The Membership and Nurture Committee also is asking us to participate in the Woodfield Street Fair. Thanks to Kate, we have links to the Muslim community—should we write about them? The *Tidings* Team decided to ask readers what we should do.

If we believe that we are beginning a Holy journey, we also must believe that we are led by the same God who guided Jesus and the early disciples to look outside their own Jewish community. Are we willing to take that path?

LIVING WITH PURPOSE

Steve Elson

Within the context of religious faiths, talking about the purpose of life is a common theme. It may be phrased as serving God, as loving one's neighbour, as being kind. In this way, the purpose of life is framed as something we should or can have in common.

It can also be put into a larger context and refer to the meaning of life. To quote: *The meaning of life is a philosophical and spiritual question concerning the significance of living or existence in general. It can also be expressed in different forms, such as "What should I do?", "Why are we here?", "What is life all about?", and "What is the purpose of existence?"* Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meaning_of_life

Both of these ideas suggest that there is an objective meaning to be sought or discovered. But is this really the case?

I would like to suggest that the purpose or meaning of life can be much more personal and subjective. So if the question posed is "What is the meaning or purpose of my life?" it takes on a different flavour. If we challenge ourselves to ask what gives meaning to my life, what gives my life purpose, we open ourselves up to a whole range of possibilities and opportunities—with multiple answers specific to each person. For example, loving and raising children provides parents with a significant purpose. Parents begin by having the responsibility of looking after a baby

who is totally dependent on them for their physical, emotional and spiritual well-being and, over time, they guide them to grow into independent people with their own life direction. But there is no one purpose; people can have many things in their life that gives it meaning and this can change.

From a religious or spiritual perspective we are challenged to seek purpose from two directions—internally, by what gives meaning to our spiritual

View from the
Pew



The purpose
of life is a life
of purpose.

iliketoquote.com

lives and makes us spiritually whole; and outwardly, by how we live in relationship with others, what we share and how we give of ourselves.

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



WE ARE FAMILIES

Jean Wright

One of the strengths of First-St. Andrew's is the diversity of background and family composition. The Mahabir family is a shining example of this. Four generations have worshipped at FSA. Twelve-year-old Jade Mahabir's great-grandmother immigrated to Canada from Trinidad with Jade's grandparents, Dawne and Neville, her uncle, and Jade's mother, Helen,

Helen, now a principal in the London school system, looks back on her days growing up in First-St. Andrew's. She credits her involvement in Sunday School, CGIT, and teen groups with giving her opportunities to develop her leadership skills. In particular, she praises Youth Forum. As a teen, she attended London Conference's Youth Forum, where she sat in on sessions and discussed issues with young people from other United churches. She went on to lead CGIT, and become involved in ELUCO.

As a single parent, Helen hopes that her adopted daughter, Jade, will find those

connections within FSA. In the same way that people welcomed and involved her in various activities, she would like her daughter, and other young people, to contribute to the active life of the congregation and develop their leadership potential.

Asked for advice on how our church can welcome families who don't fit the stereotypical mold, Helen draws on her own family's experience. Take time to talk to new people. Invite them to join in the activities of



over forty years ago. Arriving in London they looked around for a church, and on their first visit to First-St. Andrew's they felt so welcome, they made it their home church. The minister visited them the next week. Families in the congregation invited them to their homes, and they felt surrounded by the welcoming love of the congregation.

the congregation. Don't just assume it happens naturally.

With the support of Dawne and Neville, Helen and Jade enjoy a rich life interacting with family and friends.

The final word is Helen's: "I wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for First-St. Andrew's." †



KAREN REESE

David Flynn

It was in September 1993 when Karen Reese first visited First-St. Andrew's Church.

That is when her son, Bill Shepard and his wife Catherine, were married in the beautiful sanctuary. Karen had been transferred from London to Toronto to teach for Canada Trust bank. When she returned to London, the joyful, memorable experience at FSA helped her decide which church to join. The worship, music, and friendships have been life-changing.

Karen, along with her fifteen brothers and sisters, was born and raised in Lawrence, Kansas, where she studied nursing at Kansas University. In 1970 Karen moved to Kitchener, Ontario. Once she became accustomed to the snow and cold winters, it was a welcomed change.

Karen has a positive attitude based on her faith and religious values. Church has played a major part in the lives of her entire family. With fifteen siblings, sharing with and caring for others, love, honesty and trust were family values instilled at an early age, along with respect for their family name, Kimball.

There are no words to explain the depth of sorrow when her youngest son, Jeffery, died at the age of seventeen. Then as now, only her faith in God kept her alive and sane.

Along with her immediate family, son Bill, daughter Angie, three granddaughters, one grandson, and three great-grandsons, Karen is also close to her First-St. Andrew's, Sweet Adelines', and Toastmasters' families. She holds the Distinguished Toastmasters designation, and currently serves as District 86 Toastmasters Division S Governor, in charge of 26 Toastmasters' clubs in South-western Ontario. As well, since becoming a member of the London Sweet Adelines Barbershop Chorus, Karen has performed throughout Ontario

and in many states, including Indiana, Oregon, and Hawaii, where the chorus took third place in the world in their category. For the past twelve years, Karen has sung bass in the comedy quartet, *In a Heartbeat*. They truly enjoy working together and have had the honour of performing at events for the United Church Women's Council.

Profile



Karen feels truly blessed to have such great opportunities and wants to give back to others in any helpful way she can. She serves as a member of First-St. Andrew's Welcoming Committee, and thanks the members of FSA for their many acts of kindness. †

Getting to Know



JANE DAICHENDT
David McKane

People belong to faith communities for many reasons and travel by many roads. Some are born into a particular faith community. Some are baptised as children or as adults. Some join by marriage and others come seeking a spiritual home. Some of us are

Hill was one of her professors for whom she remembers writing a paper, *The Enjoyment of Physical Activity*.

Graduating in 1986, Jane worked part-time for UWO in the recreation department before being hired full-time in the Campus Recreational Programme. Then life, as it sometimes does, took a sharp turn. Jane was diagnosed with depression. She worked at various jobs before what she describes as “the 23-year miracle” of turning her life around and taking control of her own destiny. This involved a lengthy process that included the support of close friends and family, therapy and education, medical help and spiritual healing. Today Jane practises spirituality to heal her body and maintain her spirit.

Jane’s family runs a bakery in Tilbury and Jane, often called the “Tilbury Dough Girl” in Tilbury High School, loves to cook, her specialty being home-made spaghetti sauce and perogies. She loves walking, puzzles and reading mystery novels. Jane has discovered she loves learning about other cultures and science via programmes on TVO, things which didn’t interest her in high school. Journaling and collaging help her make sense of her world.

In her journey to FSA she notes many people welcomed her but four stand out: Joni Pypka, her membership mentor Deanne Pederson, June McKay and Kate Crawford. Full of energy and eager to put her faith

from “away” and some of us have spent all of our lives in London. Nonetheless we are all part of the family of FSA. Born and raised in Tilbury with her older brother, Jane Daichendt attended UWO studying science and physical education. Stan

to work, Jane is active on the MOE and *Tidings* committees. As the hymn we often sang in the eighties says, *Come in, come in and sit down, for you are a part of the family.* †



We keep thinking we should donate everything to the Royal Canadian Regiment Museum, but we are reluctant to part with such a meaningful part of our MacLean history. †



THE KILT
Liz Mignotte



Barbara
Williamson

For many years now at the Robbie Burns' supper a kilt, sporrán and plaid have decorated the bench on the stage. This kilt was part of our Uncle Ross MacLean's uniform from World War One. We still have the khaki spats, plaid socks and glengarry cap, but over the years the jacket has gone astray. The cairngorm brooch that held the plaid in place is of particular interest since it represents the thistle, rose and shamrock. Anyone who sang *The Maple Leaf Forever* in elementary school will remember their significance.

Uncle Ross was the fourth child of eight of John MacLean and Eliza Dalrymple. The farm, which was located due east of Hensall, had been homesteaded by his grandfather, Duncan MacLean, in 1863. Uncle Ross was conscripted late in the war and spent his military service in England. Following the war he came back to the farm briefly before moving to Detroit with his wife, where he became a streetcar driver.

In 1948, after rescuing a young girl from drowning, he was unable to save himself and perished. This was the second time Uncle Ross had saved someone from drowning. He had rescued a swimmer at Grand Bend twenty years earlier.

The kilt was given to our mother, Grace MacLean Hunter, who kept it carefully smothered in mothballs. All of us at some time wore the kilt on Hallowe'en or to costume parties. Uncle Ross was a rather small man, so as we grew up the kilt became somewhat of a mini skirt on all of us!



Grace MacPhail-Wagner dances
in front of Uncle Ross's kilt

Remembering



I WILL NOT FORGET RAMSAY GUNTON

Stu Eberhard

The measure of a person is how others are affected by his presence. Dr. Gunton was such a person and represented the highest of standards.

When I returned to London to complete my residency in internal medicine in 1971, Dr. Gunton had been the chief of medicine at Victoria Hospital and the chair of medicine at UWO for a short time. I had the pleasure and honour to be his resident July 1972 to June 1973 following such luminaries as Cal Stiller.

Ramsay taught me not only to grow professionally but also socially. Because he was seen as the physician's physician in Southwestern Ontario, he was sent the most challenging cases and I spent a lot of time in the library. "You won't learn much if you don't figure it out for yourself." He also introduced me to eating raw oysters on the half shell!

Others will undoubtedly relate his numerous academic and administrative accomplishments, but to me he was a man with sympathy and compassion for his patients and he strived to do the best for them. Ramsay also encouraged his students and colleagues to reach beyond their grasp.

I will never forget him and the time I spent with him.



Where Are They Now?

SHELLY PINKARD

To My Dearly Missed FSA Family,

It has been nineteen long months since I have worshipped and served among you.

Periodically I will get a brief note from one of my Sisters in the Spirit keeping me abreast of you guys' moves, and understand that there have been some changes there, which I hope have affected you all in a positive manner.

Most of you will remember that one of the things that I love most about Canadians is that you all have a great appreciation for rest. I vowed that it would be a trait that I would bring back with me. I failed! Not long after returning to the US, the government had a shut down. Not knowing how long it would last, I got a part-time job working at the call center for Macy's. The shut down ended before I even started, but I kept the job and eighteen months later am still there. I did get a promotion with the government after seven months of being back, but I had to leave the contracting career field. I am now a quality team leader. I supervise seven wonderful people, and despite the challenges of learning new skills, I am having a great time. However, when I am on vacation I shut off all work connections and enjoy that time fully.

I was blessed to find a handbell choir to ring with, but no choir could take the place of Laudamus. This group is nice, and we even practise on Mondays and take summers off. However, it is not the same. We are definitely not as close knit a team. I mean there are a few jokes cracked during practice, but when the ringing is done everyone goes their separate ways. We are a team of ringers not friends.

To say I miss you all does not adequately describe the hole left in my life not having FSA to attend and perform community services with. I am still searching for a church to call home, and get the warmth and feelings of Christian love that we shared when I was with you.



AFRICAN ADVENTURES

Beth and David Girvan

This past fall, we had the opportunity to visit five countries in Africa—Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda and South Africa. While in Cape Town, the highlight of our visit was a morning spent in the Cape Town Flats Townships sponsored by Uthando (meaning Love), a non-profit and Fair Trade tourism company. Uthando, through its fundraising efforts and tour fees, supports over 40 projects in a number of townships east of Cape Town. The Townships, a legacy of apartheid, continue to be home to large black and coloured populations. The people live in crowded shacks made of tin, wood and cardboard. The work Uthando is doing in these communities is outstanding and helped us to better understand the reality and legacy of apartheid.

We were a group of eight people with a wonderful guide, Xolani, who shared his knowledge and personal stories as a child growing up under apartheid. We began our visit with a pre-school programme run by Mama Gloria. She started it to look after the children of mothers with HIV/Aids while they were getting treatment. Today Mama Gloria looks after children whose single mothers are working. The number of children in her care has tripled, but she never turns away a child.

We next visited a community organic garden project started by 20 women to provide vegetables for local people but now also sells produce to one of Cape Town's major hotels. A women's craft centre was next on our agenda, providing single moms a workspace to create and design items for sale to give them an income.

Our final visit was to a seniors' daycare centre. The Girvans felt right at

home!! Almost all of these elderly people had worked under white rule during apartheid and never had an opportunity to interact with their employers on an equal basis. They asked us questions about our families, our occupations and our country. We, in turn, asked about their lives and families. They asked us to sing them a song. With difficulty (we were two Canadians, an American couple, two young German girls and a Danish couple), we chose to sing *If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands*. Earlier



in the morning this song had been sung to us by the children in the daycare. Our elderly hosts seemed to appreciate the effort (if not the song), and then they gathered together and sang several gospel hymns in wonderful harmony. As we left there were hugs, handshakes and a few tears. It was a moving experience. We were so impressed by the dignity, joy and resolve of these beautiful seniors.

Anyone planning a visit to Cape Town should take advantage of one of Uthando's tours to the Cape Flat Townships to enrich your experience of Africa. †

Travel
Tales

The Next Generation



KAROL BOYD
Jane Dockrill

Chris, Jane and now ... Karol—the team watching over our next generation.

In January 2015, Karol Boyd met up with Chris Lindsay and their groups of teenagers on the long bus ride to

youth group at FSA, youth programmes at Colborne Street United, cool community service projects, and youth leadership in general.

Karol's interest in youth leadership took her to Five Oaks Education and Retreat Centre in Paris, Ont. She is now a NEOS Youth Leadership graduate. In the past, she enjoyed many hours with the youth at Colborne United and wants to do more! Chris invited Karol to come and check out our youth programme, and that is where our relationship begins.

Karol and her daughter Morgan have been out to many of our Friday night youth events since then. She slept on the floor alongside me and twenty youth at our weekend retreat in March ... now that's commitment! We are looking forward to the Camp Kee-Mo-Kee retreat this June with the youth and families of FSA (Karol is especially good at planning really fun games!)

Karol calls FSA the "castle church" because of the way it looks and feels. No wonder she wants to hang out here—who wouldn't want to play in a castle? Karol brings a genuine desire to engage the youth. This year we have welcomed new young faces through the "castle doors," some introduced by Karol through her work in the community. She's a gift.

Karol is married to Darrin, has two kids in their early twenties. She has a "baby"—Ollie, a big black lab. For fun, Karol likes to go camping, read, and paint with acrylics. She loves music and movies—especially on the big screen. Karol likes the colour purple, ice cream and cream pies (not at the same time!). She enjoys biking and nature walks with Ollie.

Karol has a great sense of humour and loves to laugh. We look forward to deepening our relationship with her as we play together with the youth of FSA and community. Be sure to say "Hi" next time you see her at church.



Worshipplude in Ottawa. They talked and talked, (there's not much else to do on a bus). They shared stories of our new



FSA FILM SERIES

Anne Cummings

Do you enjoy watching thought-provoking movies? Are you curious about what other people see in a movie? Do you like to eat popcorn while you watch a movie?

Then the FSA Film Series is for you. This series was resurrected in April 2013 by a committee of Anne Cummings, Michael and Jacob Feeney, Deanne and David Pederson, Glenda Robinson, and with creative help in graphic design for our posters by Jim Silcox.

Under the auspices of the Christian Development Committee, our mandate is to provide adult Christian education through films that explore spirituality and social justice issues, such as disabilities, racism, sexual orientation, and aging. Each movie is followed by a short discussion about the salient issues raised by the story. These discussions are facilitated by a revolving number of church members who volunteer to preview the film and then develop a few questions to stimulate discussion.

Of course, no movie experience is complete without popcorn! When you walk into the Chapel for one of our movies, you are greeted by the smell of popcorn accompanied by sparkling water or juice. We accept donations for the snacks and this money has paid for all of our DVDs so that we are a self-supporting endeavor.

After each film is shown, it is labelled and placed in the church library for anyone to check out and view at home. Because many of our movies are based on inspiring, true stories, it can be interesting to view some of the special feature interviews on the DVDs by the actors, and sometimes the actual people

who were involved in the film's events.

Our committee meets twice a year to choose films for the fall and winter film series. Since 2013, we have shown 23 films, such as *The Life of Pi*, *Invictus* (about Nelson Mandela), *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, and *The Monuments Men*.



We are always eager for suggestions for movies that you think would be stimulating to show in our series and we welcome anyone who would like to join our committee. †

Baptisms, May 10th, 2015

- Deacon, Paige Eleanor
- Randall, Weston Gerald William
- Burgoyne, Holden Melville

Confirmations, May 10th, 2015

- Stewart, Isaac Jikasoni
- Stewart, Ishmael Jikasoni
- Wood, Jordan Taylar
- Wood, Andrew Steven
- Swartman, Robyn Elizabeth
- Tufts, Bronwyn Lorene
- Tufts, Naomi Katrien
- Tufts, Ella Kennedy
- Pin, Rudy James

New Members, May 10th, 2015

- Tindall, Susan and Peter
- Robinson, Lynn
- Huber, Jess

Marriages

- Storm, Troy Bradley and Spencer, Keri-Ann, April 18th, 2015

Deaths

- Grass-Dixon, Mary Louise, Dec. 4th, 2014
- Pook, Catherine, Dec. 15th, 2014
- Buckingham, Marian, Dec. 31st, 2014
- Swartman, Jim, Jan. 14th, 2015
- Gunton, Ramsey Willis, Jan. 22nd, 2015
- Johnston, Marilyn Joan, Mar. 25th, 2015



COUNCIL
Jo Ann Silcox

And now faith, hope, and love abide, but the greatest of these is love. (1 Cor. 13:13)

As the June issue of *Tidings* goes to print, First-St. Andrew's, along with her sister churches across Canada, stands on the threshold of declining congregational size and correspondingly shrinking income, increased expenses, and the uncertainty of a proposed new model of doing church, which will remove many of the traditional institutional supports to which we have looked since Union.

All of this could make one faint-hearted on the best of days! Instead, however, one is seeing emerge the core faith of a people who have been through transition before and know that, despite the machinations of human beings, the hand of the CREATOR is still visibly at work, the guidance of the HOLY SPIRIT is palpably present, and faith, hope and love really do abound.

We look forward with great gratitude to the new ministry of the Rev. Michelle Down in our midst beginning in July—confident that her two decades of experience in Interim Ministry, her extensive service at Presbytery and Conference levels in London Conference and beyond, and her abiding faith and contagious hope will inspire all of us to love more deeply and serve more fully as we move into the next decade.

Council, with wonderful input from many committees, groups and individuals, has begun the process of getting our financial house in order while beginning the journey of visioning towards a new mission in the heart of London, which will take us to places we have never before imagined, and enable us to develop new programmes and alliances sensitive to a church less concerned with its walls and more committed to the Great Commission.

We are standing on holy ground, as we walk together hand in hand with the One who shaped us and shepherds us in love every step of the way.

Thanks be to GOD!





WORSHIP

Jane Westmorland

The Worship Committee is very pleased to welcome the Rev. Michelle Down to First-St. Andrew's. We look forward to her first Sunday, July 5th. She will preach throughout the summer with the exception of August 9th and 16th when she leaves for the Church General Council. During our time of transition, we have been very fortunate to have the Rev. Tom Hiscock; lay minister Kerry Stover, and the Rev. Dr. David McKane preach. Our thanks go out to them for providing us with meaningful worship.

We have had several memorable Sundays: Easter Sunday with communion and beautiful music; the Greening of the Cross, when Kerry Stover preached about water; and the children's musical which taught us about parables. Mother's Day Sunday, May 10th, was a service of baptism, confirmation and transfer of members. Three children were baptized, nine young people were confirmed, and four people transferred

their memberships. It was a moving celebration, as the service took us through infancy and childhood, to youth and then to adulthood in our church.

The Bulletin Committee has had one meeting and determined that we need to wait to decide on a format until we meet with the Rev. Down. We are using the waiting time to gather ideas and listen to input from the congregation. In order to enhance the communication and celebration of events in the church, it was decided that we would erect a screen and run a slideshow on a continuous loop fifteen minutes before the service.

Mark your calendars for June 7th, when a church service will be held at Camp Kee-Mo-Kee under the leadership of Tom Hiscock. A church service will be available at the church that morning as well, with David McKane preaching. Summer services will be held in Proudfoot Hall and will resume in the Sanctuary on September 6th. Be sure to take some time in the summer to join our church family as we worship together in a relaxed, friendly and informal setting. †



UCW

Jay Snyder

Rummage Sale 2015: The Rummage Sale was very successful bringing in \$2800, plus an additional \$411 from Allyson Watson's young mothers. Many thanks to Jim and Jan Hendry, Allyson's team, and all those who helped to make this event a success.

Phantom Tea: Please remember to turn in your Phantom Tea envelopes. These envelopes can be found in your mailboxes in the atrium.

Conference UCW Gathering: This year's event was held April 17th-19th in Sault Ste. Marie and enjoyed by Eva Archibald.

Westminster Weekend: This event, held May 1st-3rd at the Stonebridge Inn, was attended and appreciated by Donna Goulin.

UCW in June: Instead of a UCW meeting in June, please come and enjoy a Sunday service on June 7th at Camp Kee-Mo-Kee. Lunch will be provided by the C.E. Committee.

Posters: Please find and read our three UCW posters located in various locations in the church.

M&S Donations: In 2014, United Church Women throughout Canada raised 1.48 million dollars for Mission and Service.

New UCW unit: Some younger UCW women are planning the creation of a new unit. We wish them

great success.

National Project: The National UCW project, "Bread Not Stones," focusing on helping children in poverty, is well under way.

Doll Project: Laurel attended a programme on April 14th at Wesley-Knox United Church to promote the "Doll Project." Initiated by the women in Alberta, this project raises awareness of child poverty in Canada, and has been in effect for over five years. In London alone, 22% of our children live in poverty. This is well above the national average of 14%. A major factor in this problem is the lack of affordable housing.

Upcoming UCW Event:
September 23rd, 2015: UCW evening meeting; Bob Ripley, former minister of Metropolitan United Church, will be the guest speaker. †



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MISSION, OUTREACH & ENVIRONMENT

Barb Dalrymple

ELUCO

This is camp time for ELUCO. Nancy Howard is busy trying to send as many children to camp as possible. As they have done for the past few years, our UCW is sponsoring two children to attend Camp Kee-Mo-Kee. A generous individual in the congregation is also sponsoring a child. Camp donations are always welcome. ELUCO has benefited from a ministry intern this year, Cheryl Bolton. Cheryl will be ordained at London Conference in June, and was a wonderful addition to our staff.

Plant Trees!

Interfaith Tree Planting. Join with Muslim, Jewish and other Christian faith groups on June 14th, 2:30-5:30pm, to plant 400 trees and shrubs at Connaught Park in London! We will have an afternoon of tree planting and children's games, snacks and fellowship! Put your faith into action by being an earth steward! We hope you can be a part of this event, organized by reForest London. For more information, contact Janice Elliott, 519-657-7183 or janiceelliott04@gmail.com

St. Paul's Daily Bread

Twenty FSA members attended a Soup and Sandwich fundraiser at the London Club on May 11th.

Thank you for continuing to donate non-perishable food and toiletries to the shopping cart and white baskets. There is an ongoing need all summer. Running shoes are still needed for the London Innercity Health Centre. They, too, may be deposited in the shopping cart.

Canadian Foodgrains Bank

Our Grow-a-Row campaign continues with St. Marys UC. Please be generous to help alleviate world hunger. The new coordinator of the CFGB will be with us on September 13th for the **Corn Roast**. Our friends, the Mayberrys have retired.

Other Projects

Hotdog Day raised \$295 towards our White Squirrel Golf Tournament on June 13th at Ironwood.

Thanks to all who donated can openers, towels and facecloths during Lent. They were greatly appreciated by Mission Services London.

You may still make donations to the Nepal Earthquake Response on the United Church's website or by writing a cheque to FSA adding Nepal Earthquake Response in the Note section. †

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ACCREDITED BUSINESS



PROPERTY
George Jolink

The Property Committee is responsible for all matters dealing with the maintenance and management of the buildings and grounds at First-St. Andrew's United Church. This is a large and complex portfolio as we struggle to maintain and enhance our facility in a fiscally responsible way. The committee relies on funds from both the Operating budget and cash infusions from the Board of Trustees. From time to time, for large-scale capital projects, the congregation may be approached for additional support through a capital fundraising campaign.

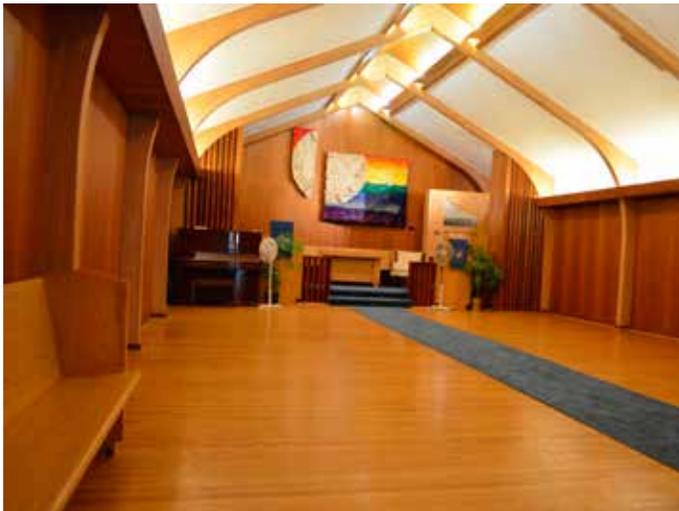
The Property Committee mandate also includes generating funds for the church by overseeing the rental of space. We have a large desirable facility in a central location with on-site parking, and we are fortunate to be able to leverage this asset in order to support the operations of our organization. Last year alone rentals brought in over fifty thousand dollars. We get calls on a regular basis requesting the use of space at FSA. The criteria for allocating space are based on actual

availability, impact to First-St. Andrew's programming, and ideological fit with our mission and vision. All rentals are vetted by staff and long-term contracts are approved by Council.

Currently we have four long-term tenants: Meals on Wheels, which has exclusive use of Farquhar House; Soul Care, a health and wellness programme, which uses rooms on the second floor; DevaTree, a yoga school, using the Chapel and a second space for breaks; S.O.U.P. (Southern Ontario Ukulele Players) using the Fireside room on Monday evenings.

In addition to these tenants, we have several regular and recurring users. We are pleased to be a facility of choice for the Kiwanis Music Festival, Amabile Choirs, Pro Musica, Fanshawe Chorus and, occasionally, the Musicians of Orchestra London. We also rent out about half of our parking spaces on a monthly basis.

The Property Committee understands that using our facility in this way also has a cost to us in the form of increased wear and tear, general maintenance, supplies, and possible inconvenience to our members. However, the benefit to us (income stream and community visibility) justifies our ongoing commitment to securing rental tenants. †



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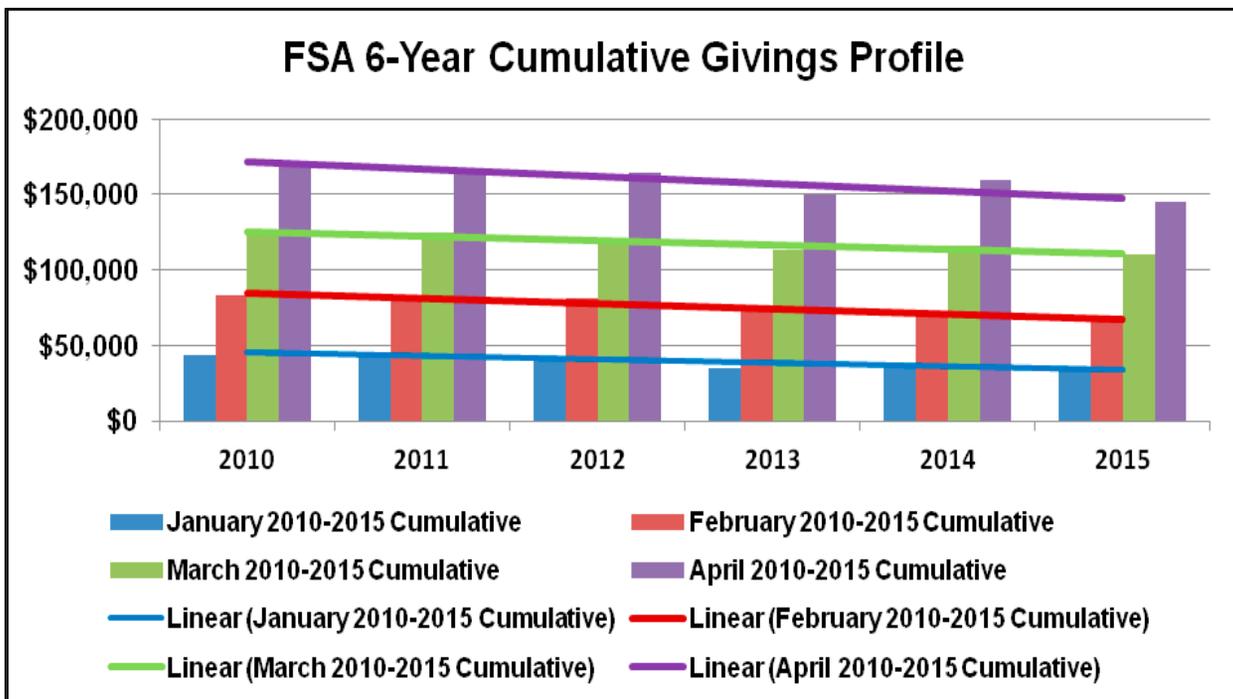
FINANCE
Harold Jackson

"It is not only what we do, but also what we do not do, for which we are accountable." Molière

Sound not-for-profit fiscal management strategy identifies sources of revenue that balance the planned expenses of such an organization. At First-St. Andrew's United Church (FSA) revenue is secured from a combination of locally-raised funds (givings, facilities rental income, special appeals and miscellaneous donations), along with investment revenue generated from trust funds managed by the Board of Trustees. In 2015 Trust Funds investment revenue available to support expense plans approved by the Annual Congregational Meeting in February, forecast \$80,000 from unrestricted trust funds and \$18,044 from the Jean Brown restricted trust fund. However, to balance forecast expenses, on an annualized basis, a deficit of \$57,025 was forecast. To date, cash flow management of ongoing expenses has become a critical element for FSA accounts payable. A "Line of Credit" secured with a \$25,000 FSA GIC held with the church's banking institution, has been established to manage short-term cash flow issues, as necessary. Importantly, a hierarchy for expense remittance decisions has been created with longer-term expense commitments being accrued as accounts payable.

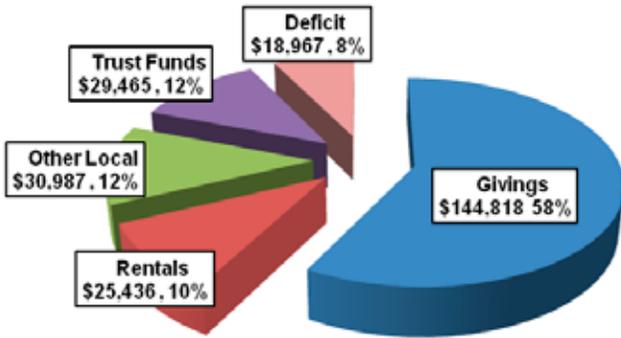
More than ever, revenue generated from invested trust funds has become the "FSA Bank" when locally-raised revenue is unable to meet ongoing operational expenses. Prudent financial policy considers the investment principal of trust funds needed to assure annual revenue support based on historical investment returns. Ongoing responsible stewardship of legacies left to FSA is essential. Their value must be managed in a way that secures the continued physical presence of this community of faith.

Congregational givings for the first four months of the last six years is shown. This significant source of revenue has been, and continues to be, in decline.

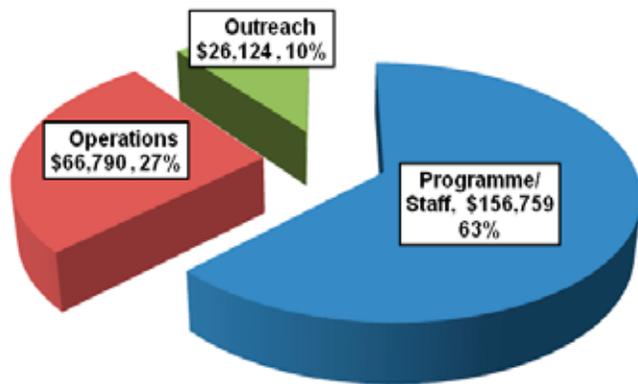


Operations experience for the January to April 2015 period is shown graphically. Locally-raised income and trust funds revenue come to within \$18,967 of balancing expenses in this period. Your continued support at all times is gratefully acknowledged and important to keeping FSA "At the Heart." ✝

FSA Income January - April 2015



FSA Expenses January - April 2015



MUSIC

The past few months have been a time of special musical excellence at FSA. Lest we take Paul for granted, it is a good time to stop and reflect on his contribution to the musical and spiritual life of FSA.

In 2015, the "Music at First-St. Andrew's" series included a superb concert from Amanda Perrera and Fiona Robson, plus an excellent Lenten series with the Young Performers, The Laudamus Bells and, of course, Paul himself who provided an inspiring organ recital. As a final "burst" of the season we received a gift of rousing seasonal music on Easter Sunday, the *Mass in Blue* and selected music later in April and the heart-warming and very professional presentation of *Once Upon a Parable* from the Joyful Singers at Sunday service at the end of April.

Thank you, Paul, for a great season and special thanks to all of the talented and dedicated musicians who have worked under your direction. ✝



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MEMBERSHIP & NURTURE

Audrey Coulthard

- Guest Margo Christodoulou has outlined plans to develop a Catering Resource manual, with listings of catering companies and individuals who are interested in providing reception services at FSA when requested. The manual would include a separate listing for members able to assist and serve at funeral receptions, and other special requests that are received in the church office.
- Margo and Allyson Watson are also hoping to offer a food preparation programme to a group of interested people who would register to prepare meals at the church, then package and take them home for the freezer. If successful, this could become an opportunity for fundraising, or for storing frozen items on-site for shut-in visits.
- Lemonade on the Lawn will start June 7th placing a limited number of chairs outside to decrease custodial workload.
- The Archives Committee continues to sort and organize files and dispose of redundant items, while trying to find new homes for others. Willis Buckingham is in the process of digitizing all birth, death and marriage registers so that the actual books can be sent to the United Church archives in Toronto.
- Thanks to everyone who assisted at the reception following the service on May 10th, and to Jay Snyder for his fantastic cakes.
- Volunteers are required for the Woodfield Street Fair on June 12th. If you would like to be involved, please speak to a member of this committee.



Welcoming

Heather Locking-Cusolito

The members of the Welcoming Committee and the various task teams working with it have been pretty busy recently undertaking the following initiatives:

- With lots of help from representatives of Stewardship (Tara Gonder) and Communications and Marketing (Jim Silcox) we have distributed a Time and Talent Quiz to members of the congregation. So far we have close to 40 responses, including a significant number from members of the God Squad.
- Barry Tiffin has purchased two new Guest Books to be placed in the Narthex and the Atrium. These new books have additional columns that enhance

contact information. Barry is committed to contacting any visitor who leaves contact information. Thanks to Membership and Nurture for assisting with the financing of this purchase.

- See what we're planning with the LGBTQ subcommittee for Pride Parade day in the following article.
- Jean Wright, Deanne Pederson, Karen Reese and Amanda Williams, members of the Varying Family Composition Task Team, have renamed themselves "We are Families." Many ideas and activities are being worked on, and the committee has begun contributing profiles of families to *Tidings*.
- Finally, we have visited with the God Squad to harvest their ideas about how we welcome at FSA, and are once again impressed with their ideas and commitment.

The work continues. Thank you to every member of the congregation for all the ways they welcome people to FSA.



Join Us for the Pride Parade

Anne Cummings

The LGBTQ Committee is planning a fun party for all of you on the front lawn after the Sunday service on July 26th. This is the day of London's Pride Parade which leaves the Western Fair grounds at 12:30pm and comes along Queens Avenue in front of our church. You can participate by either marching in the parade or by supporting the marchers by bringing lawn chairs to line the parade route in front of our church.

Because this will be a great opportunity for FSA to deepen our welcome to our community, we are providing a hotdog lunch to anyone who is in front of our church. While we are waiting for the parade to reach us, there will be entertainment of music and games for the kids.



Our committee will be selling FSA t-shirts with the Affirm logo (\$22) at Coffee and Conversation during the month of June for those who wish to wear them. Because we had some hecklers on our lawn for last year's parade, we are hoping for a strong presence from you at the curb to cheer on the marchers.

Come join us for a fun time together!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM MOE

June 13th: White Squirrel Golf Tourney
June 14th: Interfaith Tree Planting
September 6th: Corn Roast

FROM CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

June 6th and 7th: FSA at Kee-Mo-Kee
June 14th and 21st: Spirit Games
July 20th–24th: FSA Bible Camp
August 17th–21st: Interfaith Camp

FROM MEMBERSHIP & NURTURE (LGBTQ)

July 26th: FSA celebrates at the Pride Parade

FROM WORSHIP

July 5th: The Rev. Michelle Down joins us to preach for the first time
July 12th–Sept 6th inclusive: Worship in Proudfoot Hall

FROM UCW

November 14th: Holly Bazaar & Boutique



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Congratulations on the latest issue of *Tidings*! We really enjoyed the new format, and, of course, the full colour is a real treat! We know this is the product of many hours of work by the *Tidings* Team.

Winnie and David Wake

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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.