

THE FRONT PAGE



NEW MINISTER ANSWERS CALL

by Jo Ann Silcox (Secretary)
Joint Search Committee

September 01, 2010—a Day of Celebration—as the Rev. Dr. Kate Crawford arrives as Minister of Worship and Administration. On February 14th, members attending our Annual General Meeting seconded the unanimous recommendation of the Joint Search Committee to affirm the Spirit’s call!

Kate comes to us, with her delightful daughters Martha and Norah, from the historic Gower Street United Church in St. John’s, Newfoundland. Her strong emphasis on collaborative ministry, innovative worship, prophetic preaching, social justice, environmental awareness, pastoral care for all, ministry to children, youth, young families, the poor, the disenfranchised, the seeker–generation, as well as long-time church members, has earned Kate the love and affection of the entire Conference of Newfoundland and Labrador.



An advocate for healing in all of its forms, Kate has been seminal in developing clergy and congregational care models throughout Newfoundland, as well as becoming a media spokesperson against poverty, violence, environmental desecration and family abuse.

A powerful dialogical preacher, Kate engages her listeners with a sermon style that is filled with both hope and challenge for a better tomorrow. Her PhD in Mediaeval History, focusing on the writings of Julian of Norwich, was pivotal in shaping Kate’s pastoral care ministry to reflect Jesus in all circumstances. An advocate for good work/life balance, Kate is a consummate

care–giver to her household—as well as a faithful friend, colleague, sister, daughter, aunt and neighbour.

Some of you will have encountered Kate, as I first did, in the UCC Liturgy Journal, *Gatherings*, where she shares her lyrical and prophetic prayers. Imagine my joy in June of 2009 when, attending *Worship Matters* in Ottawa on behalf of both the Joint Search Committee and the Worship Committee, I encountered Kate among the many outstanding preachers and liturgists gathered there. That joy became a collective experience for the Search Committee over ensuing months, and it is our collective belief that you will, with us, hear in your own spirits the gentle voice of the One who says: *This is my beloved. In her I am well pleased!*

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The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors, not necessarily those of First–St. Andrew’s Church.

EDITOR’S MESSAGE

By David Flynn



Our most memorable moment on a recent trip to Belize, came as we moved to a side trail to escape a sudden rainfall. Returning to the main trail we were stunned to see a jaguar walking toward us. It glanced at us, then gracefully moved into the jungle. We knew that in that jungle were not only jaguars but other strange creatures, from tapirs to giant spiders—what might we have discovered had we dared to follow the jaguar?

Our theme this issue, “Discovering the Way,” typifies Lenten preparations for Easter when we discover the Way of Jesus. The slogan also seems appropriate for the transition in our pastoral leadership from David McKane to Kate Crawford. Recommended with enthusiasm by the Joint Search Committee, we anticipate new discoveries after she arrives August 1. During her first year, for the first time in twelve years, we will have a balanced budget while still keeping our traditional determination to discover new ways to serve our own community and others.

Tidings is also changing a bit. The Christmas issue colour was financed by business card ads. Ironically, although we had Council approval a year ago for this innovation, announced it in the Summer issue, and used ads in the Fall one, it was the colour of the ads which generated some surprise that we were printing advertisements. We plan a survey this summer to gauge overall reactions.

We have two new columns: *Volunteers* and *Building History*. Much of FSA’s work is done by dedicated volunteers such as Emily Stewardson, who personifies that dedication. The building column begins with a physical feature we never had—bells.

We are planning closer links between Tidings and the FSA website. Conveniently, Jim Silcox is both Webmaster and our layout person. Paper copies of Tidings will always be available but we plan more links between Tidings and the website. Interestingly, the letters in this issue came from people who received via email a link to the online version—the week before paper copies were distributed.

May we, in this Easter season, continue together to discover the Way.

pdflynn@rogers.com



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you. That is great that you sent this [link to Tidings] to me. I enjoyed reading it.

Cheers.

— Sarah Aziz

I just finished reading the new improved coloured Tidings and it looks great. Good job.

— Aldis Murray

... my sincere congratulations on a fabulous edition of Tidings. Happy to be a part of such a wonderful church. God Bless everyone!

— Nancy [Johnson]

Many kudos ... for the excellent edition of Tidings this month! The colour is great and adds so much to the content.

— Anne [Cummings]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mon. Feb 22	The generous members of FSA donated \$8,660 to the United Church appeal for Haiti. Across the country members donated over \$1,300,000 to be matched by the Canadian Government.
Sun. Mar. 7	Amnesty 'Write for Rights'
Sun. April 4	Kick-off for Grow-a-Row
Sat. April 10, 8:30am – 2pm	Environmental Symposium, "Awakening the Dreamer"
Sun. May 2	UCC Observer Subscription Deadline
Sun. May 2	Hot Dog Lunch Golf Tournament Registration
Sun. June 6	Sundae Sunday
Sat. June 12, 11am	White Squirrel Golf Tournament Exeter Ironwood Golf Course

COUNCIL REPORTS



by Jackie Williams, Chair

It's hard to believe that we are approaching Easter already—that time of re-birth and new beginnings. Our congregation is facing a new beginning in August this year in the form

of a new Minister of Worship and Administration, Rev. Dr. Kate Pearson Crawford, who was formally approved by the congregation at the Annual General Meeting February 14th. So discreet was the Joint Search Committee prior to the official announcement that I had no idea of the identity of the candidate but I certainly felt the excitement of members of that committee.

We are fortunate to have an incoming minister of the calibre of Rev. Dr. Crawford and I applaud the diligent work of the Joint Search Committee. Although we will be losing Rev. Dr. David McKane later this year, he won't be far away as he takes on the role of incoming Chair of Presbytery. It is impossible to express the gratitude we owe to David, his wife Susan, and their

"We are fortunate to have an incoming minister of the calibre of the Rev. Dr. Crawford and I applaud the diligent work of the Joint Search Committee"

family in their contributions to the life of this church and its congregation.

I am delighted that George Jolink was approved as Chair-Elect of Council at the AGM. George is a Senior Choir member and has been an excellent co-chair of Ministry and Personnel. Congratulations George! There was more good news as the Finance Committee presented a balanced budget for 2010. This represents a great deal of planning and hard work by the Finance Committee and all the committees at FSA, who

have slashed their budgets over the last few years. The detailed financial forecasting presented by Finance has shown us the importance of living within our means as a congregation so we can keep our church strong in the years ahead. We are blessed to have so many dedicated people with expertise in so many areas working on the various committees at FSA. I really am in awe of all they achieve and the amount of volunteer time this represents. They truly are contributing a labour of love for the benefit of our congregation and for so many outside our church walls. ☸

**ON LENT**

by David McKane

Lent is probably the most observed season in the Christian year. Churches that ignore Advent, prefer Mother's Day to Pentecost and isolate the observance of Christmas and Easter to one day per year are still capable of mounting Lenten programmes on such a scale as to make an Easter sunrise service anticlimactic.

Originally Easter Day was the only day in the Christian year. Every Sunday was a little Easter as the early church awaited the return of Christ. As time passed, the church remembered other aspects of Jesus' life—his passion, incarnation, ascension and gifting of the spirit. By the seventh century, European churches were emulating the church in Jerusalem, and the Christian year took shape.

Lent emerged in the form that we know it today as a combination of the church's catechetical programme and penitential discipline. Lent was a period of intense final instruction before baptism at Easter. It was also a time for personal penance for those who had "stepped aside" to use Burns' phrase. In time, the whole Church came to see such a time of repenting as a good discipline for everyone, hence, the "giving things up" for Lent.

This meaning of Lent is found in the two days that frame it—Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On Ash Wednesday it is customary in many congregations for persons to have ashes placed on their heads, remembering that we are dust; that we are mortal. On Good Friday we witness the death of another human being and are told that in this death we have all died. The cross is not the end of Christ's life nor of ours. We survive our crucifixions and become part of an Easter community, a community that helps bear one another's burdens, that rolls aside stones that "crib, cabin and confine," that practises forgiveness and welcomes new beginnings.

From beginning to end, Lent is doxological, as captured in the hymn, "When I survey the wondrous cross."

Were the whole realm of nature mine
that were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

**STORIES**

by Steve Elson

We all tell stories. Some are told simply to share experiences with family or friends. We use stories to entertain ourselves and others. Stories also lie at the heart of our religious experience and learning. For example, Bible stories talk about life in the Middle East 2–3,000 years ago. These stories are very far away from the lives we live today—and yet they are retold generation after generation, year after year, often according to the church calendar—but why?

Well, partly because they tell us where our religious beliefs come from—its history, its legacy, and its genesis. But if that were all there was to it, wouldn't they simply be treated as a history lesson?

The stories stay—not because of what they say but because of what they mean. We can take lessons from the stories and use them to address and think about contemporary issues and concerns. Successive generations have interpreted these stories in their own context and circumstances. Some of the interpretations we have inherited or grown up with are being actively challenged and questioned today—and that's a good thing. Otherwise they run the risk of becoming irrelevant. While we can learn from past stories, it's important to put our own interpretation on them to help us understand our own lives.

It's the interpretation of these stories and how we extract meaning that makes them relevant and interesting. If we fail to interpret and debate what they mean—personally and collectively—they are simply stories that link us to the past but stay there. The Christmas story and the Easter story may or may not be accurate from an historical perspective—there is lots of debate about that—but, as a way of exploring meaning they are rich—if we take the time to discover why, to search for what's beneath the surface that tells us something that deepens our understanding of who we are and our relationship with the Divine. Now that's a story!

At least that's my view from the pew. 

Wisdom of the Ages!

Don't let your worries get the best of you.
Remember, Moses started out as a basket case



NANCY AND JIM HUTCHINSON

by Mary McKim

Having expressed an interest in music when he joined FSA in 1961, Jim was introduced into Barrie Cabena’s choir by Maurice Comfort. During his ten-year membership, the choir presented Bach’s St. Matthew Passion with St. Paul’s choirs, and also Barrie’s Mass. They sang for General Council, ordinations, weddings and two services every Sunday. He served on Session and the Christian Development Committee—two years as co-chair. Jim taught for various London schools including Mountsfield where he was music director. After completing a B.A. in English, he was granted a sabbatical, earning a Master of Library & Information Science. He concluded his career as a teacher/librarian. After retirement he joined our Ministry & Nurture Committee, accepting a leadership role with archives in 2001, as well as leading tours of our building for new members and Doors Open.

Nancy met Jim in 1961 while they were teaching at Governor Simcoe school. They shared an interest in music and she also joined Barrie’s choir. Prior to their marriage in our chapel in 1966, Nancy became a member of FSA. Over the years she has been involved in various church activities. These include leading Explorers, teaching Sunday School, writing hymns, making banners—ten in all—and co-ordinating the Coffee & Conversation programme. She still shares with Barbara Dalrymple the responsibility of tidying the pew racks and replacing offering envelopes and information cards.



Both Jim and Nancy have served on search committees and helped with ushering, reception, lay reading, Communion, Gone Fishing, Hospitality Meals and bazaars. They travelled to Israel, Turkey and Greece with Frank Meadows, and to Ireland with David McKane. They are proud to be members of FSA and pleased that their daughter and grandchildren have this church affiliation. Great value is also placed on their many church friends and acquaintances.

They have received and given much inspiration to FSA. Thank you Nancy and Jim!



MAURICE COMFORT

by Jean Wright

Maurice Comfort went from the family farm near Beamsville on scholarship to U. of T., graduated in Math and Physics, came to London Life, started his actuarial studies, served as a lieutenant in World War II, was promoted to captain for his work developing smokescreen cover for troops. He was married to Jean for 46 years and they had five children. He died at seventy-seven.

These are the bare bones of a full life. But what is it about Maurice Comfort, eighteen years after his death, that inspires people at FSA to talk about him with affection and admiration? A thread running through his life was



his deep faith and his devotion to his church. In addition to singing in our choir for almost forty years, he served as Clerk of Session, and was on the committees that brought Reverend Alex Farquhar, and organist Barry Cabena to the church.

After his retirement in 1978 as an underwriting executive at London Life, Maurice immersed himself in genealogy, tracing his family back to 1792 when John Comfort came from New York after the War of Independence. Each year at the Comfort Family picnic he would report on his latest findings.

And Maurice couldn’t have been Maurice without Jean. For forty-four years they lived on the farm, grew vegetables and fruit which were preserved and shared with family and friends. He planted thousands of trees and she climbed the trees, picked the fruit, made pies and took them to the church. Church parties at the Comfort Farm are legendary. Choir members and families were welcomed there for years, and when the UCW came, Maurice would lead them on walks through the woods. Jean and Maurice’s courtship, after their meeting in the FSA choir in 1938, interrupted by his war service, culminated in their marriage in June, 1946. Maurice was a loving parent and grandparent.

With all his attributes—a sharp intellect, an inquisitive mind, devotion to his family—Maurice Comfort was a true gentleman, and a “good and faithful servant” of the church. That is how he is remembered.





**THOMAS SAMSON-
WILLIAMS**

by Valerie Moretti

Thomas Samson-Williams is a boy soprano who notes, with typical self-deprecating humour, that “there’s a never-ending list of sports that I’m not good at” so it is fortunate for Thomas, and for us, that his “favourite thing ... is singing.”

Thomas’ family observed early on that he was an auditory learner and a talented mimic. He sang, “When You’re Good to Mama” (from *Chicago*) at age four, and at five, surprised his grandmother with “Hit the Road Jack”! His mum, Amanda, recalls Thomas listening to Mozart’s *The Magic Flute* and imitating the coloratura Queen of the Night when he was a toddler. Thomas sang in *The Magic Flute* last year at the Grand Theatre! Thomas’ talent was noted early by his parents and by choir directors at FSA, all of whom encouraged him to join the city’s Amabile Choir.

Thomas is not just a singer, though. He is in the cinquième année in French immersion at Kensal Park—although he admits he does his “fun reading” in English. Thomas’ current favourites are books by Anthony Horowitz, and the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series. Thomas has been reading since he was four! He also began violin lessons early but acknowledges that he “doesn’t like practising ... but [doesn’t] want to give up the violin.” While he is a disciplined student and singer, at home Thomas enjoys practical jokes and doing “funny voices”—talking like a ‘valley girl’ or singing with a “fake big bad operatic baritone.” He likes caring for the family’s pet shitzu-poodle, Lilwen, too. Thomas noted that while he’s a rather cautious boy, “it might be fun to be a lawyer when I grow up, because you’d get paid to argue.”



Thomas Samson-Williams was baptized at FSA, and has attended church here with his parents Amanda Williams and Cheryl Samson ever since. He is a charming boy whose middle name is the Welsh word for peace, Hedd—pronounced Hay’th. It perfectly suits this young man’s composure and demeanour. What a treat to know a child who can express himself so well in conversation ... and in song! 🌿



EMILY STEWARDSON

by Nancy Howard

The Christian Development Committee is proud to recognize the treasure we have in the ministry of Emily Stewardson—age 20—a dedicated weekly volunteer in the nursery for the past two years. Tucked away in a corner of FSA, our nursery bustles with the sounds and antics of babies and toddlers in their first experiences within our community. Our staff leaders, Lisa and Erin, expressed much appreciation for Emily’s dependability, adaptability, and willingness to provide an extra set of arms for babies in this active setting. Described as quiet, kind-hearted, and easy-going, Emily’s personality lends itself to the ever-changing demands of providing consistent and loving care in the nursery.



The granddaughter of Jeane Stewardson, Emily is not new to our congregation. She and her two brothers, Cole and Eric, started attending FSA with their grandparents when they were very young. Emily actively participated in church school, children’s choir and musicals, youth group, and the alternative worship service.

Volunteering in our nursery is a natural progression, since Emily loves working with children. She is drawn especially to young children because they are always so happy, animated and funny. Her favourite part of caregiving is just having a silly time with our delightful young people. Her love shines through in her statement that she likes seeing them grow—some of the babies she first cared for are now 2–3 years old.

Emily has been babysitting for families since she was twelve. Currently, she regularly provides care for a family of three children, ages 3, 6, and 9. As well, Emily works as a baker at a local Tim Horton’s where staff comments on her eclectic taste in music. Although not a big fan of school, Emily is considering furthering her education in the Early Childhood Education programme at Fanshawe, working toward becoming a teacher at the primary level.

From all of us at FSA, parents of nursery children and, most especially, the babies and toddlers, we extend heartfelt thanks, Emily, for sharing your gifts in your valuable volunteer service to our nursery. 🌿

KRISTA AND GEOFF VOGT

by David Flynn

The Vogts joined FSA in 2006, a year after moving from Vancouver. A choir member, Ann Bolton, told them they would enjoy us, especially the music. They had gone to a church near them but it seemed to be mostly older people, whereas at FSA they became part of a group of younger families. Their son Elliot, now 6, joined the Junior Joyfuls, as well as attending Sunday School. His younger sister, Anne, 3, is looking forward to becoming a Junior Joyful. The whole family very much enjoy the Family Potlucks the last Sunday of each month. Geoff was an active member of the recent FSA JNAC and is now on the Finance Committee.



Krista teaches the 3–5 year olds in SS, and helped direct the recent Christmas pageant. She also chairs the Communications and Marketing Ad Hoc Committee, which grew out of a JNAC recommendation, and is now preparing a communications plan for FSA.

Geoff, originally from Guelph, and Krista from Edmonton,

met at Simon Fraser University where Geoff was Director of Recreation. He came to UWO in a similar capacity, then two years ago became a YMCA VP. Krista was involved in student development at SFU and found a similar position at Fanshawe College.

In their spare time—such as it is—they are in an Ultimate Frisbee League and both enjoy hiking. Krista reads widely in progressive Christianity—from Borg to Vosper—and also knits.

Both miss the West, especially skiing in the mountains, but they like Old South where they live. Krista spent two years in Japan teaching ESL, and she and the whole family love international food—Elliot’s special favourite is sushi—and are slowly tracking down exotic restaurants here.

As they become more involved in London and FSA, they believe they can influence change here, perhaps more easily than in Vancouver. Judging by their actions so far, we are very fortunate to have such cheery and involved people with us. They will, indeed, continue to influence us in the years to come. 🌿

PAST EVENTS



EIGHTH ANNUAL BURNS’ NIGHT SUPPER

by Mary McKim

With 155 diners enjoying the evening, success was guaranteed by MC, Enid Merritt. “Parading the Haggis” was led by Piper Bruce Richardson, followed by David McKane, Bill Watson, and Haggis bearer Doug MacKenzie. “Ode to the Haggis” then was impeccably delivered by Bill Watson. Sharon Jones’ *Haggis Stew* entertained us with a lively violin medley, followed by Scottish dancer Grace McPhail-Wagner. After the traditional roast beef, tatties, neeps and haggis—and a scrumptious dessert, Ron and Annabelle Logan treated us to clever and amusing toasts to the “Lassies and Laddies.” The highlight, as always, was the “Immortal Memory”—Burns’ poetry, songs and reflections, sung and recited by David McKane.

To learn the history of David’s Burns’ performances, we met in his office. Disclaiming Scottish heritage, his only childhood connection was a figurine of Robbie on his grandmother’s mantle, matched by Highland Mary. In 1974, appointed to a new and strongly Scottish

Toronto church, he learned that a Burns’ Supper was the traditional annual fundraiser, and the Minister was in charge. Enlisting Scottish friend, Malcolm Sinclair, they planned a programme, including a number of very dull Scottish professors. “Next year we’ll do it ourselves!” The famous “singing ministers” took off. They told stories and sang songs, altering the programme yearly at first, until folks told them they preferred the previous year’s format—which they retained, changing only some songs and poems. During their thirty–five year run, they earned a quarter million for the M&S Fund. Events were always sold out and David estimates he has performed his act 8–900 times!

Twice they were flown to Halifax to perform for 1200 at the *North British Society*. He and Malcolm are included in a publication which marked Burns’ 250th Anniversary. It was a whole different experience to be known for Burns rather than for ministry. Both men had received Music Conservatory training, and were in D’Oyly Carte performances as well as Oratorios.

This year, David has performed three times, including the *Arts and Letters Club* representing Toronto’s ‘glitterati’. Happily, he has no plans to retire from “Burns”!





**COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING
NEW AD HOC COMMITTEE**

by Krista Vogt (Chair)

A group of enthusiastic congregants have banded together to form the Ad Hoc Communications and Marketing Committee. We were so recognized at the January Council meeting. Current members include: Lisa Chevrette, David Flynn, Rocky Moretti, Bob Peel, Jim Silcox, Bob Slater, Bob Swartman, Pat Tripp, and Krista Vogt. Our goal is to produce a comprehensive nine-step communications plan for FSA. The plan will begin by explaining our current communications strategies. We then will outline our communications objectives, target audiences, and our key messages. Once we have the background laid out, we will develop an overall communications strategy and then explore all of our marketing options. This is a complex process that will likely involve the input of our new minister, so while the committee is working very hard, it may be September

before you see the fruits of our efforts.

Our meetings to date have been a delight as we have spent much of our time discussing who/what FSA is and how we can convey that to the larger London community. It has been a positive experience to think about our wonderful music programme, our well-developed and progressive educational programmes, and the myriad of social action and friendship based groups that take place all week long. Our meetings always run long because everyone wants to tell their story or share a touching FSA experience.

The goal of our communications plan is to develop an overall “look and feel” for FSA. We hope to improve communications within the membership as well as increase awareness in the larger community of all of the great happenings at FSA. This is a big task, and we are still welcoming interested people who would like to share their communications and marketing talents with us. If you have ideas to share, concerns that need an ear, or want to be part of this group, please contact Krista Vogt, krista_vogt@rogers.com (519-913-1808), or find me in one of the front pews on a Sunday morning. 🌸

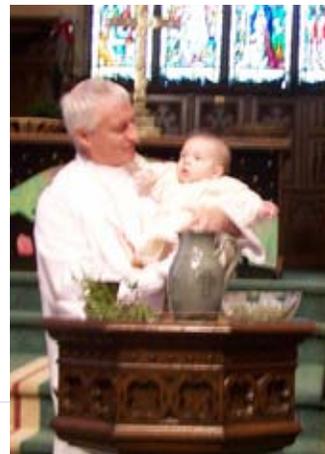
CHANGES

BAPTISM

Oscar Thomas Henry Appleton	Son of Sonja and Tom Appleton
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MARRIAGES

Aaron Stroud & Dana Walker	January 23, 2010
Craig McTaggart & Deris Brock	January 30, 2010
Kevin Kotnik & Annette Graff	February 6, 2010



Oscar Appleton & Friend

DEATHS

Ron Caldwell	November 5, 2009
Chuck St. Pierre	November 12, 2009
Eleanor Westhaver	November 14, 2009
Jean Austin	December 1, 2009
Jack Hillier	December 4, 2009
Marjorie Smith	December 15, 2009

Archie Huston	January 5, 2010
Art Fletcher	January 15, 2010
Beryl Will	January 23, 2010
Gordon Archibald	January 27, 2010
Norene Barker	January 31, 2010
Peter Campbell	February 4, 2010



THE BELLS OF FSA

by Jim Hutchinson (Archives)

Isn't it interesting how stories spread? There are several legends about why our church building has no bells. The story I

heard first was that the bells were ordered and delivered but not installed because of a talk by a visiting missionary one Sunday. He was from Formosa and one of his greatest challenges was the problem that his parishioners were largely unaware of time—day of the week or time of day. The people of St. Andrew's were always very supportive of missions—but also short of funds. They decided to help the Formosan church by shipping their bells to Formosa (or Taiwan as we know

“There are several legends about why our church building has no bells.”

it now) so their peals could both attract and inform that congregation.

It's a good story but I have never found any verification in fact. For that reason I have hesitated to put it into our forthcoming history book, lest it become another tale like the “choir that went on strike” fantasy.

The story does illustrate, however, the strong emphasis at St. Andrew's—and now at FSA—for mission support. The number of London churches which began as missions or Sunday schools sponsored by our church is impressive.

If anyone has another, more factual version of the bells of FSA story, I or any member of the Archives Committee would be delighted to hear it!



OUT AND ABOUT



CAMP KEE-MO-KEE

by Ross MacDonald

Camp Kee-Mo-Kee was established in 1960 on land donated to the UCC by Harvey and Emily Wales. Since then, far from the noise and bustle of our usual lives, Kee-Mo-Kee has

offered a place where both campers and staff learn and grow through community in a Christian environment.

Kee-Mo-Kee is an accredited camp, located just west of London, nestled in a beautiful wooded area with extensive hiking trails. On site are cabins, a craft lodge, dining hall, swimming pool, chapel, and a variety of sport facilities.



The camp provides music, crafts, sports and outdoor activities. For the last three years, Kee-Mo-Kee has provided programming for more than 610 campers and 40 staff. Weekly camps are available for children ages 6 to 16, including four children per week with special needs from *Over the Rainbow*. There is also a camp for single parents. During May, June and September, church youth groups from Middlesex Presbytery, UCWs

and classes of elementary and secondary students benefit from lessons and activities at Kee-Mo-Kee.

In 2010, Kee-Mo-Kee celebrates its 50th anniversary. Trees will be planted in April. Camp memorabilia is being collected and on July 3rd a dinner will be held at the Komoka Community Centre. Everyone is welcome. Our committee hopes to raise anniversary funds for ongoing needs at the camp.

Westminster College Foundation (WCF), the Plunkett Foundation, and the Trillium Foundation covered the costs of recent emergency repairs. The WCF also subsidises campers, and, along with London Presbytery, Komoka Optimists, local congregations, an *Adopt a Cabin* programme and fund-raising dinners by the KMK Board, with the

assistance of 150 volunteers, funded the operation of the camp in 2009. This year, the WCF is helping with renovations of the camp kitchen. Additional donations are needed to help pay for other major projects.

The Board's intent is to sustain the camp at the most economical level possible, as we believe Kee-Mo-Kee provides a rewarding experience for the youth who represent the future of our church. Everyone is welcome at Camp Kee-Mo-Kee.



fs Programme Guide

An inclusive Christian family encouraging spiritual growth through worship, friendship, learning and outreach

WORSHIP



DATE	SERVICES	PREACHER	DETAILS
March 7	9:00 and 10:30 am	Dr. McKane	Lent III
March 14	9:00 and 10:30 am	Dr. Shelstad	Lent IV
March 21	9:00 and 10:30 am	Dr. McKane	Lent V
March 28	10:30 am	Service of Lessons & Hymns	Palm/Passion Sunday
April 2	11:00 am	Dr. Moore & Dr. McKane	Good Friday, Service at Metropolitan
April 4	9:00 and 10:30 am	Dr. McKane	Easter I, Communion
April 11	9:00 and 10:30 am	Dr. Shelstad	Easter II
April 18	9:00 and 10:30 am	Dr. McKane	Easter III, Earth Stewardship
April 25	9:00 and 10:30 am	Dr. McKane	Easter IV (Last 9:00 am service) 10:30 am <i>The Tale of the Three Trees</i> with the Joyful Singers
May 2	10:30 am	Dr. Shelstad	Easter V, Confirmation/New Members (Dr. McKane is preaching at Fairmont United)
May 9	10:30 am	Dr. McKane	Easter VI, Baptism
May 12	Time TBA		Maytime Communion
May 16	10:30 am	Dr. McKane	
May 23	10:30 am	Dr. McKane	Pentecost, Communion
May 30	10:30 am	Dr. McKane	Trinity Sunday, (Dr. McKane's last service) London Conference Meeting
June 6	10:30 am	Dr. Shelstad	85th Anniversary of Church Union

WORSHIP ACTIVITIES

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY

If you would like to display flowers during the Sunday service in memory of a loved one or in celebration of an event, please sign the flower calendar outside the chapel. Make arrangements for flower delivery the Friday before and advise the church office (679-8182) of the wording you would like in the bulletin, and also if you would be taking the flowers with you or leaving them for distribution.

USHERING AND GREETING

Each month a different Narthex Coordinator chooses six people per Sunday from a list of volunteers willing to usher or greet. Greeters are stationed in the atrium and narthex to welcome people as they enter the church.

MUSIC

First–St. Andrew's is committed to a music ministry that is rich in variety, grounded in spiritual integrity and inclusive of all ages. Consider the many opportunities to rejoice with us in 2010.

CHORAL AND INSTRUMENTAL OPPORTUNITIES

THE SENIOR CHOIR

Our Senior Choir sings weekly at the 10:30 am Sunday service and in outreach concerts of the *Music at First–St. Andrew's* series. Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7:30–9:30pm. Some music reading ability and prior choral experience are helpful, and regular commitment is essential. Please contact Paul Merritt (519-679-8182 or 519-679-9173).

THE CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

The Junior Joyfuls (ages 4–7) led by Terese Sirek Ng and the Joyful Singers (ages 8 and up) led by Paul and Enid Merritt, always welcome members. Both choirs rehearse on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. If your child/children would like to join in the excitement, please call Terese Sirek Ng (519-432-2894) or the Merritts (519-679-9173).

Ushers hand out bulletins and also take up the offering. Contact Muriel Parsons, Coordinator (519-685-5409).

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

The lighting of the Christ Candle at the front of the church early during the service symbolizes the intentionality of the congregation to invite Christ's presence among us, and so prepares us for worship. Contact June McKay (519-471-5668).

SCRIPTURE READING

For each Sunday service, different people read the first scripture selection. We believe that the Word is active and living to the extent that it is enunciated and heard through many voices across all generations and abilities. Contact Elspeth Watson.

THE LAUDAMUS BELLS

Our Laudamus Bell Choir is a friendly group of musicians who rehearse on Monday evenings and play in service about once a month. New members are welcome. Prerequisites include an ability to read music and knowledge of music to approximately the grade 6 level. Specific training on the bells will be provided. Please call Barbara Plante, Director (519-472-4586) for further information.

THE FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S STRINGS

The FSA Strings is an accomplished performing group that has enjoyed increased exposure over the past years. If you are (or have been) an active string player and are from high school age to much older ... and wish to play with our group, please leave both your phone number and e-mail address for Bruce Richardson, Leader (519-473-1023).

THE CONCERT SERIES

First–St. Andrew's also is committed to musical outreach in the London area through year–round concert activity made possible through the generous support of Friends of Music. See our [2009-2010 Music Poster](#) for details.

The Music Committee Holds a Winter Funfest





by Paul E. Cooper, Chair, Music Committee

Our 2010 events began with the eighth annual **A TASTE OF BURNS** on 23rd January. *Haggis Stew* provided lively entertainment and David McKane “channelled” Robbie Burns with all his wit and charm.

On Sunday, 21st February, the Music Committee put on a variety show and a light lunch as we listened to the **Joyful Singers** and the **Junior Joyfuls**. Their infectious enthusiasm brought smiles to all faces. Wendy Eaman took us to the South Pacific with her rendition of *Honey Bun*—a special thank you to Honey Bun (a.k.a. George Jolink)! The free will offering was collected and donated by the Music Committee to FSA's operating fund.

Sunday, 28th February saw the Music Committee partnering with the Royal Canadian College of Organists to present **MIXTURES**—an afternoon of music featuring organists and instrumentalists from London.

Anne Cunningham, Helen Guthrie and Mary Lois Cooper played the flute for our first Friday **LENTEN NOON RECITAL**, Feb. 19, followed by an organ concert by Paul Merritt and Nancy Jackson on the 26th and a concert by a guest artist on March 5.

On Saturday, 17th April at 7:30 pm the Senior Choir of FSA will present its annual Spring concert. This year, the choir will be singing a wonderful collection of spirituals and gospel music—guaranteed to get your spirits soaring and your toes tapping. In addition, the programme will include a **Jazz Mass** by Bob Chilcott, who was here last year and conducted our choir. Adding a special frisson of excitement to the evening will be the fact the performance will be recorded live and the choir will use this performance and other music on a new CD as part of our outreach to the community. The proceeds from CD sales also will be donated to the FSA operating budget.

MEMBERSHIP & NURTURE

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.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

A baptismal preparation session is held prior to every baptism (usually the Thursday evening) to prepare the parents who are bringing their children for baptism. We

The final music event of the Spring will be **BELLS AND BUDDIES**—a cabaret with the Laudamus Bells and guest musicians on 30th May.

Friends of Music



The congregation of First–St. Andrew's is known in the City of London and beyond for its music programme. This important outreach to the community is supported, in part, by the generous donations of people like you to Friends of Music.

Donations may be made:

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

All donors receive a tax receipt for their donation and they are recognized on the Concert Series Brochure.

This Spring your donations will support:

- ☞ **Concert of Organists and Instrumentalists**
Sunday, 28th February
- ☞ **Friday Lenten Noon Recitals – February**
19th and 26th and March 5th
- ☞ **Senior Choir Concert – recorded live for**
CD – 17th April 2010
- ☞ **A Cabaret with the Laudamus Bells**
30th May 2010

Make cheques payable to **FIRST–ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH** with a MEMO: **FRIENDS OF MUSIC**

The Nostalgic Theatre presents *Super Troupers*, May 7
Tickets are available from June McKay for \$15.00

explore the meaning of baptism, and prepare for the Sunday service. Call the church office (519–679–8182).

CARE FOR THE CAREGIVERS

The 4th Monday evening of each month from 7:00–10:00pm, in the parlour, is a time of confidential sharing and caring among those called to give care to others in their personal and professional lives. Contact Jo Ann Silcox at silcox3@sympatico.ca or (519–642–2152).

CARING CALLERS

Thirty dedicated callers make an average of six calls, four times a year: the end of August, Advent, January, and Lent (Easter). Not all members are called and some people are called more often, if necessary. Through these calls, shut-ins, young families, pre-operative, post-operative—those in need of support, are kept up to date on church services, concerts and special activities. The callers are also a very valuable liaison for the ministers and the office regarding illness, moves, and other potentially stressful times. More callers are always needed and if you would like to share in this very special programme, please call Annabelle Logan (519-471-2518).

CONGREGATIONAL VISITING TEAM

Our Congregational Visiting Team comprises members of our congregation who offer ongoing support to our shut-ins. We have a visiting team of 30 who maintain contact with these members of our congregation on a regular basis, and especially at birthdays and holiday times. If you are interested in becoming involved in this very rewarding experience, call David McKane (519-679-8182).

COUNSELLING TEAM

There is a counselling service available to FSA members that is staffed voluntarily by Jo Ann Silcox, a psychiatrist, who provides initial assessment and follow-through counselling for individuals, couples, families or groups facing personal transitional crises. Referrals may be made through Jo Ann Silcox (519-642-2152).

FUNERAL RECEPTIONS

Bereaved FSA families often choose to celebrate the deceased member's life with a funeral or memorial service in the sanctuary or chapel. Many of these families wish to have a reception in Proudfoot Hall, the parlour, chapel, or atrium. Our volunteer Funeral Reception Committee works with the family to make the event memorable, attractive and smooth running.

Tea, coffee, juice and water are provided to complement refreshments arranged by the family. As well, personal friends of the family may be invited to assist or offer their services.

The motivation of the committee is to be helpful to the family, and make all the visitors who attend feel at home as they come together to support them. Contact Louise Slater or the church office (519-679-8182).

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Every Sunday, following our 10:30am worship services,

the congregation is invited to remain for refreshment and the deepening of friendship. During the summer months, this takes the form of lemonade on the lawn and in the fall we move inside to Proudfoot Hall. This is an opportunity for each person to make contact and share his/her journey as a valued individual within our community of faith. Volunteers are needed. Contact Cheryl Samson or Amanda Williams, co-convenors or the church office (519-679-8182).

PRAYER CHAIN

Do you need prayers for yourself or others? Call Maureen at the Church office (519-679-8182) 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.

RIDES FOR SENIORS

If you need a ride to and from church and/or church events, please call the Church office (519-679-8182).

CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT



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!

ADULT MINISTRY

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Meets weekly from 9-10am in the Sun Room (across from the nursery). Wheelchair accessible. Lectionary-based. Warm fellowship. Coffee pot on. Facilitator: Jo Ann Silcox (519-642-2152)

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

This lively lectionary group meets weekly at 10am in the Parlour, until the end of April. Everyone welcome. Facilitator: Susan Shelstad (519-679-8182)

DREAM GROUP

Come and discover the amazing world of your dreams. We usually meet the first Friday of the month at 7:30pm in the parlour. For more information, contact Anne Cunningham (519-433-9663) or Susan Shelstad (519-679-8182).

SPIRITUALITY ON TAP

7pm in the chapel. An informal evening of a movie and discussion about it from a spiritual perspective. (Popcorn too!) Watch Sunday bulletin for dates and movies.

FIRST LIGHT

First Light: Jesus and the Kingdom of God

Featuring John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg, First Light is a 12-session DVD and web-based study of the historical Jesus and the Kingdom of God with two of the world's leading Jesus scholars on location throughout the Galilee and Jerusalem.

Second Session – Wed. March 3, 17, 31 and April 7

7:00pm in the chapel

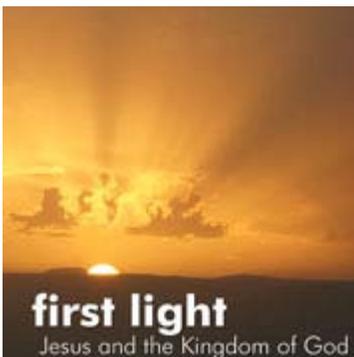
LABYRINTH WALKS



Watch the Bulletin for upcoming dates

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

TEENS IN TRANSIT (TNT)



For young people in grades 7 and 8. This group meets during the regular church school year on Sunday mornings upstairs in the “Green Room” after the children’s time in church. Leader: Nancy Howard (519–289–1959).

TEEN CONFIRMATION CLASS

A new class of seven young people in grades 9 & up started this past Fall. Confirmation will take place on Sun. May 2nd. Contact Susan Shelstad (519–679–8182).

IMPACT

During the last few months IMPACT has enjoyed numerous activities, including a skating party at Victoria Park, curling and several movie nights in the refurbished FSA Youth Room. This year the IMPACT programme has benefited from the leadership of two University of Western Ontario students, Mary Shiell and Charmaine Leung, who are serving as youth leaders for the IMPACT programme.

This Spring, IMPACT is looking forward to new social and outreach activities including a dinner to benefit Haitian relief efforts, a bicycling trip and a weekend retreat to Camp Kee–Mo–Kee.

IMPACT has a junior group for young people in grades 6 to 8 and a senior group for young people in high school. The senior group meets every Sunday during church and also gets together every Thursday after school. Both groups meet regularly for a variety of other social and service activities. Contact Rocky Moretti (519–642–4896 or frankmoretti@hotmail.com).

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 until age 3. Coordinator: Martha Bere (519–641–6947).

NURSERY

Our nursery is available at the 10:30am service each week for infants from babies until two years old. The nursery room is next door to the chapel on the main floor. Nursery Staff: Lisa Chevrette and Erin Lovenjak.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Regular Church School classes are offered each week at the 10:30 service after the children’s time in church. Teachers and helpers are always needed. If you’re interested, please speak to Church School Coordinators Chris or Monique Silcox (226–663–2048).

FAMILY MINISTRY

Moms & Tots

Meets from 10–11:30am on the second and fourth Fridays of each month in the nursery. Contact Allyson Watson (allysonwats@gmail.com).

FAMILY POT–LUCK

Last Sunday of each month at 4:00pm in Proudfoot Hall. Please show up with whatever nut–free delight—doesn’t even have to be home–made. We usually wind things up by 7–ish. Join us for fun, food and freaking noises. All welcome and bring a friend. Contact Jane Hill (519–641–7199) or Valerie Moretti (519–642–4896).

PARENTS UNITED

New parenting group! Meets monthly, Wednesday evenings 6:30–7:30pm (while the Joyful Singers and Junior Joyfuls have their practices). Childcare will be provided for those children not singing. Please come willing to discuss and/or listen to different thoughts, views, and issues concerning our children and our parenting styles.

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. The UCW welcomes and encourages all women at FSA to become members of the UCW and to help keep up the good work in the years ahead. For more information, contact Laurel Kenney (519-439-9300).



UCW REPORT

by Margaret Wonfor

From the Christ candle lighting to the benediction, every aspect of the January 31st worship service was prepared and delivered by women of the congregation.

We were privileged to have as guest speaker the UCW national president, Joyce MacKinnon. Joyce talked about her trip to Mozambique where she saw our UCC partners, Bill and Karen Butt at work. A friend of Karen's from childhood days, Joyce learned first-hand how M&S dollars are making a difference. Her school teacher daughter had spent summer holidays as a volunteer helping Karen with her Pedra project, a programme for girls ages 9 to 14, to encourage them to seek an education, an opportunity rarely offered to girls in the past. Joyce showed how M&S contributions are making changes in one of the poorest African countries.

January 31 also was the weekend when the Swartman family gathered to honour their parents, Bob and Laura, on the occasion of their 80th birthdays. Their son Tom and grandson Benedict from Germany along with granddaughter, Emily Cavers from Kingston enhanced the worship with their French horns. We are grateful for this special gift to the congregation.

Our UCW had invited two members from each London UCW to join us for lunch to socialize with our national president. Thirty-five guests joined FSA women for a delicious lunch served by Shirley and Tom Wynne. This opportunity offered UCW members from sister churches time to discuss their work and challenges and to encourage each other as they pursue a common purpose. The fellowship which grows over a shared meal leads to lasting friendships. May it be so!

Our UCW annual meeting was February 7. The financial report indicated \$33,404 was raised in 2009. Outreach givings totalled \$23,150—15,000 to M&S

and \$8,150 for local outreach. Fortunately, we had enough funds for our Priority Two recipients. We also approved the 2010 budget.

This spring the UCW will *not* be sponsoring a rummage sale. Watch the bulletin for details concerning the disposal of rummage. The Holly Bazaar date is November 13.

UCW MEETINGS

FSA has two UCW units. The *Tuesday Evening Unit* meets the third Tuesday of each month, at 7:00pm for refreshments and at 7:30 for programme. Contact Louise Slater (519-642-7949).

The *Mary and Martha Unit* meets the second Wednesday of each month at 2pm. Contact Margaret Wonfor (519-645-1884).

Twice a year the UCW meets for inspiration and business. Contact Laurel Kenney (519-439-9300).

UCW ACTIVITIES

ANTIQUE AND COLLECTIBLES SALE

In 2007, and again in 2009, FSA held a very successful Antique and Collectible Sale. It was truly a congregational event with many people getting involved, raising money to support some of our very worthwhile projects.

We are in the initial stages of planning this biennial event for 2011, probably in late March.

Start now to save your antique items and collectible things that you have enjoyed but which are ready to "retire" and which you are willing to donate for our sale. Maybe someone else will enjoy them!

For more information or if you would like to be part of a fun event call June McKay (519-471-5668).

HOLLY BAZAAR

The Holly Bazaar held each November, uses the creative gifts of everyone to stock the gourmet table, the bake table, crafts, Christmas gifts and much more. Contact Co-Convenors Liz Mignotte and Barbara Williamson (519-435-0777)

ISABEL GETLIFFE SEWING GROUP

The Sewing Group meets Wednesdays from 9:30am-2pm from spring until the bazaar in November. Everyone who is interested in doing hand and machine sewing, cutting and stuffing is welcome. The group prepares items for sale at the Holly Bazaar. Bring a lunch—coffee

is provided. Contact Lorraine MacDonald (519-433-8815).

KNIT WITS

This fast-growing, friendly group of beginning or experienced knitters meets on the second Tuesday each month from 1:30-3:00pm in the parlour. Our projects include knitting warm articles of clothing for adults and children in the London community, and prayer shawls for those in emotional or physical crisis. We welcome all who enjoy knitting or anyone who would like to learn. Contact Marion Wilson (519-434-0530) or Ann Mackenzie (519-659-5055).

RUMMAGE SALES

The rummage sales offer church members a place to recycle clothing, kitchenware, books, etc. which still have use for others. The sales also offer the community a shopping bonanza for good merchandise at an affordable price. The dates for the rummage sales are published well in advance in the Church bulletin.

UCW MARATHON BRIDGE

The UCW invites interested ladies to sign up each Fall for Marathon Bridge. Friendly, non-competitive games are played once a month from October to May, with each partner hostessing twice during the season. We welcome new bridge players. Join and be part of fun and fellowship with friends. Contact Joni Pypka (519-681-6900 or email (pagegirl@sympatico.ca)).

MISSION OUTREACH ENVIRONMENT

This committee is involved in a wide variety of outreach programmes, both here in London and throughout the world. Some of MOE's activities are listed below. If you are interested in being on this very active and energetic committee please contact Paul Mansell (paulmansell@sympatico.ca).

MISSION AND SERVICE

In particular, MOE is responsible for activities of the United Church's Mission and Service Fund at FSA. A few of the M&S programmes are described below.

ALTERNATE GIFT CATALOGUE

Your gifts from the Alternate Gift Catalogue produced by London Conference, support *Mission & Service Fund* projects, both locally and globally. \$92,392 worth of gifts were purchased in 2009. Go to www.londonconference.ca and click "Hope Book" on the left menu or ask Maureen in the church office (519-679-8182) to print you off a hard copy. Catalogues may be used to purchase special gifts for birthdays and anniversaries as well as Christmas.

APPEAL FOR HAITI

By late February, the generous members of FSA had donated \$8,660 to the United Church's Haiti Appeal. Across the country, members donated over \$1,300,000 which will be matched by the Canadian Government. Our money is directed to our two partners in Haiti—The Methodist Church of Haiti and the Karl Leveque Cultural Centre, as well as to the ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together). ACT members on the ground worked around the clock to gather the data needed to enable an effective aid intervention that includes both aid for emergency purposes and aid for reconstruction.

The United Methodist Church lost two senior staff members who were in Haiti for meetings about future

development work. The Methodist Church of Haiti lost three personnel. The Roman Catholic Archbishop and about 100 church officials also lost their lives.

COMMUNION OVERSEAS RELIEF OFFERINGS

Special offerings on some communion Sundays are sent to the United Church to help it respond to urgent humanitarian crises around the world. Contact Barbara Dalrymple (519-433-4460).

Los QUINCHOS

Los Quinchos is a school for child street vendors in Managua, Nicaragua, and is supported by a block grant from the Mission & Service Fund of the United Church. The proceeds from our sales of organic Fair Trade chocolate and coffee from Nicaragua support this project.

LONDON OUTREACH ELUCO

ELUCO (East London United Church Outreach), located on Marconi Blvd., has been assisting low-income families for 25 years, offering counselling, emergency services and support for families in need. FSA is a partner church of ELUCO. As such, our responsibilities are to:

- Provide 2 members of the ELUCO Board,
- Fundraise for ELUCO—the Walkathon, The Nostalgic Theatre and Cinnamon Bun sales,
- Provide financial support for ELUCO. In the past, FSA has donated approximately \$4000 per year to ELUCO. UCW supplied additional funds.

Other community outreach ministries in London, such as those in the Southdale and Limberlost communities, provide excellent programmes which are supported by

partnerships with other churches, however, we have a special connection with ELUCO. Contact Linda Badke or the church office (519-679-8182).

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Each summer, houses are built for low-income families under the auspices of Habitat. MOE provides lunch and snacks for the volunteer builders for two days. Contact Bill or Jean Knowles (519-657-9156).

HOSPITALITY MEALS

Early this year, a very special meal of locally produced food was prepared by staff and students from the London Training Centre, a non-profit organization that provides career counselling and hands-on food service training to people seeking employment. Led by Steve James, executive chef to the Olympic Organizing Committee in Vancouver during the Olympic Games, they turned a locally produced hog and locally grown organic root vegetables into a meal to remember. It was an exciting change for our Hospitality Meal guests, who appreciated the extra attention, including a very fine apple crisp dessert topped with a secret sauce.

Our thanks to London Training Centre's Executive Director David Corke for sending his team for a great job. Our volunteers very much enjoyed working with them.

This Hospitality programme runs year-round on Mondays at 5:30pm in Proudfoot Hall to provide hospitality meals for more than 150 people. Well over a hundred volunteers have been involved, many of them from other churches. As well, several outside groups provide financial assistance, including London *Lawyers Feed the Hungry* programme of the Middlesex Law Association, the Thames Road Elimville United Church in Exeter, Riverside United Church choir, Starbucks (Richmond/Central) and Sobeys North (Fanshawe/Adelaide).

If you are interested in helping twice this summer to cover for those on holiday, contact Paul Mansell (519-472-4078) or the church office (519-679-8182).

LIFT (LONDON INTERFAITH TEAM)

Eleven downtown churches, including FSA, are involved in various projects to aid downtown residents. The three LIFT houses provide affordable housing for some Londoners, and, in addition, LIFT also supports YAC (Youth Action Centre) with snack food at their location on Dundas, just west of Richmond. Contact Paul Mansell (519-472-4078) or Bill Knowles (519-657-9156).

MISSION SERVICES, LONDON

The Mission Store is always in dire need of good used sheets, towels, pots and pans and small appliances. They may be dropped off at the Mission Store, 300

William St., just south of the CNR tracks, or call for pickup (519-438-3056).

ST. PAUL'S DAILY BREAD

The Daily Bread project provides food to over 300 families a week as well as feeding approximately 200 people everyday in their Fellowship Centre.

The 2nd Annual Special Fund Raiser will be held at The London Club just down the street. It features a simple meal (prepared by The London Club), entertainment and a silent auction. Cost is \$75.00—with a tax receipt for \$55.00! Get a group together and help raise funds for this Outreach Project of FSA. For more information and/or tickets call Bill Knowles (519-657-9156) or David Knoppert (519-668-4063).

THE ENVIRONMENT

The Environment Sub-Committee of MOE takes its mandate from a larger organization called *Faith and the Common Good*, part of the *Canadian Interfaith Network* to which the UCC belongs. We are encouraged to take simple, practical steps encompassing all aspects of our lives—our spirituality, our faith communities, our homes, our local communities, our transportation, our nation, and our entire planet.

Essential to our movement is helping people understand the deeper spiritual and ethical reasons for making these changes. We need to be motivated by love, by beauty and by a sense of the sacred. Spirituality, then, must be at the heart of the great process of transformation that lies ahead.

Every week we share ideas in the Sunday bulletin. As well, we have taken part in community initiatives such as the *350.org actions* and the *Kyoto-Plus* petition. We are in the process of planning a full week of films and workshops for *Earth Week* (April 18-24) in which we hope to engage the greater London community. We also hope to have a presence on the internet.

We welcome anyone interested in these issues to join this exciting and dynamic group. We meet the last Wednesday of every month in the parlour. Email your interest to hodgema@rogers.com.

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF MOE

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. Sometimes we must interfere. When human lives are endangered, when dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant. Whenever men and women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must—at that moment—become the centre of

the universe (Elie Wiesel in his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, December 10, 1986.)

The annual *Write for Rights* event is after church, March 7, 2010. Lunch will be served, and members of the congregation will have the opportunity to write letters, sign petitions, and add their voices to the fight against tyranny and persecution. Contact: Jane Westmorland (519-473-1273).

COMFORT QUILTS

The Comfort Quilts Group has been working every first Monday of the month to make quilts for soldiers wounded in Afghanistan. Currently, we are working on quilts 9 and 10. We are grateful for those people who have donated fabric for our efforts. We also encourage anyone who has an interest in working with us to join us. Watch for our quilts displayed at Coffee and Conversation. Contact Jane Westmorland (519-473-1273).

FRIENDSHIP AND LEARNING

THE MARATHON BRIDGE GROUP

Contact Jean or Jim Young (519-681-8119).

FAMILY POTLUCK

Jesus understood that people who dine together tend to build relationships with one another. With that as a spiritual springboard, many families at FSA enjoy dinners together in Proudfoot Hall the last Sunday of each month. Contact: Jane Hill (519-641-7199) mark@hilltronics.com or Valerie Moretti (519-642-4896) vmoretti@hotmail.com.

MEN'S BROWN BAG LUNCH

Every Wednesday, 12 to 1, September to May, a group of men meet in the parlour over brown bag lunches, with prepared coffee and tea. David McKane is our facilitator.

What do we talk about?—sports, politics (carefully), our work (and play)—and religion. Here is a recent exchange among Brown Bag members (BBers), courtesy of Gene Corbet.

BBer#1: I received a CD of Bach's Christmas Oratorio for Christmas. The accompanying booklet referred to the circumcision of Jesus. There is no mention of that in the N.T., is there?

Facilitator: No, but you may be sure that there was a rabbi ready and available to perform the operation.

BBer#1: Do any churches refer to this?

BBer#2: I've heard that some High Anglicans do.

BBer#1: There were pictures, as well.

BBer#3: Were they photographs?

GROW-A-ROW

2009 was a great year for FSA and our partner church St. Marys' *Canadian Food Grains Bank* project. We raised over \$10,000, which, at the 4-1 ratio provided by CIDA, means over \$50,000 is available from our two churches to ease problems in the developing world. We are grateful to Tom McLarty and his son, John, for use of part of their farm.

Our kick-off for this year's campaign will be Sunday April 4. Our other special day is our Corn Roast on Mission Sunday, September 12, so mark it in your calendar and join us for lunch in Proudfoot Hall. Contact Bill Knowles (519-657-9156) or David Knoppert (519-668-4063).

OBSERVER

The *United Church Observer* is our church's national magazine, published 11 times a year. For \$20 a year you may subscribe through FSA. Contact Mary Vernon (519-657-7568) or Barb Dalrymple (519-433-4460).

BBer#5: Gives a whole new meaning to organ music.

SUPPER CLUB SERVINGS

In January the Environment Sub-Committee of MOE, including Terry Peters, Mike Bancroft and Mary Ann Hodge, encouraged us in our efforts to protect our environment.

In February, Clay Thibodeau, the chief archivist from the UCC, discussed the role of local and Conference archives.

On March 23 we will be treated to The 3 Keyboards, with guests Peter Clements, Angus Sinclair and Stephen Holowitz.

April 20 will be a new venture: *Guess who's coming to dinner?* Some of our members will host others in their own homes for dinner.

To end the season, May 24th will be Musical Treats, featuring some of our own musicians, as well as some stars of the Kiwanis Festival.

As always, the home-made dishes, salads and desserts are a real highlight. Everyone is welcome to come along and bring a friend. Convener June McKay (519-471-5668).

COUNCIL COMMITTEES



VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

by Donna Travis

Over a year ago Council established the Volunteer Coordinator position. I have learned a great deal about the many

activities in which volunteers play a part within our church community during that time. Developing the many lists of volunteer names for “celebrating our volunteers” Sunday demonstrated the commitment of the congregation to share their talents and time to help maintain the functioning of our church.

This past December, the congregation was greeted at the doors with a new yellow pamphlet outlining the committee positions, the social events, and other

opportunities to engage in volunteer activities. Many thanks to those of you who filled out and returned these forms. I am still waiting and hoping many of you will send them in if you have not already done so. Yellow pamphlets still are available in the narthex, the atrium and outside the chapel doors. Our FSA volunteers will be honoured during Volunteer week. My thanks to all the congregation for making my position so rewarding.

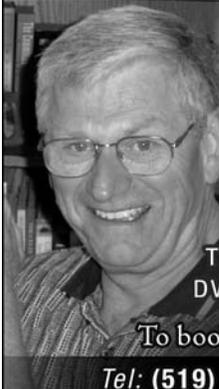
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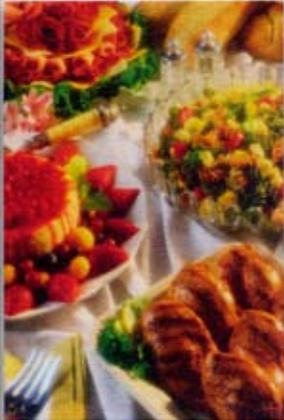
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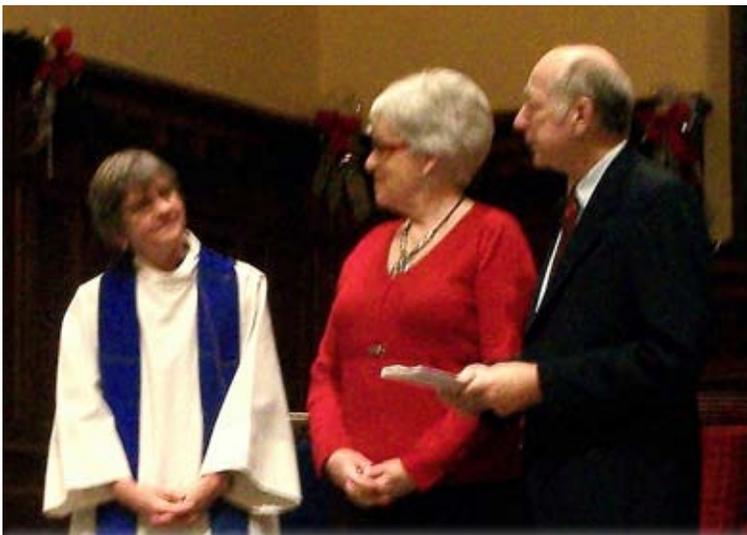
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