

First-St Andrew's
UNITED CHURCH

Where liberal theology meets the best of tradition

Tidings

Vol 27, No 3 – PENTECOST/FALL 2017

HOMO DEUS?
SEE PAGE 3

INSIDE

The Editor's Desk	2	Profile	10
Reflections	3	The Next Generation	11
Vignette	4	Committee Reports.....	12
Spiritual Dimensions.....	6	Passing Parade.....	18,20
Behind the Scene	7	Did You Know?	19
Remembering.....	8	Tidings Tidbits.....	19
Vignette	9	Church Staff.....	20



Tidings

Editor Pat McGregor
Layout Designer Jim Silcox
Photographers Willis Buckingham, David Wake, Jim Silcox
Ad Sales Bob Peel
Team Members Willis Buckingham, Barb Dalrymple, Diane Knoppert, David McKane, Bob Peel, Pat McGregor, Nancy Quinn, Jim Silcox, Pat Sole

Published by:
The Communications & Marketing Committee
First-St. Andrew's United Church
350 Queens Avenue
London, Ontario N6B 1X6
Tel: 519-679-8182
mail@fsaunited.com
www.fsaunited.com

Printed by:
Sterling Marking Products

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

AUSTIN & TAYLOR HOME FURNISHINGS INC.
1350 Fanshawe Pk. Rd. W. London, ON N6G 5B1
ph. 519.473.5400 fx. 519.473.1305
www.austinandtaylor.com

GUEST EDITORIAL



Joyce Payne
President, London Conference

"This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine"

The Book of Joy, written by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, has these words in the introduction:

"No dark fate determines the future. We do. Each day and each moment, we are able to create and re-create our lives and the very quality of human life on our planet. This is the power we wield."

These are reassuring words in a time when many people of faith are wondering why there seems to be so many dark moments, and how can we ever make a positive difference in our world that seems to be spinning out of control. We are reminded of the gifts and inner strength each of us has been given through the Holy Spirit. Our minds and hearts feel liberation in knowing we can be part of a bigger movement towards happiness and peace.

As president of London Conference, I have chosen the theme "Bloom Where You Are Planted— Encourage, Empower, and Set the Spirit Free." This theme comes from my love of gardening. My family background is that of farming and market gardening. The sense of creation as you dig through the earth has a magical draw on one's heart. You feel part of something much larger than yourself, as you witness seeds sprout and plants flourish with flowers, fruit and vegetables. You feel the mystery and power of God's presence in the earth and in your very being.

Plants are persistent and strong. You can dig them up and move them and they will adapt to their new surroundings and grow again. You can accidentally run them over with the lawnmower and they will re-sprout anew. You can aggressively prune bushes and new shoots appear from the roots.

Our faith is sometimes like that too. Difficult situations and experiences can cause us to wither and feel defeated. But as we commune with Jesus, we find ourselves refreshed and strengthened. We experience the resilience and confidence our roots of faith afford us. There is power in deep roots.

God calls each of us to wear our faith proudly, to stand strong and speak loudly against injustices and inequalities, oppression and hate. Listening to that still, small voice within us will lead us forward.

(Cont'd. on page 18)



Rev. Michelle Down

As we begin a new programme year at First-St. Andrew's we are blessed to have such a great staff team and volunteers who commit their energies to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, and the ministries of FSA. Throughout this year we are going to continue to explore how God is moving us into the future, with Faith, Service and the Arts. We continue to be guided in the directions of shared partnerships, transformative music and inspirational worship. The following three quotes have come across my desk recently, and are pertinent to the ministries here at FSA:

- Erma Bombeck. "When I stand before you God at the end of my life, I hope that I will not have a single bit of talent left, and can say to you, I have shared everything that you have given to me!"
- Martin Luther King Jr. "Our lives begin to end the day that we become silent about things that matter."
- Galatians 3:28. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

We are being called to share the talents, gifts, and bless-



HOMO DEUS?

Steve Elson

I have recently finished reading a book titled *Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow* by Yuval Noah Harari. It's a challenging book to read because it looks at the evolution of the human race and its relationship to the planet and other animals from a long term, evolutionary perspective. He posits that we are undergoing a fundamental change in our relationship to each other, our environment and to intelligent or "smart" machines in particular. He argues that increasingly humans see themselves as truly masters of their own futures with data information and technology being enablers of a destiny of our own choosing—hence the use of the term Homo Deus rather than Homo Sapiens in the title. He sees many of the traditional roles of humans being taken over by intelligent machines. The power to control and influence the future lies with vast powerful interconnected networks of data, not with individuals. We are, from Harari's point of view, entering unknown territory in the history of the human race.

A Moment with Michelle

ings that God has offered to us, within this community and around the world. FSA is richly blessed with many resources, and our faithful response is to share them, so that, like Erma, we can stand before God, proud that we have shared who we are and what we have.

The world is currently in a tragic place of dysfunction, discrimination, hatred, and supremacy. It is time to hear again the words of Martin Luther King Jr., and speak up about the things that matter to us. If we want to live in a land and church that puts love before hate, then we need to have the courage to articulate that. To stand with, to march against.

Finally, scriptures once again remind us of the never-ending story of inclusion, acceptance, and hope. This letter to the Galatians talks of people who lose their label, culture, race, orientation, when they are ready and willing to take on that label of beloved child of God. When we can find the Grace to share the goodness that is offered to us, by a God who loves us, then we can be the best person that we were created to be.

May this year moving forward, offer to you, and all of First-St. Andrew's a year of sharing our blessings; speaking truth in love; and gaining an identity as healthy disciple.

In Peace, Rev. Michelle P. Down.

View from the Pew

It is interesting to note that he treats the traditional concept of God as something whose relevance has come and gone, and he does so in an almost matter-of-fact tone. We used God to explain things we did not understand, but as we learn more and more the significance of God diminishes. We do not see God as an entity that can intervene in life as we live it—that's something we do.

This book offers important insights into our relationship with each other, the world in which we live and its evolution. As I see it, the challenge for us as a faith community is to recognize the significance of the changes that are taking place around us, and to see the increasing importance of having a moral centre or compass from which to make new choices and new decisions. Our moral strength is foundational to our ability to live by the values we espouse. Whether we continue to use the term God or not, we need a space in which we can define our values and gain insights into how to live in loving relationship with each other and engage with the larger world. That's what the church has to offer and how it can continue to add value to our lives as we all move into the future. ✚

A GRAVEYARD MYSTERY



Pat McGregor

ARCHIVES

In May, FSA's Archives Committee was invited to view the work being done on finding, excavating and re-locating the graves from the St. Andrew's Presbyterian cemetery, moved to Woodland in 1955. The following is an account and photographs from this very interesting visit. (Text by MacKenzie Brash, Monument Conservator, Woodland Cemetery.)

SCOTTISH MEMORIAL



fig. 1

The Scottish Memorial at Woodland Cemetery (fig. 1) is memorializing all of those individuals who had been buried at the original St. Andrew's Presbyterian cemetery on St. James St., and who were moved to Woodland in 1955. While the stones were moved more toward the fence line, the bodies were buried in a mass grave under the memorial. Woodland Cemetery does have records of the bodies buried in the grave, but not about the exact placement of the stones. They were believed to be in a different location but were moved at some point in the last 62 years. Most likely the land was needed for other burials.

SCOTTISH CEMETERY

Towards the fence line is where we found the buried cemetery that was moved here all those years ago. When we began the work at the beginning of May, we started with what we believed was a small stone, one that we could practise restoration on. When we began to probe the ground to find the edges of the stone, we found that it was much larger than we anticipated. In fact, it seemed to go a few metres along a

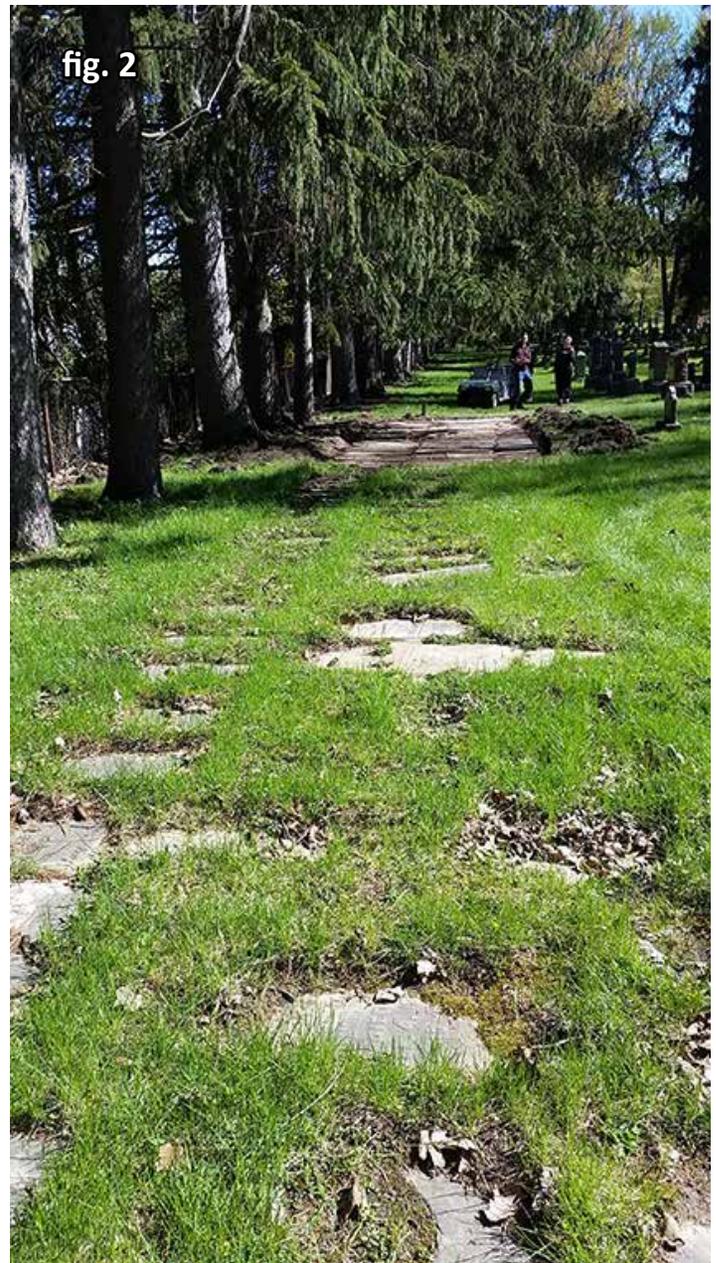


fig. 2

line. So we decided to pull up the grass to determine what we were working with (fig. 2). It turns out we had not uncovered one stone, but 20. Twenty stones quickly became 60. Sixty stones eventually became 130. After we finished uncovering

the stones, we pulled them out of the earth and started to clean them up (fig. 3). When we were reading the names and the inscriptions, we noticed that the majority of the stones mentioned Scotland, so we became curious. Our supervisor

All four of the students working on the project are recent graduates of Western University. Three of them are returning to Western for their Masters (two in history, one in public history) while the fourth will be going to the Norman Patterson School for International Affairs in Ottawa. †



fig. 3



fig. 4

explained to us that they might be from the St. Andrew's Parish that had closed its cemetery in 1955. Upon enquiry we were sent documents that outlined all of the stones that were moved at that time. This document allowed us to cross-reference our stones with the names on their list, and confirmed that they were all from that cemetery. Right now we are in the process of repairing the stones using an epoxy and a limestone mortar; then we will locate them in what we call the "sandbox" (fig. 4). We want to place the stones down on a slope so that rainwater won't pool in the carvings.

*"O sing to the LORD,
a new song"*

(Psa. 96:1)



Jo Ann Silcox

The Biblical Psalms were issued from times, not unlike our own, of massive displacement for the people of God. Carried off into captivity in Babylon, stripped of temple and Torah, clergy and courtiers, land and language, kinship and kings—God’s people struggled to determine whether they might also have lost their GOD. In the decades which followed they gradually learned that their vision of GOD had been far too small and their understanding of GOD’s grace much too limited.

New voices of worship emerged—no longer restricted by priestly precepts or Torah tenets. Voices silenced by sorrow began to find expression in powerful laments both individual and communal, in which complaint gave way to plea and plea to trust and trust to praise (Psa. 11, 16, 23).

A new awareness of GOD both in nature and in hymnary evoked Songs of Praise, summoning the newly constituted community to collectively raise their individual voices (Psa. 146-150).

A brand-new encounter with a GOD emerged, apparently not restricted by ethnic nor geographic boundaries, and Songs of Thanksgiving began to form on the lips of those who



had previously only been able to lament (Psa. 18, 30, 32, 40) that same GOD’s apparent liminality.

As GOD Himself became identified as KING of Kings and LORD of Lords, hope emerged that an earthly king, servant to that same GOD, might again fulfill the promises to David, and ROYAL PSALMS began to express that tentative trust (Psa. 2, 18, 20, 72).

As prophetic voices began to promise the home-coming of all home-comings—a return to Jerusalem—the Psalms of Zion began to express people’s passionate desire to reclaim Jerusalem as no longer the exclusive but surely the most eternal dwelling place of Yahweh (Psa. 46, 48, 76).

As the universality of GOD began to emerge, new forms of worship emerged in the Liturgical Psalms (Psa. 15, 24, 50).

And, finally, as a newly faithful people began to celebrate fresh understandings of the breadth and depth of the holy, the wisdom, the Torah Psalms took shape (Psa. 37, 49, 73).✠

KEITH OWEN HAWN
SALES REPRESENTATIVE



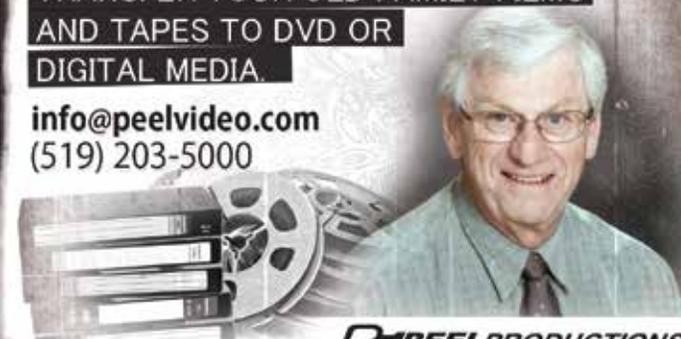
Century 21
First Canadian Corp.
Brokerage*

CELL: 519.694.3570
OFFICE: 519.673.3390
EMAIL: KEITH.HAWN@CENTURY21.CA
WEB: CENTURY21.CA/KEITH.HAWN

Each Century 21® Office is Independently Owned and Operated

**TRANSFER YOUR OLD FAMILY FILMS
AND TAPES TO DVD OR
DIGITAL MEDIA.**

info@peelvideo.com
(519) 203-5000



PEELPRODUCTIONS



Willis Buckingham

FSA maintains records of baptisms (not birthdates, since we cannot confirm accuracy) dating from 1890, marriages from 1924, and deaths (actually funeral dates) from 1926. The office frequently will receive requests for certification of any of those events, which requires the staff to locate the applicable ledger, photocopy the relevant page(s), select the appropriate text line for insertion into the certificate, and print for delivery to the customer. There has been no charge for this service in the past, but it is a time-consuming procedure, aggravated since the old ledgers are disintegrating after about 100 years.

On behalf of the Archives Committee I have now completed digitizing all those ledgers, so precise searching will be available on the office computer. The desired information can be directly entered into the certificate for mailing or transferring electronically. This is so much easier than trying to find the right ledger among the stack of 18, and saves many physical steps for staff. It will also allow the committee to store all but the current ledgers in the Archives Room where they



are not taking up precious space in the stock room. We now ask for a suitable donation to be forwarded to FSA directly on the certificate.

There are a few interesting statistics gathered in the process:

- From 1890–2016 there were 2913 baptisms on 167 pages scanned. There were three years with no baptisms, 7 years had more than 50, and since 2001 only three years had more than 10 baptisms.
- From 1924–2016 there were 1687 marriages, full page scans. One year there was none (1936), 20 years more than 30. Over 14 years, just over 30% of the participants were RC/L/Orthodox (4 years over 50%). Also the UCC ledgers for 1973–1979 did not provide for the wife's occupation, but those before/after do.
- From 1926–2016 there were 3456 funerals recorded on 176 pages. In 1980, there were 78 funerals, and 17 years had more than 50. Recent trends have been in the teens annually. †

"Your Home Appliance Experts"

www.arvaappliances.com

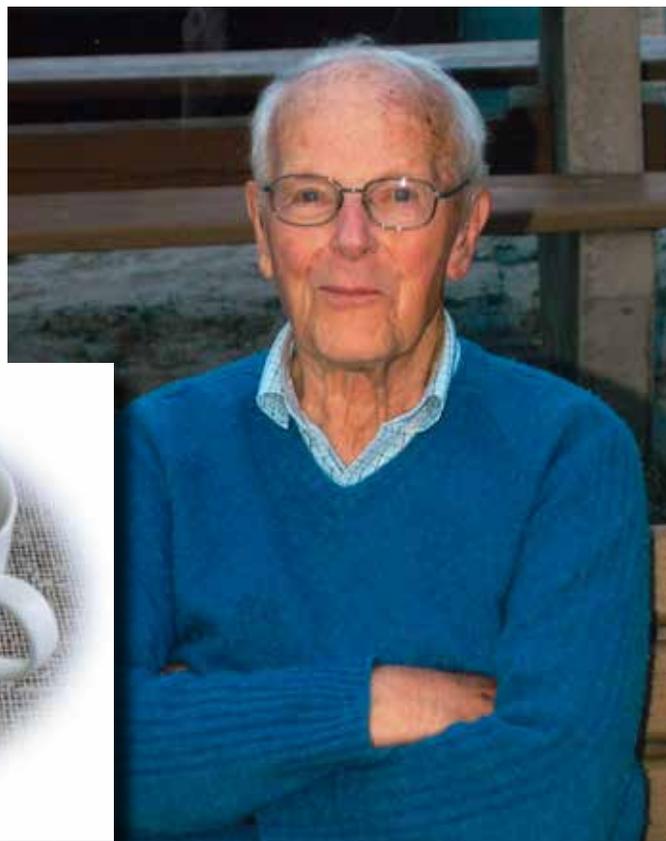
ARVA APPLIANCE CENTRE

21593 Richmond St N., Arva, ON N0M1C0 P. 519-460-8314 F. 519-460-1340 e-mail: info@arvaappliances.com

M²O

MAY McCONVILLE OMNI
insurance brokers ltd.

Tom McLarty



Gavin McGregor

Shortly after I joined FSA, Tom sauntered over to me, and in his characteristically gentlemanly manner introduced himself; and so started our friendship. He discovered I liked snowshoeing and invited me to the family farm north of London. We set out to explore the woods bordering the Medway Creek. There is no better way to get to know someone than by sharing nature, struggling with the elements, getting tired and needing a rest. At that point Dr. Tom took the haversack he carried over his shoulder, pulled out a flask of hot chocolate and some oatmeal cookies, and we had a banquet of conversation: our research interests; our Scottish heritage; his journeys with his wife Mary in Europe while he studied advanced surgical procedures. The list goes on, but there was no escaping his love for Mary, his family and the land.

Tom was devastated when Mary died. The sorrow accelerated the onset of Alzheimer's and soon he was unable to recognize friends. On one occasion I called in on him, and seeing how he had changed, the tune and the words of the Scottish song Land o' the Leal* kept swirling through my head.

On hearing of Tom's death, and thinking about the good times we had shared, back came that song! I picked up my old harmonica and started to play the tune. In my mind the following words replace those written by Lady Carolina Nairne (1766-1845):

*You kept wearin' awa' Tom, like snaw-wreaths in
thaw, Tom,*

Just wearin' awa' tae the land o' the leal.

*There's nae sorrow there, Tom, there's neither
cauld nor care, Tom.*

The day is aye fair in the land o' the leal.

*Your bonnie Mary's there, Tom, she was baith
gude and fair, Tom,*

*And O! Ye grudged her sair tae the land o' the
leal.*

*Now you've left this mortal earth Tom, an' found
joy at last, Tom,*

A joy that's aye tae last in the land o' the leal.

This tribute was shared with the Brown Bag group of which Tom was a member. He enlightened us about his connection to First Church and of Mary's Anglican roots going back to the origins of Port Burwell. †

*Leal—loyal, faithful.

WHAT'S WRONG?



Bob Swartman



I recently received a letter from an acquaintance that concerns me. It referred to a recent increase to the Canada Old Age Supplement amounting to 55¢ a month. The person wrote: "Someone please tell me what is wrong with all the people that run this country! Our government leaders tell us 'we're broke' and can't help our own seniors, veterans, orphans, homeless, ... We spend billions on foreign aid ... provide direct cash aid to ... (a list of countries) ... and they still hate us. Our retired seniors are living on a 'fixed income.' Do they get any breaks while our government and religious organizations pour hundreds of billions and tons of food to foreign countries?"

"We have hundreds of adoptable children who are shoved aside to make room for the adoption of foreign orphans. We have homeless persons, children going to bed hungry, elderly going without needed medication and mentally ill without treatment ... etc. Yet, we still allow illegals and other freeloaders on our shores, while we supply them with food, clothes, bedding, doctors and medical supplies. Imagine if the GOVERNMENT gave US the same support they give to other countries. Sad isn't it?"

I read the letter and felt disappointed as it sounds hateful. Did they really mean "what is wrong with all the people who run this country"; surely the answer is the politicians that we elect, that's who.

I don't hear the government telling us "we're broke." I do hear people who are well off complaining about paying taxes who don't want to share with those less fortunate. We do help our seniors, our veterans, our orphans and our homeless, maybe not as well as we should, but it's more than nothing.

Do the recipients of foreign aid hate us? How can they hate us when they don't know who we are? In my experience people in developing countries are most appreciative.

Seniors living on a "fixed income"—are those not called pensions? Are there seniors actually starving? I am sure there are but usually in conjunction with mental illness and that's tough to solve.

There are not enough adoptable children in Canada and the rules are stiff, so some prospective parents go offshore, like China.

What are we doing to help the homeless, children going to bed hungry, elderly without needed medication, and the mentally ill without treatment? Our church is one of two in London that actively support Bridges Out of Poverty, managed by Goodwill. What do we want the government to do? We have to let them know. †

gejolink
Property Services ... Call George
(519) 854-6845

Mount Pleasant & Oakland Cemeteries
A non-profit, public service organization since 1875
Transfer Service
Crematorium ~ Chapel ~ Reception Centre
303 Riverside Drive, London
Call to discuss your needs 519 434 6504
www.mpcemetery.ca info@mpcemetary.ca



Nancy Quinn



Pat McGregor

Nancy has called London home since the age of two. She says it was the excellence in music and progressive liberal theology that initially brought her to FSA, stating that she “admires FSA’s acknowledgement that thoughtful, exploratory spiritual questions are more important than dogmatic certainty. FSAers value excellence in all areas and are hard workers with a mission to make a difference in our world. Our worship experiences, in our beautiful sanctuary, are carefully crafted and include exquisite music.”

Nancy’s family comprises her husband, Jeff DeLuzio, who she says constantly amazes her with his relentless curiosity about the culture around us. An English teacher, Jeff often works with his students in writing, workshoping and then fully staging plays and short films. Nancy’s mother, now in long-term-care, has provided a wonderful role model of hard work, determination and resourcefulness. “Through her knowledge as a botanist and science teacher,” Nancy says, “she opens me to the wonders of nature. Even though they are no longer with me in this world, my maternal grandparents, who were medical missionaries and philanthropists, continue to inspire me to try and make a difference.”

Nancy tells us that she is the fortunate steward of a beautiful heritage house and home-making is her calling, along with the study of vocal and piano music. Previously she worked for ten years as a founding executive secretary for the Thames Region Ecological Association. She loves to learn and holds an M.A. (English) and M.L.I.S. from Western University, where

she also worked for the Educational Development Office.

Listening to and performing music—especially classical sacred music—is one of Nancy’s passions, and she notes that Thursday evening choir practices at FSA are a highlight of her week. For fun she enjoys exploring our national parks and watching vintage movies with Jeff. She is an enthusiastic cook, part of an international-themed Cooking Club which has met for decades. Being outdoors and gardening are also favourite occupations.

When relaxing, Nancy says she enjoys reading biographies, currently *Out of my Life and Thought: An Autobiography* by Albert Schweitzer.

Nancy says that to recharge spiritually she takes time every morning with the “Daily Bread” devotional and in prayers of gratitude. She likes to be out in nature—songbirds, the wind, looking at greenery—all help to connect her to the Christ energy that helps us to be our best selves. Sacred music, Mozart’s *Laudate Dominum* for example, brings her to a place of peace.

And now that sometimes difficult question: If you had the last question, what would it be? Nancy was ready with her response: “An ongoing question for me is how can I better open myself to God’s higher purpose as I work to be a channel of blessing for my community.”

If Nancy feels blessed to be part of our faith community at FSA, she can rest assured that the feeling is completely mutual. †



Jane Dockrill

SUMMER CAMPS

Summer camp offers opportunities for kids to grow and discover themselves. Without parents by their side, children step into an independent role which over the course of a week builds self-confidence and self-esteem. This past summer, FSA kids were involved in two camps of which we as a united church community can be very proud.

In July, First-St. Andrew's hosted S.A.L.T. (Summer Adventure Leadership Team) to once again come and "lead" our children through a five-day adventure of fun and games, stories and plays, music and crafts and lots of outdoor fun. This leadership team comprises high-school and post-secondary students from within Middlesex Presbytery, most of them attending and serving in their own United churches. In June the leadership team begins planning a summer-long programme to share with United churches in the area.

This summer, FSA registered 40 children from the church and community, which made for special relationship-building throughout the week. We also had some neighbours and friends join us from Southdale Chaplaincy—the word is out! With the theme, "All you need is Love," the kids sang and danced through the days, with scriptures teaching how to "Love your Family, Love Yourself, Love the Earth, Love our Neighbours, and how to Live A Life of Love." A great time was had by all. The children flowed in through the Atrium doors at 9:00am and out again at 4:00pm, tired and filled up with love.

After a few weeks off, I made my way over to King's College to help with the facilitation of the fifth year of "London Interfaith Peace Camp." My job on the leadership team is to help with the preparation and training of 22 young adults

to be counsellors for the 60 campers expected to join us for a week on August 14th. The young people and I shared 14 hours together; getting to know one another, learning community-building skills and communication techniques, maintaining a healthy mindset and developing keen eyes for physical, social and emotional safety at play. The team was able to apply their training experiences while playing games and shepherding large and small groups of children all over King's campus, as well as throughout our offsite adventures.

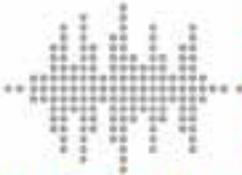
The campers and counsellors come from all over the city to join in Peace Camp; from Muslim mosques, Jewish temples & synagogues, and Christian churches of all kinds. While we congregate at King's College (UWO) and spend Monday and Friday on site, Tuesday to Thursday we set out after morning routines to join Or Shalom Synagogue on Huron Street, London Muslim Mosque on Oxford and the Trinity Greek Orthodox Church on Southdale Road. We tour the sites, learn about the main beliefs and character of the religion and

culture, and enjoy an authentic lunch together. Upon return to King's in the afternoon, we continue to understand the religion of the day through stories, video, crafts and guest speakers.

What a great way to learn about the differences in our religions and at the same time, celebrate the commonalities of our discipleship.

Last year the Interfaith Peace Camp was the winner of the Diversity, Race Relations and Inclusivity Award from the City of London! FSA is a proud supporter of this excellent programme that inspires a future of peace, beginning with the children.

Summer camp programmes encourage the development of the child. Through events and opportunities like these camps we continue to be "an inclusive Christian Family encouraging spiritual growth through worship, friendship, learning and action." †

London AUDIO
beyond sound

-home theatre - audio systems - home automation
- lighting control - commercial AV

Visit Our New Location: 1690 Richmond Street
London, Ontario
londonaudio.com 519.673.1780



HARRIS
FUNERAL HOME LTD

Traditional Services ❖ Cremation Alternatives

For preplanning information visit
www.HarrisFuneralHome.ca
or call 519-433-7253

Family-owned & operated since 1962

COMMITTEE REPORTS



COUNCIL

George Jolink, Chair

As summer winds down we look forward with anticipation to resuming our regular schedule of activities. What will this coming year bring? Although our future is yet to be written, our past is a solid foundation on which to build. Like the generations before us we are the current caretakers of this great congregation. What we do now will be our legacy for future generations.

As I reflect on my new role as Council Chair, I am humbled by the faith you have put in me. Your Council and committees serve First-St. Andrew's in so many ways and are to be commended. I am a firm believer in servant leadership and my goal as Council Chair is to facilitate the work of our membership. In these uncertain times of limited resources

and changing needs we will be faced with important decisions that will carry us into the future. Your Council will continue to discern the way forward with care and with congregational input.

Over the summer your staff and committee leadership have been working on your behalf. This next year promises to be exciting with many events being planned and new directions to be explored. I urge each of you to engage in the life and work of First-St. Andrew's, as you have in the past. When we share our time, talent and resources we will accomplish great things. Together we will maintain our legacy and build on our past. I thank each of you for your commitment.

First-St. Andrew's is an iconic structure in a prominent location with a rich history of serving the community of London and beyond. Let us continue the work started by William Proudfoot 185 years ago. †



MUSIC

Merran Neville

During the sultry and relaxing days of summer, planning the music programme for the next year has continued. Terry Head, our director of music, has brought together a diverse offering for the 2017-18 season, starting with a fall Hymn Festival on October 21st at 7:30pm. The Senior Choir will be joined by choirs from several churches and a brass quintet to celebrate the 185th Anniversary of First-St. Andrew's. On November 15th at 7:30pm, we will have the pleasure of hearing a concert by the Canadian Brass, a not-to-be-missed event. The Friday Noon Advent concerts include: Ken Baldwin on trumpet and Terry at the piano (Dec. 1st), a performance by the award

winning Catholic Central Chamber Choir (Dec. 8th), and on Dec. 15th the Laudamus Bells, under Terry's direction. A very special production of *The Gift of the Magi* will be performed on Friday, Dec. 8th at 8:00pm, Saturday, Dec. 9th at 3:00pm, and again at 8:00pm. Choir soloists Sonja Gustafson and Francesca Ranalli will be featured in this production, together with other soloists. This chamber opera, composed by David Conte, is based on a short story of the same title by O. Henry.

Please share the brochure, which is now available, of the year's musical events with friends and family and online through Facebook, and come out to enjoy these exciting musical offerings.

The Laudamus Bells will be hosting an all-day workshop on Saturday, November 4th for our district of the Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers (OGEHR). †

At Your Service for
Seniors

- Transport & Accompany
- Cook, Shop
- Clean, Organize
- Socialize & More!

A Non Medical Home Care
Service Provider
incorporated 2008

Find us on
Facebook

(519) 872-0875

www.atyourserviceforseniors.ca
info@atyourserviceforseniors.ca

local non franchise company

Covers
Designers' EDGE

Complimentary
In-Home Consultation

297 Exeter Rd
London, Ontario

designersedgecanada.ca
519- 652-0222

Blinds . Shutters . Drapery . Bedding



PROPERTY

George Jolink

I remember vividly when I first came to London in 1981 and I entered First-St. Andrew's. I was completely awestruck by its beauty both inside and out. Today, some years later, I must confess

I still feel the same way. It is my honour to serve on the Property Committee and to help maintain the building and property in a way that ensures its viability into the future.

As you can appreciate, we live in an older historic complex structure which requires upkeep both planned and unplanned. The Property Committee works to address unexpected issues in an expedient manner and to plan for enhancements. For your appreciation let me highlight some of the recent projects (2017 so far).

- Repair sink hole in parking lot;
- Investigate drainage issues after flooding in Proudfoot Hall;
- Replace sound system mixer;
- Replace rear parking lot entry door;
- Repair swing doors to Chapel and Sanctuary;
- Painting Farquhar House;
- Repainting sunroom;

- Sump pump power backup power supply;
- Balcony railing improvements (insurance requirement);
- Roofing on rear of Farquhar House;
- Boiler inspection and maintenance;
- Fire alarm testing and upgrades;
- Security system repairs, upgrades;
- Installation of 185 banner;
- Update complete building inventory with photographic support.

As you can see, much has been done and you can appreciate this represents significant expense. The good news is that our ongoing rental income covers almost the entire Property budget. We must continue to use our facility as a revenue stream even though it means we must share space. Let us extend a warm welcome to our partners. Coupled with Trustee support for capital projects, we can continue to maintain and enjoy this facility.

Special thanks must be extended to our Facilities Coordinators Tim Miedema and Heather Vouvalidis, who together manage the needs of our building and community, and to Ron Bradley, Audrey Coulthard and David Beach our Property volunteers. Thanks also to committee members Willis Buckingham, Donna Travis, Peter Ross and Bob Swartman for their ongoing efforts on your behalf. †



COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Jim Silcox

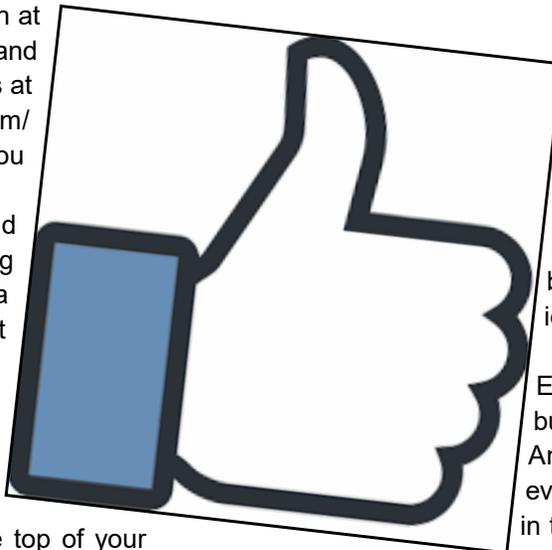
It has been almost a year since C & M opened a new Facebook page for FSA replacing the old "group" Facebook site. If you haven't found it already, click on the icon at

the bottom left of all our webpages and it will come up. Or you can find us at the url, <https://www.facebook.com/Fsa-1117173635032862/>. When you visit us, here are a few tips:

- Don't just loiter on our site and move on. If you see something you like, indicate that with a "like" so that the info will go out to all your Facebook friends. This is especially important if what you see pertains to an upcoming event that the church is promoting. Posts that get "liked" end up at the top of your friends' newsfeeds more often, and can help posts spread across Facebook. We want to get the word out as broadly

as possible about these special occasions, and you can be a great help to us.

- Leave a comment. Just click in the field and type in your thoughts. Remember that you can tag other users in your comment just like you would a regular post.



C & M News

We are a host site again this year for the annual Doors Open event on Sat. Sept. 16th. Tell your friends or, better yet, bring them to FSA and guide them through one of London's most beautiful landmark buildings. Tell them there also will be cookies, (we have no shame!)

We are currently negotiating with Eventbrite to make it possible for folks to buy tickets online for our Music at First-St. Andrew's events (and other special ticketed events as well). Watch for more information in the email blast, bulletin insert, as well as event posters. We think this will be a great convenience to our patrons and increase our audiences. †



MISSION, OUTREACH & ENVIRONMENT

Marilyn Beach

Canadian Food Grains Bank—Grow-A-Row

On Sunday, September 10th MOE is hosting our annual Corn Roast—with local corn, apples, ham, coleslaw, cookies and, of course, the delicious homemade beans from St. Marys. This year Dave Clements will be talking to us as we have our coffee following our WONDERFUL lunch. You will hear how your donation to our campaign with St. Marys United helps those in Third World countries, including Syria and many African nations.

So, if you haven't made your donation yet, it is not too

late to do so. Just pick up an envelope at all entrances to the Sanctuary and fill out the form. See you on September 10th after church in Proudfoot Hall. Freewill offering.

St. Paul's Daily Bread

Many people continue to donate food, toiletries, etc. to the shopping cart in the Atrium, and the white baskets at the various entrances. These are so important to those who climb the MANY steps to be interviewed and logged in the computer. Keep up the great donations. They are much appreciated.

Running Shoes for LIHC

When cleaning out your closets or making a collection at your tennis club or karate class, don't forget London's homeless who rely on our generosity. †



11th Annual White Squirrel Golf Tournament — June 10th, 2017

Diane Knoppert

And the winners are ... the outreach projects supported by the Mission Outreach and Environment (MOE) Committee. This year over \$11,500 was raised and will be donated to:

St. Paul's Daily Bread, East London United Church Outreach (ELUCO), Los Quinchos school in Nicaragua, the Joanne McWilliam Memorial Fund (provides bursaries to high achieving Nicaraguan students so they can further their education) and the United Church of Canada Extreme Hunger Appeal.

The tournament winners were ... the 18-hole threesome of Bob Kennedy, and Aaron and Al McIntyre and the 9-hole twosome of Jane Dockrill and Bill Guthrie.

Heartfelt thanks to our Corporate Sponsor, Bob Schram/ Sterling Marking Products, our 30-hole Sponsors and the donors of over 80 Secret, Silent and Live Auction Items.

Thanks also to everyone who helped with the event and those who golfed, walked, or dined with us on June 10th.

Once again, the staff of the Ironwood Golf Club in Exeter provided excellent service and accommodated our special requests.

The 12th Annual White Squirrel Golf Tournament will be held on June 9th, 2018 at Ironwood — IF we can find more volunteers to help with the planning. The MOE Committee is looking for a chairperson (or co-chairs) for the Golf committee as well as more Committee members to coordinate some of the aspects of the White Squirrel Tournament. Coordinators are needed to look after the auctions, marketing, hole sponsors and registration. One or two people could take on each role. Details about what is involved and support will be available.

The White Squirrel event is truly a time of fun and fellowship as well as fundraising. More than half of those who attend are not golfers; they simply enjoy spending time with other FSAers and friends. This event has become vital to the work of MOE; without it, we would not be able to provide the same support to the organizations listed.

Please contact Barb Dalrymple or Pat Pettit if you can help in any way. †



White Squirrel Moments





WORSHIP

Jane Westmorland

“For those whose harvest is poor, whose crops have withered, water is tainted, children starve, help those who bring relief and bestow on us an unaccustomed generosity, that all might share from your garden and all might sing your praise.”

(faithandworship.com)

How appropriate that, on the first Sunday in the Sanctuary, we will be coming together in faith, celebrating the resumption of Sunday School and the culmination of the Grow-a-Row campaign. As we sow the seeds of faith within our young people, we are helping to sow seeds in fields around the world.

A highlight of worship this fall will be an entire month devoted to First-St. Andrew’s 185th anniversary. As music plays a significant role in our heritage, we will celebrate with Music

Sunday. We will remember those in our congregation who fought and died in the wars on Remembrance Sunday. Two former ministers of our church will preach on two separate Sundays: the Rev. Dr. David McKane and the Rev. Dr. Kate Crawford. On Nov. 21st, the Rev. Dr. Gary Paterson, former moderator of the United Church, will be our guest speaker at a Proudfoot Lecture. Dr. Paterson was the first openly gay moderator, and the first in the world to lead a major Christian church. While in office, his goal was to bring inspiration and hope during times of change. Details of these anniversary events will be in your bulletin inserts.

The Worship Committee will be continuing to address issues which were raised during the Worship Feedback. The assisted listening devices are being checked regularly; scripture readers are practicing; the sound system issues are being addressed and the liturgists will work with Michelle and Terry to provide a unified service. †



MEMBERSHIP AND NURTURE

Celebrating Our Diversity

Jo Ann Silcox

First-St. Andrew’s joined a record number of Londoners in celebrating the parade which culminated the festivities around the 2017 Pride Festival.

Kerry Stover led a stirring worship service on the lawn at the Queen St. entrance to the church to which passers-by were invited in anticipation of the march. This was followed by a hot-dog lunch on the lawn, in which many beyond the church family took an enthusiastic part. Music was provided by S.O.U.P. and Jane Dockrill organized games for the young-at-heart.

Those not engaged in preparing and serving the lunch walked with White Oaks and Siloam United churches in the parade itself.

It was a day in which we were reminded that our common

humanity needs to be regularly upheld in the public as well as the private square if we are truly to be the whole people of God.

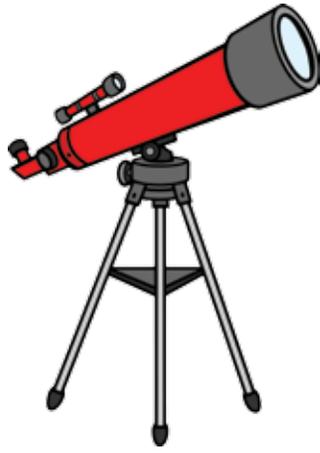
On Sunday, September 24th, the Affirm Committee is pleased to present Embracing our Diversities: Celebrating Our Transgender Friends, after the morning service at 12:15 p.m. in the Parlour. We are privileged to have as guest speakers, Rev. Marilyn Townsend-Smith, minister at London Road West United Church in Sarnia, and her partner Paula Smith. Paula has recently been transitioning from male to female and they will be sharing their transgender journey together, as well as offering helpful suggestions for supporting others in similar journeys. A light lunch will be served. To help with providing adequate food, please register by Sept. 22nd with Anne Cummings (cummings@uwo.ca or 519-660-6106) for this engaging presentation. †



July 30th, Pride Picnickers



July 30th, S.O.U.P. at the picnic



LOOKING TO THE *FUTURE* OF FSA

A SPECIAL REPORT FROM THE
AD HOC PLANNING COMMITTEE



Steve Elson

With the continuing support of Council, FSA's Ad Hoc Planning Committee has been exploring alternative futures for FSA and, with significant input and consultation with the church community, has set a strategic direction for the future. The conclusion of this phase of planning is best stated below:

The following is a consensus statement developed by the congregation of FSA in response to the recognition that the church needs to change and adapt in order to not only survive but thrive in an ever-changing environment.

This statement is designed to help bring focus to the mission of FSA, to guide decision-making and to support priority-setting by FSA in the months and years ahead.

In the future FSA will be known and recognized as being a church and community meeting place that reaches out by offering a wide range of programmes and services that attract different groups and members of the community—through programmes offered both inside and outside the church facility—in partnership with other groups and organizations, as appropriate.

These programmes and services individually and collectively will be designed to:

- *Nurture spiritual growth and development through worship [Faith];*
- *Work in service to others and build community through social action and partnerships [Service], and,*
- *Celebrate life through music and the arts [Arts].*

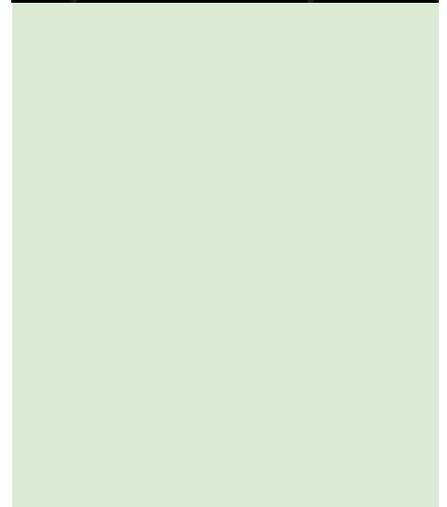
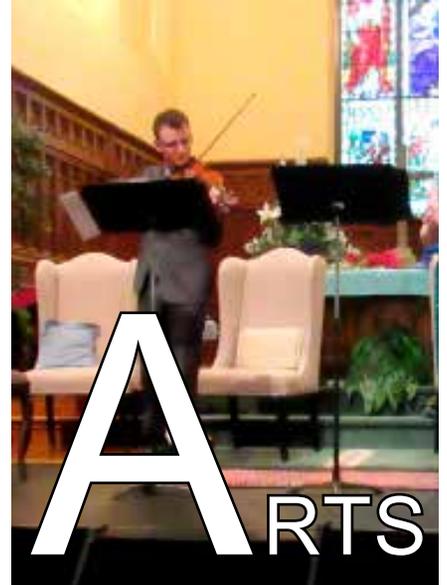
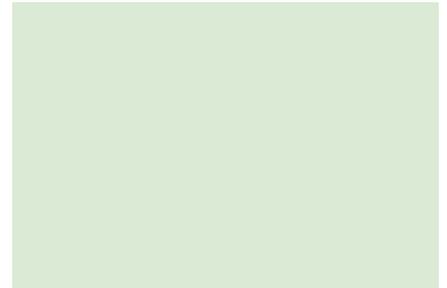
Having reached this point, the committee is now in a position to begin the implementation planning phase. This involves moving from general, conceptual ideas to identifying concrete and practical ways of translating this vision of the future into action. In terms of undertaking this work the committee has decided to take advantage of tools available from the United Church of Canada through its Embracing the Spirit initiative. Not only are tools available but they also have staff to provide assistance and support.

The committee has decided to address each of the three major themes outlined in the emerging consensus statement in turn, and will begin by addressing “Celebrating life through music and the arts.”

The implementation planning process will involve gathering ideas and assessing opportunities and needs in the areas of music and the arts, not only from inside the church but from outside as well. Part of using the Embracing the Spirit methodology will involve hosting a Community Round Table where people from the community with knowledge and insights into the topic being addressed will be invited to a meeting to give their input and suggestions.

Through this process, specific projects and initiatives will be identified and assessed and then, with the approval of Council, implemented. As noted above, initial planning will focus on music and the arts. The other two theme areas: Nurture spiritual growth and development through worship [Faith]; and, Work in service to others and build community through social action and partnerships [Service] will follow.

This is an exciting time for the life of FSA as we adapt to change, ensuring a vibrant and rich future as a faith community. The process the committee is leading, in partnership with the congregation, will give FSA the means to act in a thoughtful and constructive way to realize its new future. †





UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Nancy Quinn

Retrospective:

On May 5th to 7th, The UCW London Conference sponsored the annual Westminster Weekend titled "Finding Balance in an Unbalanced World," with a focus on Truth and Reconciliation issues.

Over forty people attended the Middlesex Presbyterial UCW Annual Camp Kee-Mo-Kee, on Monday, June 19th, including our own Laurel Kenney and Marilyn McBride. At London Conference's UCW Summer Event, Saturday, July 22nd, at Siloam United, Glen Pearson presented "Sustaining Hope." FSA women Eva Archibald, Laurel Kenney, Marilyn McBride, Joni Pypka, and Sally Smith attended.

This year, the UCW National 55th Anniversary Conference "Celebrating Spirit" took place in Vancouver, British Columbia. Laurel Kenney, our FSA president, was one of several national presenters on "Bread not Stones." They explained how we are giving a voice to the over 9,000 children living in poverty here in London.

Upcoming:

Saturday, September 23rd: A trip to Leah Morise's home

in Fingal, with lunch out and live music at Leah's. Details to follow in our September FSA announcements.

October 11th, 12 noon: Come, bring a dish to share, and enjoy our annual elegant UCW potluck at Annabelle Logan's. Marilyn McBride will give a brief report on the July London Conference UCW summer meeting.

Saturday, November 18th, 10:00am–2:00pm: We hold the much anticipated Boutique Bazaar. Glenda Robinson, with twenty convenors and over one hundred volunteers, opens FSA's doors to the London community. Delights include the interactive Children's World, the French Café, home preserves, baking, turkey pot pies, sewing artistry (new this year—clothes for 18" and Barbie dolls), toys, jewellery, and other treasures. Don't miss the unique creations of the twenty-one local artists in Artisans' Alley (including World Tailors).

On November 21st this year, Laurel Kenney and Linda Woods will join other United Church and UCW delegates in making a presentation of 346 dolls to our national MPs in the House of Commons in Ottawa. We have 200 dolls at present, so please consider coming out to one of the upcoming workshops to help with this mission project.

Tuesday, December 5th, 11:30am: Come join us for our FSA UCW potluck. More details to follow. †

Editorial (Continued from the page 2)

As beloved children of God, each one of us is called to "Bloom Where You are Planted" —to encourage, empower and set the Spirit free. May it be so. †

London conference

Joyce Payne, President
ristloveserve@londonconference.ca

Mailing: PO Box 23039, London ON N6H 5E1 519-494-3737
Office: 185 Riverside Drive, London ON N6H 2S3 www.londonconference.ca

W. RUSSELL MONTEITH, Q.C.
LAWYER
WILLS & ESTATES
519 642 2500
monteithlaw@bellnet.ca
Suite 440, 200 Queens Avenue,
London, Ontario, N6A 1J3
www.monteithlawyers.ca

Dan's Jewellers Inc.

~ Custom Made Jewellery ~
Watch & Jewellery Repairs Done On Premises!

1673 Richmond St. N.
London, ON N6G 2N3 519 850-0218

The Greater London Area's Public Television Station

SAVE THE DATE

from the UCW

- Sat. Nov. 18th — Boutique Bazaar

From Communications & Marketing

- Sat. Sept. 16th — Doors Open

From MOE

- Sun. Sept. 11th — Corn Roast
- Sun. Sept. 24th — ELUCO Walk

From MUSIC

- Wed. Oct 25th — Fall Hymn Festival
- Wed. Nov. 15th — Canadian Brass
- Fri. Advent Noon Concerts — Dec. 1st, 8th, 15th
- Dec. 8th and Sat. Dec. 9th — *The Gift of the Magi*

from MEMBERSHIP & NURTURE

Sun. Sept. 24th — Workshop: Celebrating Our Transgender Friends.

MILESTONES

Births

Walter Dominic Fonesca, June 13th

Marriages

Eric Riedstra and Maggie Pellarin, August 12th

Deaths

Margret Ann Hill, June 26th

Thelma Pleiter, July 11th

Lu McLean, July 16th



TIDINGS TIDBITS

Gavin McGregor was sitting on a bench outside the church office waiting for Pat to emerge from a *Tidings* committee meeting, watching George Jolink busy doing a fine job of cleaning and dusting following a Sunday service. Suddenly the meeting was over and as Pat walked by George, she asked facetiously, “Do you do house cleaning?” With his head erect, and giving one of his best impersonations of the Reverend William Proudfoot, he replied, “Only the House of the Lord!” Gavin wonders what he is planning to do as Chair of Council.



(The following is a reply from the Rev. Kate Young, Tom McClarty’s daughter, that arrived along with the picture of her father that we have used in this issue.)

My sister snapped that picture at the cottage a few years ago. I thought you might like to know that my father’s parents were married at First Church. My dad was baptized at First Church in 1925. Also, he saved the life of Angus McQueen when he and mom were at a restaurant and heard a man choking on food. He was a wonderful father and is missed every day.

MENEAR WORRAD
& ASSOCIATES

Will & Estate Lawyers

Michael A. Menear LL.B. | Karen E. MacDonald LL.B.

478 WATERLOO ST, LONDON • 519.672.7370 • www.menearlaw.com

*Retirement
Living
your way*



AMICA
at London

Suzy Oliva
Community Relations Director
519-657-7096 • s.oliva@amica.ca



June 11th, Ken & Dexter



Spirit Games



Lemonade on the Lawn
beneath our 185th banner



Heather celebrates
Canada Day



July 11th, Jessica Justrabo
Bridges Out of Poverty



July 30th, Worship on the Lawn

CHURCH STAFF

Minister, Worship & Congregational Life
The Rev. Michelle Down (Ext. 1)

Minister Emeritus & Minister of Visitation
The Rev. Dr. David McKane

Designated Pastoral Care Volunteer
Jo Ann Silcox

Director of Music
Terry Head (Ext.3)

Church Administrator
Heather Vouvaldis (Ext. 5)

Youth and Young Family Coordinator
Jane Dockrill (Ext. 4)

Administrative Assistant/Receptionist
TBD (Ext. 0)

Facility & Maintenance Coordinator
Tim Miedema (Ext. 6)

Part-Time Custodian
George Jolink

Atrium Steward
Barry Tiffin

Nursery Care
Kendra Shouldice

Organist Emeritus
Paul Merritt

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

First-St. Andrew's United Church is an inclusive Christian family encouraging spiritual growth through worship, friendship, learning and action.