

Tidings



Vol. 23 - No. 1 2013
Lent/Easter



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Tidings

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David Flynn
(pdflynn@rogers.com)

Adam Kreek, a member of the Canadian Men's Eight who won gold in the 2008 Beijing Olympics, is now rowing, along with three others, from Senegal, Africa to Miami (www.oarnorthwest.com). Recently he published a blog on using a sea-anchor during stormy conditions, a device which keeps the boat safe by making it face the storm, albeit not moving ahead. He ends, metaphorically:

"So what is your sea anchor? What do you use to weather the storms of your life? Meditation, coffee with close friends, journaling, long walks in the forest, long rows on the river, time with family, time with your psychologist, time with your religion, time at your favorite vacation spot?"

In this issue of *Tidings*, Steve Elson's *View from the Pew* on silence, as well as Kate's use of silence at the end of her sermons, seem to be about the sea-anchor metaphor. One could view many of the other activities reported in this issue as a kind of 'sea-anchor' for our often too-busy lives: music, talking at the Brown Bag Lunch, travel, and, certainly, the solemnity and laughter of our worship services.

Perhaps Lent, with its time of reflection before the dramatic events of Easter week, is a good time to pause in our paddling into our sometimes stormy lives, and, at least temporarily, try to find an anchor to prepare us for our next efforts.

Gail Kreek, Adam's mother, responded to his blog by saying it reminded her of the old gospel hymn, *We have an anchor that keeps the soul....* May we all find our anchor this Lenten season.



CHURCH STAFF

Minister of Worship and Administration

The Rev. Dr. Kate Crawford

Part-time Supply Minister (until April 30th)

Visitation Minister (beginning May 1st)

The Rev. Tom Hiscock

Director of Music

Paul Merritt

Youth and Young Family Ministry Coordinator

Lee Adam Nelles

Church Administrator

Debra Low

Administrative Assistant/Receptionist

Maureen Scarborough

Custodians

TBA and Lisa Smith

with Ron Chatterson, Custodial Support

Nursery Supervisors

Amanda Ingrey and Sonya Grant



Mission Statement

We are an inclusive church family encouraging spiritual growth through worship, friendship, learning and action.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

- March 24th—Big Circle Breakfast.
- March 20th and April 26th—Movie Nights.

FROM MUSIC

- March 8th and 22nd—Remaining Noontime Lenten Concerts.
- April 21st—Cantata: *Saint Nicolas*.

FROM WORSHIP

- March 21st—Maundy Thursday Footwashing Service.
- March 22nd—Good Friday Service with Metropolitan and Dundas Street Centre Churches at Dundas Street Centre.

FROM MOE

- April 21st, 6:00pm (note change of time)—Amnesty Write-a-Thon with guest speaker, Amnesty International Field Worker, Kate Olmstead.
- April 21st—Environment Sunday.
- May 5th—Grow-A-Row Launch.
- May 5th and May 12th—Sale of Dorcas Widows' Jewellery.

NOTEWORTHY

Congratulations to **Dennis Pellarin** who received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal on February 6th.

Doug Jones has recently been appointed Vice-Dean Basic Medical Sciences at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry.

COUNCIL REPORT



George Jolink, Chair

Two years!! It has been two years now since I took over the role of Council Chair. Where does the time go? As I reflect, I feel blessed. I have had the honour of serving a Christian community that has enriched my life for over thirty years. I have also had the privilege of working alongside a dedicated group of volunteers who give their time and talents to FSA to ensure our future remains strong.

Over the past months in particular Council has been working around the theme of becoming a more welcoming church, and we have been looking at the question of what our future might look like in the heart of London. Our recent workshop on welcoming members of the LGBTQ community was well attended and yielded great discussion points. We have begun the process of reaching out to our neighbours both within the United Church of Canada and in other faith communities.

CHANGES

DEATHS

November 18th, 2012, Leslie Wagner

November 27th, 2012, Barbara Stokes

December 12th, 2012, Anna Holman

December 31st, 2012, Margaret Hodgson

February 2nd, 2013, Connie Murray

BAPTISM

December 23rd, 2012

Dylan John Matthews, son of Kevin and Stephanie Matthews

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear David

Thank you for reminding me that my subscription to *Tidings* has expired with the Fall issue. Enclosed please find a cheque for \$15.00 to cover the costs of renewal.

I miss my friends at FSA, especially the Sewing-Quilting Group and I hope you will pass on my warmest wishes to Pat. To you both I hope for a happy holiday season.

- Jackie Wickware

David

I really enjoy getting *Tidings*. Thank you. I'm attending Eden United Church in Mississauga, Ontario

- Dorothy Harrison

Council and its committees are seriously exploring the long-range future for FSA and how we might do things either differently or in partnership. We look forward to welcoming new staff members and the gifts they will bring as the search process unfolds.

As I write these words we are planning for the AGM, where we take a look at the year that was and plan for the year that will be. Exciting times are upon us filled with opportunities for growth and renewal. Spring is just around the corner, Lent is here and we wait for the promise of Easter. Your council is poised and ready. Take a moment to thank them when you get a chance; they deserve it.

Let me say in closing it has been my extreme pleasure to serve as your Chair these past two years. I continue to be impressed by the depth of volunteerism at FSA, at your generosity in the community, and the tireless efforts of our staff. I wish Jo Ann Silcox all the best as she moves into this position and continues the work of FSA on your behalf.

NOTES FROM KATE



Our Year of Welcoming Well is underway, and already there is an interesting buzz in the congregation. We have had a workshop, using the LGBT community as our test-case for welcoming well (actually, the LBGTTQQ2I community, as we learned!). And by the time this goes to press we will have welcomed the Rev. Paul Browning, president of London Conference, who will preach on the welcome he has found in the United Church.

Other initiatives will unfold as various groups within our congregation decide to put energy and resources into this project. The Worship Committee has begun considering how 'welcoming' our sanctuary space is, the Ministry and Personnel Committee has created a new staff position (atrium steward) to assist us in welcoming safely, and other groups are working on small initiatives, like the Trustees' recent commitment to linger in the sanctuary



following worship to welcome folks who don't go to Coffee and Conversation.

I am excited to share that Dr. Thomas Reynolds has agreed to come and speak to us on Welcome and Hospitality on Sunday, April 14th, at 3:00pm. Dr. Reynolds is associate professor of theology at Emmanuel College, Toronto. Tom has a teaching and research specialty in disability issues, hospitality and care, which is rooted in his experience as the father of a disabled child. Tom's warm humanity and insightful theology will be a blessing, so please plan to attend.

With so much good going on let me add a gentle word of caution: as we explore welcoming and what it means, remember that each of us can only change our own self. Some of our

volunteers have been inundated with your ideas as you share them, telling them how to be welcoming. This can be overwhelming! Focus on yourself and on learning a new skill, or attitude or point of view—and trust that others are doing the same.



VIEW FROM THE PEW



SILENCE

Steve Elson

"Silence is golden" is a familiar phrase, and especially apt if we are enjoying the contrast with having just had a very busy and noisy time. Think of parents who relax after having finally put their children to bed. In music the space between notes is something musicians will often talk about—it's the space that adds drama, and being able to use that silence effectively means being able to add subtlety to the music. Silence is also a valued part of reflection and meditation—often an elusive goal when one strives to not only be quiet in body but to quiet one's mind.

But silence can also have a very different meaning: when things that should be said are not; when silence is the result of not feeling safe to tell the truth or deal with an uncomfortable situation. In this context, silence can be fleeting or long-lasting and is far from golden. In fact, silence can deliver a strong message of anger, disappointment,



frustration—the list goes on. Silence is therefore not always silent. To break a silence that has arisen can be very difficult and challenging. It can take courage and a great deal of fortitude to step out of the silence and engage in honest, open dialogue.

In a third way, silence can mean being at peace with oneself; being comfortable with one's body, state of mind and situation. It's not an easy state to achieve or be in, but it's possible that silence, rather than being uncomfortable, can be a friend.

These three forms of silence, while distinct, are not disconnected from each other. Being able to appreciate and treasure silence after a hectic time brings a moment of reflection and calmness. Recognizing the silence of anger, injustice, or disappointment and being able to take steps to address it—breaking the silence—takes an inner strength and in its own way requires being calm and centred. Being at peace with oneself in silence is to be strong and resilient.

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



THE NEXT GENERATION



NORAH GALEA

Kelly Kabat

Meeting with Norah Galea for this issue of *Tidings* left me with a good understanding of what people meant when they used to say to me, "Oh you young people—I just can't keep up," because that is precisely the whirlwind feeling that the energy of Norah can stir up within. Norah is on the move. "My mother says your family either gives you roots or wings, and I've definitely got wings," she says.

Norah was born in Nova Scotia and has moved quite a bit. She is now in grade 11 and has been in London for three years. As a child, Norah had aspirations to be a teacher, but more recently these feelings have been slightly redirected. She still knows that she wants to work with people. "I love people," she states.

She also loves many other things including the arts, reading, music, writing, singing and travelling.

When the current environment with the teachers'



union eliminated extra-curricular activities (some of which Norah previously participated in), Norah was determined not to let her passion for art get snuffed, and launched a new art club at Lucas S.S. The best part of this experience for Norah was getting to know new friends in various grade levels and groups, and being able to create a new paradigm for how the club would conduct its activities. She seems to feel quite at home and has definitely created her own place among her friends and community.

"I got to know so many people," said Norah. I'm no longer the *new girl* or *the girl with the blue hair*," she says with vibrant, self-expressed enthusiasm.

But in spite of her natural tendency to settle in closely within her community, those wings of hers will not allow her to get too comfortable. In June she will catapult herself into a foreign land with an exchange programme taking her to Denmark. The programme includes intensive language study and then a year studying with typical students within the country.

Best to you, Norah! We look forward to your travels and your return.



HERE AND THERE



LOOK UP, WAY UP! CHIMNEY SWIFTS AT FSA

Winifred Wake

This spring and summer, whenever you step outside the door of FSA, take a moment to pause and listen. If you hear wild excited chattering high overhead, look up, way up. Several small, stubby-tailed, pointy-winged birds may be soaring and banking above the treetops and over the church. These are Chimney Swifts. Possibly London's commonest bird a century ago, in the past 50 years Canada's Chimney Swifts have declined by 96% and are now officially listed as threatened.

From the earliest days of settlement, swifts learned that chimney shafts made excellent substitutes for the hollow trees they originally inhabited. A tiny twig nest glued to the bricks by saliva is placed well down inside the chimney. Approximately five young are raised each year, fed on thousands of insects snatched from the air by ever-busy parents.



Alas for swifts, civilization's unremitting war on insects is having a detrimental effect on their food supply. Climate change and a shortage of suitable chimneys are also implicated in the swifts' plummeting numbers.

The good news is that two pairs of swifts return from the Amazon each spring to make their homes at FSA.

Watch for swifts foraging overhead or diving into the two big chimneys on FSA's Sunday School wing. In July, frequent entries and exits indicate food deliveries to growing youngsters.

While delighting in the presence of swifts at FSA, ponder the role you play in their dwindling numbers. Consumer demand helps drive climate change and degrade or destroy the natural habitat that produces the swifts' food supply. Consider ways in which you can lower your ecological footprint, and then implement them.

But, also do look up, way up. Enjoy and celebrate FSA's swifts, not only for their exuberance and remarkable way of life, but in the sobering knowledge they may not be here forever.



PROFILE



BERT AND MARION WILSON

David Flynn

Bert and Marion, members of FSA since 1963, were drawn to our church by the wonderful music and excellent preaching of Alex Farquhar.

Bert came from Northern Ireland in 1953, working two years before entering university, encouraged by the CEO of Sun Oil. At Western he met Marion, and, after graduation, both taught in Ottawa before returning to London. Bert taught chemistry at Lucas, and Marion was a piano teacher and adjudicator; she also taught at Pearson School for the Arts when it opened. Upon retirement in 1996 she taught adult piano students for several years.

In 1979, after a teacher exchange to Australia, Bert became interested in outdoor education and took many students on field trips to learn about science through nature. After retirement, Bert developed his skills in woodworking, building furniture for his children and grandchildren, and for their own home. He designed and built for FSA two beautiful cherry music stands and two oak flower boxes, used on special occasions.



In the early 1980s Marion played with the FSA orchestra for Haydn's 200th anniversary, and accompanied the choir under the direction of John Rutter. She has sung with the choir since 1964, and plays for the Supper Club, UCW and the Holly Bazaar.

Both Bert and Marion find music and nature, especially water and trees, feed them spirituality.

Bert has always loved to chat with folks at church, especially newcomers, but since his stroke in 2009, finds it more comfortable conversing with people he has known for a long time.

Both Bert and Marion enjoy the many activities at FSA, including Kum Join Us in the 1980s. As well, Bert was an elder. Nowadays, he is an enthusiastic "brown bagger." Marion loves the choir, the Knit Wits, the bridge group, and working with young children—the Junior Joyfuls and the Big Circle at Sunday School.

The Wilsons have been blessed with three wonderful children—Catherine, John and Jennifer—and appreciate their loving sons-in-law and daughter-in-law. They are proud grandparents of eight delightful grandchildren. Complimenting their own family is the continuing support and love from their church family at FSA. ☩

BEHIND THE SCENE



MEN'S BROWN BAG LUNCH

David McKane

The Men's Brown Bag Lunch is precisely that, lunch and conversation for men. While women do occasionally drop in, the group is for men only. It began early in my ministry when, at a staff meeting, someone commented about how few groups there were for men to talk about issues that concerned them. There are committees on which to serve and service clubs in which to participate and pick-up hockey or basketball groups to join, but nowhere was there a group where men could just be men. The presence of women shifts the dynamic and perhaps elevates the tone of the conversation. Thus began the Men's Brown Bag Lunch.

We meet on Wednesdays from noon until one. We bring our own lunch and someone puts on the coffee and makes the tea. There is no "agenda" as such and everything but politics is on the table. Politics does creep in from time to time, but mostly the conversation is about

personal matters and spiritual concerns. Conversations range from music to metaphor, from growing old to questions or lessons from life, from health issues to deep emotional concerns, from childhood faith to end-of life questions. The late Jack Fowler used to ponder deep issues each morning as he shaved and bring them to the group to share, but on any given Wednesday there is always someone who has a question to ask or an insight to share and off we go, exploring, commenting, questioning, pondering and truth-telling.

We are not a large group but we are an enquiring group, exploring what it means to be a man in today's world, in today's church. Many churches have groups for men, but most are formed around a specific agenda or purpose. Rare are those that simply exist to "share and care," to be open to one another and the Spirit. Over the years we have often discovered that where two or three are gathered together there is a sense of Presence or energy among us that is very real but totally intangible, felt but never defined. It's only an hour each week but a special time, and what a special group. ☩



OUR METHODIST HERITAGE

Herb Wonfor

In the middle of the eighteenth century many people considered life in the Church of England at a low ebb. Ernest men were disturbed, and from 1729 to 1735 there existed at Oxford University a small society of faculty and undergraduates dedicated to the deepening of their religious lives and the improvement of the National Church. This group, called by the more loose-living members of the university the "Holy Club" and the "Methodists," for the methodical way which they planned and exercised their devotions and duties, included among its members three remarkable men—John Wesley, his brother Charles and George Whitefield. John and Charles both won distinction as scholars and became great preachers. John founded a church denomination and Charles became one of the great hymn-writers of the Christian church.

Whitefield was a gifted preacher, preaching whenever opportunity arose. He made several visits to the American colonies, and a preaching mission in New England in 1740 resulted in a spiritual revolution known as the "Great Awakening." John and Charles also preached frequently, but mostly around Bristol and London.

For six years John visited all Methodist societies, but in 1744, when personal supervision became impossible, he summoned preachers from their "circuits" to meet him in London. It was the first "conference," and became an annual and permanent feature of Methodism.

Wesley's work required a literature for the education of his preachers and growing public. As a consequence he opened the age of tracts and cheap books. This led in latter years to the establishment of the *Methodist Magazine* and Methodist book rooms. The Rev. Benjamin Gregory, an ancestor of my father, became president of the London Conference in 1879. It's not surprising, then, that John Wonfor found employment in the London Methodist Book Room and, when he immigrated to Canada, in the Montreal Book Room. When the church gave up this retail outlet he became its owner.

In 1925, when the long-awaited Church Union was established in Canada, Methodism brought to the new United Church its evangelical zeal, its rich ministry of sacred song and the conference structure of church government.

(Herb is well-qualified to write this article for us, because as he was born before Union, he was baptised into the Methodist church. Ed.)

VIGNETTES



THE STORY OF A "HOME CHILD"

Paul Wenn

It is estimated that over 11% of all Canadians have a Home Child in their background. I am one of those. My father, Harold Mays Wenn, was a Barnardo boy sent to Canada in 1921 at age eleven. He came to a farm in Oxford County, near Otterville. Many of these children were mistreated, although others fared better. My father was somewhere in the middle. After his death in 1973, my elder son, Jeff, decided to investigate his background. Dad rarely talked about England, but Jeff insisted on knowing. So he commenced work on his story. We interviewed neighbours, friends, etc., and went to St. Catherine's House in London to search the English records. Much research was done here at the Mormon Church on Riverside Drive. The most important result was finding his birth family ... a sister, a half-brother, his wife and four children.

An elderly neighbour recalled the first day this scrawny boy appeared. The farmer hitched a team of

horses to a set of harrows and gave the reins to Dad. Then he walked behind with a horse whip. We hoped the whip was for the horses, not Dad. He was allowed to go to school only to grade 8, working at the farm after that.

With neighbours he attended Otterville United Church where he eventually met and married Laura Mannell, my mother. An attempt at farming failed, since the cows all escaped through the bad fences. After several jobs, in 1937 he and a friend started a lumber business in nearby Norwich. This prospered, building tobacco kilns, greenhouses, pack barns and homes. Byers and Wenn was sold the day of the moon landing. Unfortunately Dad did not have a long retirement, suffering a massive heart attack in December, 1973.

He would be really proud of his family: two sons and a daughter, five grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. He might have been especially pleased that one grandchild and two great-grandchildren were adopted, the latter, like himself, coming from another country. But he would be no more proud of us than we of him.



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Mary McKim

Our goal was realized flying to Deer Lake in late August. After a night in Cornerbrook, our bus drove to Gros Morne National Park. Dramatically beautiful scenery included Lobster Cove lighthouse and arches carved by the ocean. We visited L'Anse Aux Meadows, a fascinating recreation of an early Viking settlement, the first in North America. From there to the Grenfell Centre, commemorating the life of Sir Wilfred, who brought medical care to isolated fishing villages.

Arriving in Labrador, we drove to Red Bay whaling station and Point Armour lighthouse. Returning to Gros Morne next morning we enjoyed a cruise around an ancient fjord, and were entertained at dinner with *The Sinking of the SS Ethie*. A Grand Falls stay included a visit to the Salmonid Centre where migrating salmon are afforded a bypass to avoid the falls. A wonderful museum informs visitors about the aboriginal Beothuk people, extinct for over a century.



In Twillingate we toured the Old Rectory Museum. Surprisingly, Anglican and United churches abound. In Trinity Bay stands St. Paul's, a huge wooden structure built in 1892, with records dating back to 1753.

Highways are excellent, the scenery reminiscent of Muskoka, with spectacular views of ocean bays. The weather was perfect, astonishing local folk unaccustomed to so many warm sunny days.

Lobster lovers enjoyed a "boil up" in Clarenville. We visited Heart's Content, and a small port where Amelia Earhart is said to have taken off on her solo flight across the Atlantic. St. John's was a delight, and we visited Signal Hill and the Quidi Vidi Brewery.

The final day's boat trip brought us to delightful

puffins, although too late for whales. We stopped at Cape Spear, North America's most easterly point.



According to tradition, everyone "kissed the cod" at a farewell dinner. Everywhere we found the folk kind and welcoming. For example, in Grand Falls I went to the hospital as I had been running a fever. Returning to our motel in a taxi the driver refused to accept payment, and the woman who brought us our dinner on trays said, "That's my brother. He owns the cab company!" ☺

THE BUILDING

THE ATRIUM

Jim Hutchinson

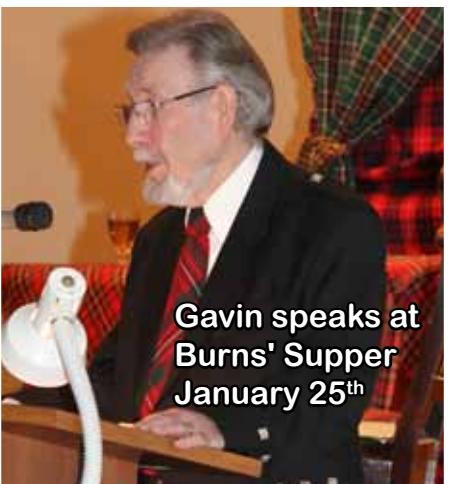


Writing about physical changes to our buildings over the years has been a pleasure to research and put together. Like all things, it must end and this is the last.

Our atrium addition is the most recent change and perhaps one of the most visible. Over many years, access to various parts of the church sanctuary and offices was discussed, debated and tabled, because total access is impossible. Russ Scorgie took on the task of making most of the building available to everyone: the elevator stops at four main levels; the glass ceiling allows natural light to reach the sanctuary windows; the entrance door did not eliminate any of the existing windows, and the lower level washrooms were modern and convenient for crowds in Proudfoot Hall. The atrium has also become a favourite entrance and gathering place for the congregation; little surprise that it won an Urban Design award for the architect.

[The Tidings Team would like to thank Jim for the time and care he has taken to write this series of articles on the history of our building. Ed.]

PASTORAL REVIEWS





WELCOMING WELL WORKSHOP FOR ALL SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS

Anne Cummings

As part of our Welcoming Well year at FSA, a workshop on welcoming all sexual orientations and gender identities to FSA was held on January 19th. Our facilitator was Leslie Ramsay-Taylor, a community worker in Toronto with experience in this field. For the 42 members in attendance, the workshop began with a group building discussion of what we wanted from the workshop and how we would make our time together safe for open discussion. Leslie provided definitions of the various sexual orientations and gender identities that are on the continuum of human sexuality. This was followed by some video clips of varying sexual orientations and how they are respected in other cultures.

We then responded to actions taken in four scenarios involving LGBT people by deciding whether the action created a negative space or a positive space for the person in the scenario. This activity stimulated interesting discussion and reflection. In small groups, we identified

things that FSA is already doing to make it clear that we are welcoming and embracing of LGBT people in our congregation and outside of our congregation. We rated our items on a scale of 1-10 on how well we are doing them. Out of this discussion there also emerged some suggestions of things that we could be doing to communicate our welcome outside of FSA. Most workshop participants reported finding the workshop helpful for new information and for reflection about our practices. A more detailed summary of the content of the workshop is on the FSA website under Church Life, FSA Times, and then click on Worship Committee.

Based on this workshop, the Ad Hoc LBGT Committee composed of Anne Cummings, Dennis Pellarin, Kerry Stover and Amanda Williams, will be recommending to Council for approval five possible actions for moving forward on better welcoming LGBT people to FSA. They will then help implement what is approved

and communicate initiatives to the congregation. It is hoped that this first workshop will be a template for future educational efforts to welcome well other marginalized groups.

gla



Leslie Ramsay-Taylor and Organizing Committee

GETTING TO KNOW



THEY FELT WELCOME IN OUR HOUSE: SHERICE AND MADISON PERRY

Shelly Pinkard

Sherice Perry has been working at the General Dynamics plant on assignment, and, together with her daughter Madison, has been attending First-St. Andrew's for the past six months. What is sad about this interview is that this family will be departing our congregation very soon after such a short stay. The Perry family attended another church (not part of the United Church of Canada family,) that she felt she had to leave after several members stood during a Canada Day celebration and stated how much they hated the United States. Being Americans, coming from Upper Marlboro, Maryland, this was obviously offensive to them. There are two things that this family says they have enjoyed about FSA. First is the fact that there is a Bible-based programme for the children. Sherice explained that Madison has



really enjoyed being in Sunday School. She not only enjoys attending, but she is engaged and looks forward to it each week. Sherice likes the manner in which Rev. Kate delivers her sermons. She says that she causes you to look at scripture that you have read for years in a different light. She also appreciates the fact that the people are friendly and welcoming. She concedes that if she had attended FSA first, she would have been more active. She states that FSA has met the spiritual needs of her family, and when asked what FSA could do to present itself as a more friendly church, she answered—nothing.

Sherice will leave London in March, headed to Rock Island, Illinois. She says that she hopes to find another spirit-filled welcoming church family to join.

Though it was adverse circumstances that brought Sherice and Madison into our midst, we are glad that we have been able to fulfill their spiritual needs.

[Unfortunately, a picture of Madison is not available as she has already left to start in her new school. Ed.]



THE HELPING HEARTS OF UCW

Shelly Pinkard

I have said many times that there are no harder workers in the church for the church. We are aware that these ladies KNOW how to plan a function, work a function and gently draw you into working the function and raising funds. What you may not know is that they have to raise so many funds because they have such big, giving hearts.

At their business meeting, it was determined they will donate \$2,000 towards getting our youth group to Nicaragua. This shows how generous and astute these women are. Though they want to help the teens, they also realize that this is a great opportunity for them to learn a lesson in giving back. They know how important this is; it is that very premise that aids in the success of this organization. They probably know first-hand that the best way for a person to appreciate how blessed they are is to see how less fortunate a multitude of others are.

You might say, okay, that is enough of the giving,

after all times are tight everywhere. Thank goodness these ladies do not have that mentality. You see, this group has budgeted to give yearly to Rothholme House, an organization at risk due to loss of funding and a reduction in donations. Our ladies increased their donation to \$1,500 this year, and there has been discussion of perhaps revisiting the opportunity to give more. Rothholme provides shelter for the many families desperately in need of a warm, safe place to lay their heads. This very worthwhile organization needs the boost.

Are you wondering how you can help this charitable group? There are several ways: becoming a dues paying member is only one. However, there is an upcoming event that you can support with your donation

and your dollars. The annual UCW Rummage Sale is being held on Saturday, April 27th. Come out and purchase the many treasures that will be available. Spread the word about the fantastic deals that can be found. Donate those gently worn or used items you no longer need.

PS

"Are you wondering how you can help this charitable group?"

COMMITTEE REPORTS

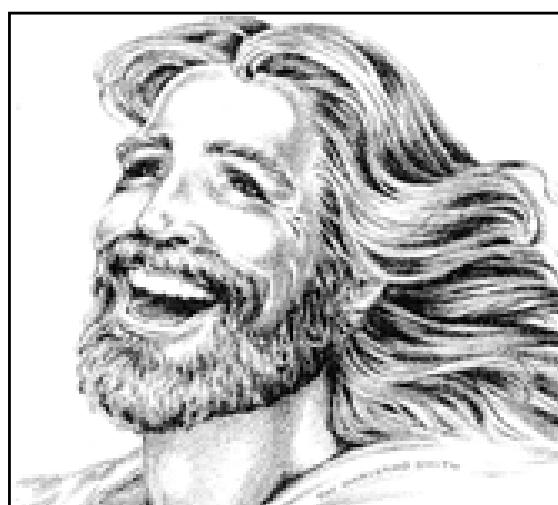


WORSHIP

Jo Ann Silcox

Laughter, it is said, breathed the world into being in the Priestly account in Genesis 1—and not only was it good!!—but God has been laughing with Creation ever since.

It doesn't take very many minutes with a Concordance to discover how many references Scripture contains to joy, laughter and new birth. Sara laughed so hard at her positive pregnancy test that Abram feared God would no longer be amused. Zechariah was struck dumb for a similar failure to appreciate the great joy of unexpected new birth on the part of his aged wife Elizabeth. When the Holy Spirit fell afresh on the believers in Jerusalem, bystanders mistook their new creative joy for drunkenness.



First-St. Andrew's has increasingly been discovering the healing, inspirational and creative power of holy laughter. The Bible studies, the Christian Development Committee, Care-for-the-Caregivers, the Children's Circle on Sunday mornings, and the Worship Committee are but a few places in which we are learning to trust that, in letting God's story unfold in one another and ourselves, there is to be found a holy place where God is present, spirits are renewed and community is formed.

In this new church year let us make it a priority to laugh and love and learn together as a community of persons, promised that where two or three are gathered together in the Name of the Holy One, that One will

PS

ALWAYS be present.



FINANCE

Harold Jackson

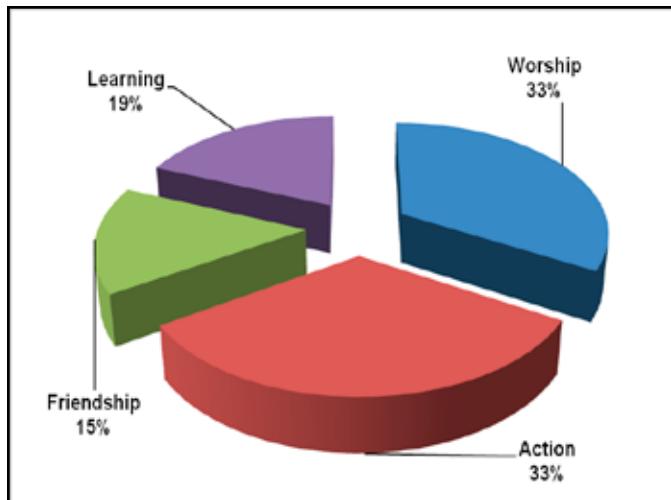
Welcoming Well

*Welcoming well is to be "At the Heart."
To feel the experience is to take part.
A happy smile surely brightens the day,
For those who have passed by our way.
A kind and gentle word to show our
care,
Does add beauty to this life we all
share.
Where God's grace, abundantly given,
Lets spiritual growth and faith enliven.*

In 2012 First-St. Andrew's recognized 180 years of promises made and kept. Over time, our church community has weathered and been challenged by many socio-economic changes and theological shifts. Nevertheless, theological stimulation and a wide variety of outreach programmes remain ***At the Heart*** of this vibrant congregation, with an ever-present challenge to keep growing in many different ways. During 2013 the theme of "Welcoming Well" will guide our congregation as it continues to seek its mission of being ***an inclusive Christian Family encouraging spiritual growth through worship, friendship, learning and action.***

With the financial support received from local church revenue sources and appropriate trust fund revenue transfers, the plan to be operationally deficit free in 2012

has been realized. The resulting modest surplus will be used to maintain a healthy operating fund balance to meet the variability of income and expense on a monthly basis in 2013. In 2013, completion of staffing additions approved in 2012, and described in the 2011 JNAC Report, is forecast to deliver efficient and effective growth plans. The budget forecast for 2013 has been prepared to clearly identify the sources of revenue necessary to fund these plans, while achieving a balanced budget.



The graph above illustrates stewardship funding support to these many programmes and ministries of First-St. Andrew's.



STEWARSHIP

Judith Walker

February is an important milestone in the annual life of FSA; it is the month of the Annual General Meeting; a time of review, reflection—and the writing of reports. By the time *Tidings* is in print the meeting will be a shared memory, and your Council for 2013 will be in place, facing the issues of the day.

For me, it will be the conclusion of a number of years working in and around the concept of stewardship, with a goal to improve the financial resources available to support the operations and capital needs of FSA. It has been an enormous pleasure. I have learned so much about the church, our mandate and about myself. I have worked with an exceptional committee of volunteers, including Harold Jackson, George Jolink, David Manness, Debbie Schram and Katherine Wonfor. We have enjoyed the administrative and spiritual support of Dr. Kate Crawford. I would be remiss if I did not

acknowledge Debra Low and Maureen Scarborough in terms of assistance in our various congregational messages throughout the year. They have all, indeed, been faithful stewards.

The next months will be particularly exciting for those who sit on FSA Council, where they will continue to explore the results of our spring and autumn sessions on the future of FSA under the title of Welcoming Well. I recently came across an issue of *Mandate* (May 2012). There was a highlighted article titled *Outside the Box, Reimagining what it means to be a United Church*. Here, professional and lay leaders discussed radical hospitality, spirituality and social justice as part of their journey as a 21st century United Church. It reminded me a great deal of the discussions your Council engaged in last April and again in October. Clearly we are not alone as we continue to think inside and outside of the box and strive to do God's work as an inclusive Christian Family encouraging spiritual growth through worship, friendship, learning and action.



MISSION, OUTREACH AND ENVIRONMENT

Barb Dalrymple

We owe a great deal of gratitude to our retiring Chair, Janice Elliott, who has very competently taken our committee to new heights and embedded in us the social justice needs of our community and beyond. She has also fulfilled our dream by planning a mission to Nicaragua for some of our youth and other FSA members in July. **WELL DONE JANICE.** We welcome our new Chair, Linda Badke, who has worked tirelessly towards the goals of our committee for many years. Our enthusiasm, dedication and hard work will continue under her capable leadership. We have been blessed with Pat Pettit and Don Reid joining our committee.

Plans for the Nicaraguan mission and adventure are well under way. On Mission Sunday we enjoyed hearing Gonzalo Duarte, who will accompany our volunteers. The chili lunch raised \$560 towards the trip. In addition, a Vision Fund Grant of \$3,000, has been received from the United Church of Canada.

We had our best Grow-a-Row campaign in 18 years by raising \$10,940 for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Thank you John and Tom McLarty for growing our crop. 2.1 million people in 36 countries will benefit from the work of 200 churches in Canada, including our partner, St. Marys United Church, which raised almost \$7,000.

After many decades we will no longer provide group subscriptions for the United Church *Observer*. Members will renew their own subscriptions. Thank you to all

the *Observer* representatives who, for many years, encouraged us to subscribe. Please continue to enjoy this excellent publication.

PS

The MOE Golf Committee: White Squirrel Golf Tournament

The 2013 White Squirrel Golf Tournament, nature walk, putting contest and dinner will be at the Ironwood Golf Club, Exeter. Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 8th.

This is the MOE Committee's biggest fundraiser of the year. The money raised will be used to support: FSA Hospitality Meals, St. Paul's Daily Bread, East London United Church Outreach (ELUCO), Los Quinchos school for children working as street vendors in Managua, Nicaragua, and the building of houses for vulnerable residents also in Managua.

The cost is \$35.00 for dinner (\$15.00 for children); \$99.00 for 18 holes of golf (including a cart) and dinner, or \$75.00 for 9 holes of golf (including a cart) and dinner.

We're looking for hole sponsors, (\$150 to have a sign with your company name on one of the holes), as well as silent and live auction items. If you can contribute or have an idea of someone who can, please let us know.

Our goals this year are to have 24 hole-sponsors, 100 people for dinner and to raise \$8,000. We need your support!

Co-chairs: Margo Christodoulou and Diane Knoppert
Committee Members: Marilyn Beach, Janice Elliott, Liz Galbraith, Kay Hillier, David Knoppert, Bill and Jean Knowles, David Manness, Paul Mansell.

PS



MUSIC

Paul Cooper

2013 began with our eleventh annual **A Taste of Burns** on January 25th—an evening of good food, good company and good Celtic entertainment. David McKane, once again, outdid himself in his performance of the “Immortal Memory.” A very special thank you to Enid Merritt and her committee for all the work that goes into organizing this well-attended event.

Wednesday, January 30th we were fortunate to host, once again, The St. Lawrence String Quartet for a wonderful evening of music that brought people from across the city and beyond to hear this highly accomplished group. We value their ongoing friendship and look forward to their next visit to FSA.

Friday Lenten Noon Recitals (12:00-12:30):

March 8th: our **FSA Young Performers** and March 22nd: **Paul Merritt**, organ with **Fiona Robson**, cello.

On Sunday, April 21st at 2:30pm, there will be a presentation of *Saint Nicolas*—a cantata by Benjamin Britten (to mark the 100th anniversary of Britten’s birth). Paul Merritt will direct the senior choir, who will be accompanied by a string orchestra, and the concert will feature The Amabile Youth Singers, under the direction of Brenda Zadorsky. We are excited to welcome back Darryl Edwards as the tenor soloist for the concert. Tickets are \$15.00. This very economical price is possible because the **Friends of Music Fund** offsets the cost of these performances so that ticket price is not a barrier to anyone wishing to attend these concerts.

Please plan on attending these musical events and be sure to invite family and friends to share in them with you.

PS



The Eberhard Vocal Scholarship

Helen Guthrie

The Rudy Eberhard Vocal Scholarship was initiated in the spring of 1988, to recognize the interest and support shown by Rudy Eberhard to the music ministry of FSA. Memorial contributions and generous gifts from the Eberhard family

allowed the start of this fund to help perpetuate a quality music programme. In 2004 the Barbara Eberhard Fund was combined with the Rudy Eberhard Fund to create the Eberhard Vocal Scholarship Fund. Using the income from the fund, scholarship support is provided for a vocal scholar to gain experience in church music. **Jordan Baldwin**, tenor, currently holds that position.

Jordan started violin lessons at age three and has played many times at FSA. He went to Laurier Secondary School to participate in Margaret Bereznick's music programme. He was in *The Boy Friend* and *Les Misérables* at Laurier and four high school productions at the Grand Theatre: *Les Misérables*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *Listen to the Wind* and *Grease*.

Jordan started university studying history and social science, taking voice lessons as an elective. It was the great relationship he had with his teacher, Christiane

Riel, that convinced him to become a vocal performance major at the Don Wright Faculty of Music. He enjoys running because it clears his head and keeps him fit, and hopes to achieve a master's degree in vocal performance.

In the fall of 2012 a new choral scholarship programme was initiated, supported by the music budget, and our two choral scholars are **Janine Herrman-McLeod** and **Meaghan Sider**.

Janine, soprano, from Brampton, is a student in vocal performance at Western. She has taken voice lessons since age thirteen, has a background in dance, sang in five choirs and in *The Marriage of Figaro* during high school. Her goals are to perform and teach a studio of university-level voice students. She enjoys reading, baking and is interested in politics and human rights.



L. to R. Janine, Jordan and Meaghan

Meaghan, soprano, London born, went to Mother Teresa Secondary School for its drama programme. There, she played in *Anne of Green Gables*, *The Twenty-Fifth Annual Putnam Spelling Bee* and, at the Grand, in *Nunsense*. She is a student in vocal performance with a minor in dance and hopes to perform on Broadway. She likes to exercise, live healthily, smile and be happy.



CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

Allyson Watson

CD continues to be busy providing opportunities for all of our FSA community. All of our programmes are emphasizing the welcome theme that we are working on together.

The church school will be hosting the annual Big Circle Breakfast on March 24th. Please come and join us for lots of yummy food and fellowship. The God Squad is spending the next few months exploring and learning about other faiths. The Movie Nights are once a month, so look for the next great one! We will be hosting a Vacation Bible Camp the week of August 12th-16th, so please mark your calendars to help or participate.

If you have any ideas for future programming please let Allyson Watson know.

PS

ODE TO FSA

(On my arrival in 2001)

I had never been this way before as far as I could tell.

And yet in some strange way I felt I knew this place so well.

All I envisaged, far and near seemed familiar—and so dear.

Is it from childhood I recall this path?

Perhaps on some far distant day

My forebears walked this very way,

Dim shadows of a byegone age.

Have they passed down to me

The love they felt for this quiet place of deep tranquillity?

For this I know, in my heart's core, some part of me I can't ignore

Has surely been this way before.

- *Anonymous*

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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:

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- Friday Lenten Noon Recitals—March, 1st, 8th and 22nd
- St. Nicolas—A cantata by Benjamin Britten—April 21st

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