

Tidings

FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH



VOLUME 16 ● NUMBER 3

FALL 2006

IT ALL STARTED 175 YEARS AGO...

By Ted Kosteki

It is a time to welcome everyone back to church, not only for a new fall season but for the anticipation of an exciting and wonderful year of celebration. If you've been away for awhile, we'd like to welcome you back to a celebration of our 175th anniversary.

Like many things, the start of FSA was a bit timid and rocky. Preacher William Proudfoot had led a group of Scottish missionaries to Upper Canada. On November 11, 1832, he visited London and held, according to accounts, "a well-attended religious service for the Scottish folk of the London area."

Then he left town, saying London village didn't hold any attraction for him—but he returned, envisioned the possibilities, and was told an annual stipend of 79 pounds was in place. His dynamic personality and powerful speaking style, a grant of land, and financing from members—although money was scarce—allowed him, eventually, to build a church on our present site. It was replaced in 1869 with our current sanctuary.

Now, under the property was an underground stream. I mention it because it's related to the symbols which accompany this story. Consider that underground stream. The first Psalm talks about believers: "They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper."

The underground stream. The tree in our symbol...

That tree represents the courage of William Proudfoot in the new land. The tree represents our own strength and goodness, and our growth through the strong support of our members during the past 175 years. A tree is also the symbol of our Proudfoot Legacy campaign for the future, described inside this Tidings.



The other symbol within the tree is our 175th anniversary logo, **At the Heart since 1832**. This describes us perfectly. Situated at the Heart of the City of London, we are also the Heart of the Community, and all of our members and all of our programs are at the Heart of First-St. Andrew's.

Yes, 175 years is a long time. But it goes by quickly when you're having fun, and this year we intend to have a lot of fun at First St. Andrew's. But we'll also be your home for a great faith tradition, your anchor during tough periods, a place where God calls us and

shapes us, where God has placed us to serve others.

And like the tree that represents the growth and strength of the church, we, too, will grow in strength at First-St. Andrew's.

INSIDE

Our Web-Site Plans

By Ted Kostecki

Ever wonder when, and at what time, that meeting of yours is? Or what events are taking place at the church? Or what church committees are doing? Maybe you even wish you could hear David or Susan's sermon one more time in the comfort of your home? Well, this fall, we're hoping some of that can happen.

Jim Silcox has offered to be our new Webmaster. Our current and long-time Webmaster, Paul Pergeau, will provide assistance and backup.

Jim plans to change the look of the Website and give it a more contemporary "look-feel". Jim's plan is "to make it more intuitive and easier to navigate." Some of his ideas include a "Question Box" to let people type in questions about church policies and activities. The Website will also include meeting minutes, contact numbers, Annual Reports, monthly calendars, past sermons, and, hopefully in the future, complete worship services.

Stay tuned for news on when the revised Website is up and running. In the meantime, our current Website is still functioning: www.fsaunited.london.on.ca

COUNCIL REPORT

by Susan Fullerton, Chair



Dear FSA family and friends,

I am writing this at the end of August while on vacation in Nova Scotia. I usually try to visit my mother and grandfather (still going strong at 88!) as summer's end approaches. Although it's been many years since I was in school, somehow September still brings with it a sense of renewal. For me, it's important to spend time with my family and get refreshed before the fall season begins anew. I hope

that however you spent your summer, it was joyous, and that you too are feeling invigorated as Fall approaches.

This summer was busy for Council as we focused on two major projects—church security and the lower hall renovations. The security project will be ongoing as we try to implement changes that balance our vision of the Church as an open, welcoming congregation with the need to ensure that the Church is as secure as possible.

As you will no doubt be aware, the lower hall renovations have begun! Council is very grateful, on behalf of our congregation, to all those involved—particularly the project sub-committee that spent many, many months preparing plans and consulting members in order to ensure that the renovations meet our needs. We look forward to the unveiling when completed.

Finally I want to say that the 175th Anniversary plans are well in hand. The creativity of spirit in this community is amazing. I hope you will join me later this Fall as we begin the celebration of FSA At The Heart.

CURRENT ISSUE

In this Fall issue, we highlight the programs and events of the past three months. For an even more vivid view of Tidings, go to our Website and click on the Tidings icon to see this issue in stunning full colour. Our Webmaster, Paul Pergau, expects to have this current issue on the website within a week. Here is the address for the FSA Website:

www.fsaunited.london.on.ca

Tidings

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Info-Line

GUESTS FROM MOZAMBIQUE

Mark Sunday, September 17 on your calendar. We are fortunate to be hosting Bill and Karen Butt, United Church personnel, who will be home in Woodstock on leave from their work in Mozambique. Our windup for Grow-A-Row with our annual delicious ham, beans and corn on the cob lunch will follow the service. You can read the Butts' letters from Mozambique in the London Conference "Yellow" section of the United Church Observer each month.

GALA KICKOFF LUNCHEON

On Sunday Oct 29th, we celebrate the beginning of our 175th anniversary with a Gala Luncheon at the Best Western Lamplighter Inn. Keep an eye on the announcement bulletin for details.

OUR 175TH ANNIVERSARY

By Donna Ellis

As summer ends, our celebration has already begun! We have a theme and we have a logo. Throughout the year, there will be events that look back over 175 years, events to celebrate the Church of today, and events for us to reflect on the Church of the future.



Thanks to your suggestions, there is something for all age groups and interests. Numerous events are planned—some new, some regular ones which take on a special significance during this year of celebration. An anniversary calendar to keep everyone informed will be available for purchase late in October.

Here's a sneak preview. Bishop John Spong speaks October 2. Music Awareness Sunday and the official launch of the Anniversary year—which includes a Gala Luncheon at the Best Western Lamplighter Inn following the 10:30 service—is October 29th.

The month of November celebrates Reverend Proudfoot's first visit to London in 1832. It is also the Holly Bazaar, and our annual Anniversary Service. The Anniversary speaker is Greta Vosper from West Hill United Church in Toronto, currently Chair of the Canadian Centre for Progressive Christianity, which provides support for people whose beliefs fall outside the traditional Christian box. Rev. Vosper, along with Bishop Spong, is sure to challenge our thinking.

And that's just the beginning! In addition to events throughout the year, there are also special projects. The Property Committee will celebrate the completion of the Lower Hall renovation. SMO has the LIFT project underway. The Music Committee is producing brochures for the music program. The Archives Committee is preparing an updated history. A DVD will celebrate our stained glass windows. Anniversary banners will hang in the Sanctuary—and also outside to create awareness in the community.

Our anniversary year is a time to honour our past, to celebrate our present and prepare us for the future. It will, indeed, be an opportunity to demonstrate that FSA has been, is, and will continue to be "At the Heart Since 1832".

OH, IT'S OUR 175TH BIRTHDAY

How do we celebrate?

By Ted Kostecki



The problem was simple...or maybe not: take a church that has been around for 175 years and celebrate its anniversary.

Even its name is complicated:

SEPTAQUINTAQUINQUECENTENNIAL.

The work began with a congregational meeting in the Lower Hall back in January. About five dozen people sat, brainstormed, thought up projects, rejected projects, considered guidelines for projects, pondered financial restraints and came up with an outline of a plan: celebrate the church and the community, and celebrate yesterday, today and tomorrow.

An anniversary committee was formed and Donna Ellis was named Chair. And the ideas started popping up: A book that would chronicle the life of the church, especially the last 80; a gala celebration to kick off the start of the anniversary with some wonderful speakers and some amazing music. And more. Some are listed in Donna Ellis' article on this page.

In the beginning, the committee set out to write a slogan and design a logo. The slogan came after a couple of brainstorming sessions: *At the Heart since 1832* with all the connotations of Worship at the Heart, Music at the Heart, UCW at the Heart, FSA at the Heart of the City, all our programs at the Heart of FSA, and more.

Lionel Morise, a graphic artist in our congregation, who has quietly and efficiently drawn many of the images we use at FSA, came through again. Taking the committee's recommendations and guidelines, Lionel came up with a page full of versions of a Logo. The Committee chose the one pictured here. We hope all groups and committees in the Church will use it during our anniversary year.



SHARING THE BEAUTY OF THE WINDOWS

By Ted Kostecki

Our stained glass windows are one of the most treasured features of the Sanctuary at FSA. Don Jones has taken on a 175th anniversary project that will detail the wonder of the windows for our members as well as for a wider audience.

Don is producing a DVD which, he says, "will show close-up pictures of the windows that are not visible from the pews and will focus on the many Bible stories that each window depicts". Don has been videotaping the windows, along with commentary on their meaning through interviews with David McKane, Susan Shelstad and Frank Meadows. Helen Mahabir will introduce the video and the musical background will be familiar music by our choir.

Don plans to edit the production during the next few months, with release of the DVD in the spring of 2007.



Don Jones, "Recording Engineer," and Susan Shelstad

THE PROUDFOOT LEGACY

By Ted Kostecki

When William Proudfoot set foot in London in 1832 and founded the first Presbyterian Church, he certainly couldn't have foreseen the legacy which his ministry would bring. First-St. Andrew's is the proud inheritor of this legacy, and 175 years later, we celebrate a strong church that is built on the faith and generosity of former generations.

Earlier this year, David McKane and Ted Kostecki were given Council's blessing to begin a long-term giving campaign that would ensure the future strength of FSA. The campaign is called "*The Proudfoot Legacy*" and it seeks to build on our past and continue our unique ministry for future generations. Surveys of church members elsewhere report that 1 of every 3 people in a congregation "would consider the possibility" of including the Church in their will, but most said they weren't asked. They also indicated they would not mind being asked as long as they felt free to say "yes" or "no" without guilt or pressure.

The Proudfoot Legacy program will begin with a letter inviting members to remember the Church in their will. The letter will note that the funds, wisely invested by our Board of Trustees, will provide a source of income for the Church, and insure the ministry of FSA is available for others long after those who have made generous donations have died. Although the letter will point out that it is wise to consult a lawyer or financial planner, we will also invite anyone with questions to talk confidentially to David or Ted for more information. In the mailing, we are also asking people who have made a commitment in their will to FSA already, to let us know.

We are offering two incentives: first, donors will be letting future generations know they have a certain measure of security about the Church and its ministry. Secondly, we are planning a special Proudfoot Legacy Ministry Circle on which we will display "leaves" marked with the names of people—unless they prefer anonymity—who have indicated they included FSA in their will. These "leaves" themselves are a piece of history—made from copper pieces salvaged from the steeple when it was re-clad several years ago.

Later, upon the receipt of the bequest, these "leaves" will be transferred to a "Memorial Tree" which is being constructed on the north wall of the atrium by London artist Mike Caldwell.

There are a number of ways to leave a legacy: bequests, gift annuities, gifts of life insurance, gifts of securities, charitable remainder trusts and major cash gifts and interest-free loans. With each prayerful gift, a member gives thanks for the past and offers hope for the future.

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

William Proudfoot, who started it all, invites everyone to a **GALA LUNCHEON** to begin our 175th anniversary celebrations. It will be held **Sunday October 29th, 2006, 1 p.m.** in the elegant ballroom of the Best Western Lamplighter Inn on Wellington Road South at Commissioners.

This is a wonderful opportunity to renew old friendships, meet new friends, and get set for a major and fun surprise at the same time... all over a sit-down gourmet meal.

Tickets are limited to 500 guests and will be available at the Office and during Coffee and Conversation beginning September 17th

Adults \$35 (tax and gratuity included), Children 12 and under free

THERE IS ONLY ONE 175th ANNIVERSARY

HELP US START THE CELEBRATION OCT. 30

OUR NEW MODERATOR

By Ted Kostecki

David Giuliano has been elected as the 39th Moderator of the United Church. David has served the St. John's Pastoral Charge in Marathon in Northern Ontario since he was settled there in 1987.



It appeared that Giuliano was truly humbled by his election and overwhelmed by the reception he received from the 400 Commissioners at General Council 39 in Thunder Bay. He now becomes the public voice of the United Church.

Giuliano and his wife, Pearl, have two children: Jeremiah, 18, and Naomi, 16, and he says he enjoys Nordic skiing, kayaking, biking, and running the bush trails along Lake Superior.

In an interview after his election, Giuliano noted that the United Church "is at a point in its history that we may be undergoing some fairly significant transformations in response to the recognition that who we have been is not who God is calling us to be now, or at least not all of that."

He added that, "we should really celebrate and enjoy who we are as followers of Christ, and live that out in very big ways. We should not be afraid to really be who we are, to completely live our values, and to expect people of other faith groups to do the same."

Outgoing Moderator Peter Short is returning to his congregation in Fredericton and will take a planned sabbatical next year.

AND OUR NEW GENERAL SECRETARY

Nora Sanders, who spent her early years in Union, Port Stanley and St. Thomas, has been appointed the new General Secretary of the United Church's General Council. Nora is currently Saskatchewan's Deputy Minister of First Nations and Metis Relations.



Her position in the United Church makes her the senior staff and administrative officer.

Nora has been involved with numerous church and community activities.

When I met her last year at the Arnprior Assembly, it was obvious that she has a deep faith and firm understanding of the church.

Nora begins her work with General Council in January. Jim Sinclair has agreed to continue as General Secretary until then.

LOS QUINCHOS BARRILETE

By Barb Dalrymple



The *Stewardship, Mission & Outreach* committee has chosen a special 175th anniversary project that involves raising awareness of—and hopefully some funds for—a school in Managua, Nicaragua.

As you may know, Nicaragua is the poorest country in Central America, and its residents support themselves in any way they can, including selling goods on the street. *Los Quinchos Barrilete* is a school for street vendors, and is a long-standing partner of the United Church of Canada. The nearly 1,000 students come from a variety of poor homes. They buy and sell at the markets and walk the streets with their goods after school and on weekends. Some started working when they were four and began school at nine or ten years old.

The school provides the children with lunch and we are hoping to provide money for some of these lunches and perhaps for some school supplies. We have some creative ideas for fund raising and, in the process, we hope to raise congregational awareness of the social conditions in this Central American country. Stay tuned!



Photos courtesy of Berkeley Studios (copyright), United Church of Canada.

The photo above shows a Berkeley Studios taping a segment at Los Quinchos.



“A TIME TO BUILD”

LIFT Campaign goes over the top !!!!

By Paul Mansell

The *Stewardship, Mission and Outreach* committee set out to raise pledges for at least \$25,000 to support our partners in the London Interfaith Team (LIFT) in an effort to build a 24 unit apartment building for low income singles. Our generous congregation responded with personal pledges totaling **\$38,000**. This overwhelming support of the project will be used to demonstrate to the proposal review committee of the 3 levels of government that LIFT will be able to come up with the down payment of \$250,000 that is required in order to access additional government funding. We will know by late December if our proposal is successful. Your prayers for the success of this project are all that is needed until then. Thank you for your support so far.



Architects's Drawings (Malhotra & Nicholson)

AFTER THE APOLOGY

By Ted Kostecki

The United Church General Council recognized the 20th anniversary of its apology to First Nations people by redelivering the apology at its meeting in Thunder Bay. The former Moderator, the Very Rev. Bob Smith, called it a recommitment rather than a celebration. Commissioners were reminded that the Residential Schools agreement that has been put in place still does not address the loss of language and culture. There was also a reminder that healing takes a long time. The comments were made during a discernment session led by First Nations people. Several aboriginal speakers told of the history and experiences of Aboriginal people. The session concluded with everyone joining in a Round Dance. I represented our table group as its Elder, carrying a shawl of healing in the Circle.



JIM AND JO ANN SILCOX

A Profile

By Pam Bere



“Are your parents slowing down going into retirement?” This is the kind of question I hear from well-meaning acquaintances who feel that my folks have put in their time in the world of work and should be enjoying life. For them, however, enjoying life means broadening their minds, making connections and sharing with

others. Both have spent much of their lives as caregivers, learners and educators. This typifies the types of involvements they intend to continue within FSA.

Jim is the Communion Coordinator, hangs the banners in the sanctuary and is redesigning the First St-Andrews WebPage, which should go ‘live’ in September. Jo Ann is on Council, Chairs the Worship Committee, and is a member of Christian Development, Membership and Nurture, the 175th Anniversary, and the Stewardship Campaign Committees, the Dream Group, and the Healing Prayer Group. She also leads the Sunday Morning Kerygma Group and the FSA Counselling Service.

Leading the Stewardship Campaign for the second year in a row, they are looking forward to the many events planned for our 175th Anniversary. They see the year as a time to celebrate our heritage as a church family and to contribute to the life of the emerging Church. As well, they are eagerly anticipating the renovation of the Lower Hall and the gatherings that will take place there. When asked why they took on the Stewardship Campaign again, they stated simply that it is their way of saying thank-you to a Church which has meant so much to four generations of their family.

So how do I respond when asked about my parents “retirement” plans? I smile and say : “Slowing down? Not a chance...not when there is so much to get out of life!”



Jim and Jo Ann Silcox and their grandchildren: Benjamin (left) and Harrison (right).

MULTIGENERATIONAL FAMILIES

The Foster family

by Kate Weresch

My family, the Foster family, has been a part of the FSA community for four generations. I believe families are an important aspect of any community, since both words—family and community—signify togetherness and connection. Certainly, togetherness and connection with FSA has been a tradition for my family in the literal sense of “handing down” the past into the hands of the present.



Elizabeth Foster and Kate Weresch

My mother, Elizabeth Foster, was baptized by the Reverend Angus McQueen at FSA and, in 1976, married by the Reverend Alex Farquhar. Her parents, Nelson and Olivia Foster, met in the Young Peoples’ Group and joined St. Andrew’s from First Presbyterian Church in 1938. In 1940, they were married by the Reverend W. A. Bremner.

Olivia Foster’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred McIntyre, also joined St. Andrew’s in 1938. Nelson Foster’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Foster, were married in the manse of First Presbyterian Church in 1901 by the Reverend William Clark. Finally, my great-uncle, William Fuller, attended St. Andrew’s Presbyterian

Church as a child and became Communion Clerk. In 1950, the Reverend McKinnon officiated at his wedding to Evelyn McIntyre, sister of my grandmother, Olivia Foster.



Nelson and Olivia Foster

For me personally, FSA has been a part of many major life-events, including my baptism in 1981 by the Reverend Tony Gazzard, and my marriage to Joshua Weresch on May 14, 2005 by the Reverend David McKane. My family—and our history—has been intertwined with FSA, and it has been a joyous

history. Our family’s connection, for me, shows the nature of the Church. It has been and must continue to be, a place enlivened by love—love for one another and love for God.

Changes...

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

MARRIAGES

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

June 3, 2006	Joanne Chapman and Doug Puttock
July 22, 2006	Akiko Okamura and Stephen van Maanen
July 22, 2006	Lindsay Crosby and Ian McGuire
August 4, 2006	Jennifer Murray and Jeffrey Kunder
August 5, 2006	Erin Linforth and Jordan Berard
August 12, 2006	Pamela Richards and David Pridmore
August 19, 2006	Cidalia Proenca and John Waters
August 19, 2006	Lyndsay Nolan and Eric Flodrowski
August 26, 2006	Emily Richards and Brian Wood
August 26, 2006	Cheryl Samson and Amanda Williams

GOODBYE & GODSPEED

*"May kindness and peace be yours from Jesus Christ,
the faithful witness."*

Ilene Pyper to Toronto
Gerry and Carol Shaw to Toronto
The Sutherland family to B.C.
Bob Walters to B.C.

BAPTISMS

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

July 16, 2006	Hope Gwyneth Gottschling, daughter of Mark and Kaila (Nufer)Gottschling.
July 23, 2006	Annette Louise Lescinsky, daughter of David Lescinsky and Penelope King Katherine Ruth Lescinsky, daughter of David Lescinsky and Penelope King
July 30, 2006	Ava Marie Silcox, daughter of Timothy and Allison Silcox.

DEATHS

"Well done good and faithful servant."

Lloyd Hall died June 29, 2006

REPORT FROM THE 39TH GENERAL COUNCIL

By Ted Kostecki

They said it would be different. And it was.

The 400 Commissioners, meeting in Thunder Bay, were asked to discern the broad direction of the United Church of Canada. So, we spent many hours chatting in "knee" groups (a small version of a table group) about our lives, our faith and the purpose of the church. We were listening to each other and to the Spirit.

And in the end, our discernment led to a series of general statements about the church that will help General Council Executive plan their strategy over the next three years. As a new member of the executive, I will be keenly interested in interpreting these statements, in particular, because one of our keynote speakers, Michael Adams of Environics Research, told us the work of the Church will become even more difficult as we devolve from traditional cultural and language group identities to at least 13 distinct socio-economic tribes. And even these "tribes" can be broken down, based on their social values.

Besides the process of discernment, we made other, more traditional decisions:

"A Song of Faith", a new and contemporary statement of faith, was approved.

The purchase of bottled water was discouraged, starting in church congregations

A report on "Living in the Midst of Empire: Domination and Complicity" was endorsed.

A report on lay members serving the sacraments was received for study

A proposal to continue work on a same-sex marriage policy was reluctantly approved.

A statement on Christian-Muslim relations was approved. Affirmed a commitment to being an intercultural church.

We received a report on "Ethical Investment for Peace in Palestine and Israel," and directed the General Council Executive to develop a policy for promoting a just peace.

Reports on compensation for isolation in Ministry were referred to the General Council Executive for consideration.

A three-year, ten-million dollar campaign called "Emerging Spirit" was approved. It's designed to develop a relationship between the church and people 30-45 years of age with the idea of bringing them into the church.

The Commissioners elected a new Moderator and appointed a General Secretary.

Worship services were well-prepared and executed. The new hymn supplement, "More Voices," was previewed and seemingly well accepted.

This is a capsule of what took place. If you'd like more information on specific issues, please see me.

The two questions I've been asked dozens of times since I got back from General Council are: "Did you have a good time?" and "How did it go". To the first, I reply that we were cooped up at Lakehead University and didn't see much, although the scenery is magnificent. The one must-see, the Terry Fox Memorial stature, brought me to tears. And the answer to the second question: It went well but it usually takes about a year for the fallout from these meetings to settle. But I think we're on the right track.

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN



By Donna Travis

FSA is very fortunate to have an energetic group of women who are members of and/or supporters of the UCW (United Church Women). At present there are approximately 80 active members, based on green envelop contributions. Members usually join one of the three Units—Tuesday evening, Wednesday morning or Thursday afternoon. Each Unit meets monthly, September to May or June, has a short business meeting, a worship service and an

interesting speaker. As well, each year we have a General and an Annual Meeting.

All meetings are open to every women in the congregation and we welcome newcomers at any time—please speak to any member of the executive. It is not necessary, incidentally, that you be a member of one of the Units. The Executive meets on the first Friday morning of each month, September to May, and Louise Slater, Chair of Nominating, would love to hear from you if you would consider being on the Executive.

There are many women in our congregation who support the UCW but are not counted as active members. They contribute their time and talents in many ways—assisting with the rummage sales, sewing in the Isabel Getliffe Wednesday morning sewing group, contributing and helping with the Bazaar, arranging for flowers in the Sanctuary, decorating the Church for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas, helping with the Maytime Tea for Shut-Ins, and assisting with funeral receptions.

The UCW is very proud that our fund raising enables us to carry out an extensive outreach program. We support the Mission and Service Fund as well as other local outreach programs. Within FSA, we contribute to the maintenance of the three kitchens.

This is a short indication of some of our activities. Stay tuned for future updates in Tidings.

SPONG IS BACK



Bishop John Shelby Spong is returning to First-St. Andrew's on October 2, at 7:30. On his first visit two years ago, Spong provided a sold-out audience with a spirited evening. The same is expected this time.

Spong is a retired American Episcopal priest and former Bishop of Newark. He is a controversial author whose books espouse the idea that Jesus is not the incarnation of a theistic God, but rather one who reveals God to us. Spong believes in the reality of God as a presence, not a being, and who is the

Ground of All Being, source of all life and love, a God who is a mystery, beyond our human explanations and definitions.

Tickets are \$20 and are on sale in the office, 519-679-8182.

EVERYONE HAS A STORY

A Visit to Chartres

By Bob Walters



The West façade, Chartres Cathedral

We at FSA probably associate Chartres Cathedral in France with the labyrinth we walk. In Art History, Chartres Cathedral is primarily celebrated for its architecture, sculptures and, especially, its stained glass windows, considered among the triumphs of 12th century Gothic. My first of many visits to Chartres took place in February, 1950, when I went to France as a student.



Bob Walters

On a sunny February Sunday I made the trip from Paris with three university friends. At noon, the bright winter light illuminated the windows so that the interior seemed like a jewel box, dominated by the intense blue of the glass. These windows presented a panorama of religious and secular life, especially the life of Christ and the Virgin Mary, to whom the Cathedral is dedicated, as well as the activities and crafts of the Middle Ages.

In that latitude, winter days are short, so that by 4 o'clock the sun was setting. Inside, there was one electric bulb near the organ console where a musician was practising. The nave became dark as the setting sun illuminated the West façade. Then, a strange thing happened. The dominant blues faded away, and the reds became more and more intense. The figure of God, along with the ancestors of Christ, and the figure of Christ Himself in the centre of the Rose window, stood out, almost erasing all else.

The combination of near darkness, the sound of the organ, the blood red colour associated with the Divine, created a spirituality that caught up the four of us. The spell was finally broken when one of my friends said, "Let's get out of here before we're converted to Catholicism!" We were about as far as possible from the simple New England churches of our pasts.

RUN THE CHURCH FOR A DAY

Celebrate a special occasion with a \$100 donation to help pay the operation costs of our the church. Call the office at 519-679-8182 for more information.

PROPERTY REPORT

By Ed Ellis



The Property Committee has been very busy managing several projects at FSA. The most important are described below.

Lower Hall: The first meeting on renovations to the Lower Hall took place over a year ago. Since then we have met often, and, with the help of Pauline Slattery, an Interior Designer, completed plans for the current construction project which is taking place during August and September.

New flooring, electrical wiring, decorative ceiling fixtures, wall sconces, storage room, windows, curtains and stage drapes are but a few of the many changes underway in the Lower Hall. We want to acknowledge the dedication and service provided by Emile Kellenberger and his crew in this and every other project he has worked on at FSA.

Security: The implementation stage of a Security Report approved by Council in June is underway. Locks on doors and windows will be repaired or replaced, and additional contact sensors added. Several doors have undergone repairs to ensure they properly close and lock—in particular, the Narthex doors. Their stone sills were ground down, repaired and new thresholds installed, along with new pneumatic closures.

Shrubs and trees have been pruned to eliminate concealed areas, and outside lights timers replaced.

Ventilation and insulation of the Sanctuary attic: We are studying this as one way to reduce heating costs during the winter, and reduce sanctuary heating during the summer. As well, we are investigating the feasibility of air conditioning.

Exterior repairs: Last winter an ice dam on the roof of the Sunday school building damaged the flat roof below and the upper gabled roof over the chapel. Emergency repairs were made and the job completed this summer.

As well, water pooling over the Parlour damaged the ceiling. We have taken steps to prevent this in the future and we are replacing and repairing a section of the ceiling.

We also arranged for various repairs to metal ornamentalations, flashings, exterior wood moldings and window trim, including the second floor Gothic windows over the atrium, which now have storm windows for the first time!

Sound System: In the spring, an acoustical engineer (sponsored by the Men's Brown Bag Lunch) tuned the system and analyzed it for shortcomings. Since then, we have tried to make the system as effective as possible, given its age and limitations. I should point out that the consultant recommended a new system which would replace the "pew-back speakers" with a line-array loudspeaker system. Council also approved funds to replace the current hearing-assist system and we are investigating which system best meets our needs.

Grounds: We wish to thank Jim and Audrey Coulthard for their dedicated service in caring for the flower beds, and Blair Scorgie for his hard work maintaining the lawns.

I hope this gives the readers of Tidings some idea of the work we have undertaken over the past year to maintain our beautiful church and property.

THE LOWER HALL PROJECT



CARING CALLERS

By Annabelle Logan



"Caring Callers" or "Telephone Ministry" was initiated about four years ago. Thirty dedicated callers make an average of six calls, four times a year: the end of August, Advent, January, and Lent (Easter). Some people are called more often, if necessary, and not all members are called. Shut-ins, young families, pre-operative, post-operative, those in need of support, are kept up to date on church services, concerts and special activities.

The callers are also a very valuable liaison for the ministers and the office regarding illness, moves, and other problems.

The Caring Callers are a very special group who take their job seriously and are very compassionate. This is an extremely important outreach service of First-St. Andres, and the rewards are very gratifying.

Currently, the callers are

Sheila Alton, Donna Jeanne Andrews, Margo Christodoulou, Helen Cockshutt, Wilma Evans, Elizabeth Foster, Liz Galbraith Muriel Harris, Dorothy Harrison, Jan Hendry, Jim Hutchinson, Val Koetter, Marg Leonard, Bev Lindsay, Annabelle Logan, Al MacIntosh, Dawne Mahabir, Jean McKenzie, Tom McLarty, Don McLean, Lesley Pergau, Eileen Pyper, Joni Pypka, Bob Slate, Louise Slater, Jean Stewardson, Marg Taylor, Donna Travis, Mary Vernon, Lorna Yurchuk.

and we thank each and every one. More "callers" are always needed and if you would like to share in this very special program, please call Annabelle Logan 519-471-2518.

FSA Program Guide

Fall 2006

WORSHIP

September 3	10:30 a. m. Labour Day Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad	November 5	9 a.m and 10:30 a.m. Remembrance Sunday Rev. Dr. David McKane
September 10	10:30 a.m. Baptism Rev. Dr. David McKane	November 12	9 a.m and 10:30 a.m. Proudfoot Service Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad (Rev. McKane guest- preaching in Peterborough)
September 17	9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. The Butts: from Mozambique (Grow-A-Row Corn Roast follows service)	November 19	10:30 a.m. 174 th Anniversary service Rev. Gretta Vosper preaching
September 24	9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Beginning of Stewardship Campaign Unveiling of the Proudfoot Legacy Tree Rev. Dr. David McKane	November 26	9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. New Members Rev. Dr. David McKane (luncheon for new members follows service)
October 1	9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. World Wide Communion Sunday Rev. Dr. David McKane	December 3	9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. First of Advent Lessons and Carols
October 8	9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Thanksgiving Sunday Rev. Dr. David McKane	December 10	9 a.m. Second of Advent Rev. Dr. David McKane 10:30 Church School Pageant
October 15	9 a.m. and 10:30 a. m. Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad	December 17	9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Third of Advent Rev. Dr. David McKane
October 22	10:30 a.m. Celebration Sunday Dr. David McKane, Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad	December 24	9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Rev. Dr. David McKane CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES 7 p.m. Family Service Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad 10 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service Rev. Dr. David McKane
October 29	9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Music Awareness Sunday Rev. Dr. David McKane GALA LUNCHEON FOLLOWS SERVICE	December 31	10:30 a.m. Rev. Dr. David McKane

MUSIC

MUSIC: CHORAL AND INSTRUMENTAL OPPORTUNITIES

First-St. Andrew's is committed to a Music Ministry that is rich in variety, grounded in spiritual integrity and inclusive of all ages. Consider the many opportunities to rejoice with us in 2006-2007.

THE CHOIRS - TO SING IS THE THING!

THE SENIOR CHOIR

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



THE CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

The Junior Joyfuls (ages 3-8) led by Terese Sirek Ng and the Joyful Singers (ages 8 and up) led by Paul and Enid Merritt always welcome members. Joyful activities will begin on WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 at 6:30 pm. If your child/children would like to join in the excitement, please call Terese Sirek Ng at 519-432-2894 or the Merritts at 519-679-9173.

THE LAUDAMUS BELLS

The Laudamus Bell Choir is seeking one or 2 new members. Prerequisites include an ability to read music and knowledge of music to approximately the grade 6 level. Specific training on the bells will be provided. Rehearsals are on Monday evenings and will commence on September 11. Please call Barbara Plante, Director, at 519-472-4586 or 519-461-1202 for further information.

THE FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S STRINGS

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



THE CONCERT SERIES

First-St. Andrew's also is committed to musical outreach in the London area through year-round concert activity made possible through the generous support of Friends of Music. Please see our forthcoming 2006-2007 brochure as well as the following information on some of this Fall's events.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14 at 7:30 pm

AN EVENING OF JAZZ with SONJA GUSTAFSON

We at First-St. Andrew's, are well-acquainted with the beautiful singing of our soprano soloist, Sonja Gustafson. Since her appearance on BRAVO TV's BATHROOM DIVAS, Sonja's talents have become known to a much wider audience. Don't miss this opportunity to hear Sonja sing jazz standards with some of her favourite musicians.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21 at 8:00 pm

UWO CHORAL CELEBRATION

featuring the choirs of the Don Wright Faculty of Music of our University

Admission: \$15/\$10

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30

THE KYIV CHAMBER CHOIR from the Ukraine

This group, one of the world's great choirs, performs the best of 1,000+ years of superb music that is Ukrainian choral music. The concert will feature an outstanding presentation by award-winning performers who regularly attract sold-out audiences to their concerts across Europe.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CRADLE ROLL

A kit called *Growing in God's Love* is sent to families with a new baby to help celebrate important events to age 3.

Coordinator: Martha Bere (641-6947)

NURSERY

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

Coordinator: Jolie Robertson (675-1533)

CHURCH SCHOOL

Regular church school classes begin again on Sunday September 10th.

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

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

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

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

TEENS IN TRANSIT (TNT)

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

Leader: Nancy Howard (289-0540)

TEEN CONFIRMATION CLASS

A new class will begin again in the fall looking forward to confirmation in the spring..

YOUTH COUNCIL

Keep an eye on the Sunday church bulletin for meetings and special events. See related story on page 3.

YOUTH COUNCIL

By Will Joles

In the Youth Council we do a variety of different activities for the church and community, such as our variety shows, sending supplies to Church World Service, and participating in the London Conference *24 Hour Fast*. We also put on a Youth Service for the congregation where we pick the hymns, readings, and write the sermon. Plus, we go out for fun events such as bowling, movies, and skating.

Youth Council meetings are times spent bonding—we talk about stuff going on at school and in the news, play games, and come up with ideas for different events. I've really enjoyed my four years in the youth group and wouldn't want to spend my time any other way!

ADULT DEVELOPMENT

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

This group meets weekly from 9-10 am in the Music Room (upstairs).

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

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

10 am in the Parlour. Why not join us?

We begin again on Thursday September 7th.

Facilitator: Susan Shelstad (679-8182)

DREAM GROUP

Come and discover the amazing world of your dreams. We meet usually on the last Friday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Parlour.. Our next meeting will be on Fri. September 29th. Please join us.

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

SPIRITUALITY ON TAP

An informal evening of a movie and discussion about it from a spiritual perspective. Watch the announcement insert in the fall for dates, movies and times.

COMING THIS FALL...

PART 2 OF "LIVING THE QUESTIONS"



**4 MORE WEEKS
OF THE DVD AND
WEB-BASED
STUDY:
DISCOVERING
THE RELEVANCE
OF CHRISTIANITY
IN THE 21ST CEN-**

**TURY AND WHAT A MEANINGFUL FAITH
CAN LOOK LIKE IN TODAY'S WORLD. WE
BEGIN ANOTHER 4-PART SERIES
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 20TH AT 7 P.M.
IN THE CHAPEL.**

LIBRARY

Our church library contains many wonderful things — good books for all ages, videos, and periodicals — all for your use. Come in and check us out! New material arriving all the time.

CD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Donations to this fund are used to help children, young people and adults attend programs and events such as youth retreats, camp, and Conference events. Your help is always appreciated.

PASTORAL CARE

In addition to the pastoral care provided by David McKane and Susan Shelstad, members of our congregation reach out to others in a variety of ways.

PRAYER CHAIN

Do you need prayers for yourself or others? Call Maureen at the office (679-8182) and the name or concern will be passed through the prayer chain. First names only will be used unless permission is granted to use the full name. Confidentiality will be respected

CARE FOR THE CAREGIVER

This group is for those who find themselves in the role of caregiver, and who are feeling a bit overwhelmed. Please contact Jo Ann Silcox (642-2152) for further details.

CONGREGATIONAL VISITING TEAM

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

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Every Sunday, following our 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services, the congregation is invited to remain for refreshment and the deepening of friendship. During the summer months, this takes the form of lemonade on the lawn after the 10:30 a.m. service. This is an opportunity for each person to make contact and share his/her journey as a valued individual within our community of faith. Volunteers are needed to make and serve coffee and to clean up.

COUNSELLING TEAM

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

RIDES FOR SENIORS

If you need a ride to and from church and/or church events, please call Helen and Bill Cockshutt (519-858-9454).

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

A Baptismal preparation session is held prior to every Baptism (usually the Thursday evening) to prepare the parents who are bringing their children for Baptism. We explore the meaning of Baptism, and prepare for the Sunday service. Our next baptism is on September 10, 2006. Call the church office if interested (519-679-8182).

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

STEWARDSHIP MISSION OUTREACH

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

HOSPITALITY MEALS

We are hoping to resume our hospitality meals in September, or as soon as the Lower Hall renovations have been completed.

This program runs year round on Mondays, 5:30 p.m. providing hospitality meals for more than 100 persons. One hundred or more volunteers have been involved, many of them from other churches. For information, contact Tom and Shirley Wynne at 519-474-4768, or the church office, 519-679-8182. This

ST. PAUL'S DAILY BREAD

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

GROW-A-ROW PROJECT

Over the past five years, money has been provided for the Canadian Food Grains Program through the efforts of St. Marys United Church and FSA. Donations are matched 4:1 by CIDA. This summer, the project uses a farm outside London owned by Tom McLarty. The amount raised last year by members of FSA and St. Marys was \$10,000. During the past several years, the money raised locally and matched by the government 4:1 means \$500,000 worth of food was shipped to countries where the need is high.

Once again, this year, we celebrate the effort with a September 17th corn roast at First-St. Andrew's organized by the Stewardship Mission Outreach Committee.



FRIENDSHIP & LEARNING GROUPS

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

The purpose of the UCW is to unite women of the congregation for the total mission of the church and to provide a medium through which we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service. First-St. Andrew's has three units meeting monthly as follows:

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

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

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

The UCW welcomes and encourages all women at FSA to become a member of the U.C.W. and to help keep up the good work in the years ahead.

FSA SUPPER CLUB (FORMERLY BIFOCALS)

This has been an exciting year for the club, with record attendance and a good response from members. The Supper Club resumes on September 26. On **October 24 WILF and LEUARIE NOORDEMEER**, world travelers and photographers, have agreed to come again to our group. They were guests last year and we all were so enthused that we have asked them to return. They will present a travelogue of a recent trip to LAOS. Those who were present last year will certainly not want to miss their return engagement.

On **November 28 DR. JIM SILCOX**, well respected in the London Medical community and a member of F.S.A. will speak about his recent trip to RWANDA.

Jim was one of a team of five from the Schulich School of Medicine sent to Rwanda to review the medical school at the National University. The mission was to put together a plan for UWO to partner with them to turn out more and better qualified doctors for their country.

Because of the genocide, they have been unable to train enough doctors to meet their needs. The trip was a follow-up to the visit of the President of Rwanda to Western in April, 2006 when UWO pledged its support for the developing country in general. While there, the team inspected all aspects of the health care system, meeting with doctors, nurses, university faculty and government officials.

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

In 2007 we have some equally interesting programs planned.

Mark these dates on your calendar : January 23, March 27, April 24 and May 22.

Call June McKay 519-471-5668 or Shirley Wynne 519-474-4768 for more information. All are welcome

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

BRIDGE GROUP

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

THE MEN'S BROWN BAG LUNCH

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

What do we talk about? Well, it's a guy thing, so we talk about sports, politics (carefully, since we represent a wide range of views), our work (and play)—and religion. Religious topics range from FSA itself—for example its music—to questions of a deeper spirituality. Sometimes we even *do* something—last year we sponsored a testing of the sound system which led to improvements.

Sooner or later it all comes down to our personal searches for truth and Truth. How do we incorporate Tom Harper's sceptical views on the historical Jesus? What do we say when faced with illness, dying—and death? Often our discussion grows out of recent sermons. How do we personally experience the Incarnation and Resurrection? What about our personal peak experiences?

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

Please join us Wednesday, September 13, for our first meeting this fall.

ISABEL GETLIFFE SEWING GROUP

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

THE KNIT WITS

A group of experienced and beginner knitters get together on the first Tuesday of each month from 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. They produce items for children and adults who are cold and in need in our community. For information, call Carol Leenders, 519-432-1233.





A FINAL WORD

FALL 2006

LIVES LIVED AND GIFTS LEFT

By Ted Kostecki

Every time I look at the folks who have been around First-St. Andrew's, I am amazed at the variety of their gifts and contributions to the Church, to the community and to life. Many of these gifts grow out of the discussion came around to our own mothers. Two long lives lived and two gifts left.

My 95-year old mother, Katherine, has just published a book of her poems. The poems are written in Polish, her mother tongue, and she tells me they would lose a lot in the translation to English. It's a beautiful hardcover book entitled *Forever*, published on the 20th anniversary of a large retirement home in Oakville that she and several other women were instrumental in financing and building. She is the last surviving member of that group and still sits on the Board. Because she wrote most of her life, it was natural for her to read one of her poems at the start of each meeting. The Board of the Home decided her poems would provide a magnificent legacy and asked her to choose some from the boxes of poems she had stored away. The book is her gift to the Home, to her colleagues and to her family. Forever.

A life lived and a gift left.

Susan McKane's mother, Rena Newbury, at 91 has also set her hand to writing. She is taking the three volume biography of her great uncle Jean Bost, written by a relative, and translating it into English as a gift to her grandchildren. Bost, French, was a spiritual man, a humanitarian ahead of his time, with an aura like that of Jean Vanier. Like Vanier, in 1830 Bost established a shelter in France for mentally-challenged young women and found he could reach them through music. Demand was so great, he organized several such communities—which he called *La Famille*—and there are now a number of such shelters in France. Rena Newbury isn't hindered by the fact that she last studied French in University 70 years ago. She is churning ahead and phoning Susan occasionally to check out details. She considers the experience "exciting and astounding" as she continues what has become her mission. The translation will be her legacy to her family. Forever.

A life lived and a gift left.

FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S MINISTRY

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

Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad: Minister of Christian Development

Paul Merritt: Director of Music

Ted Kostecki: Community Development Coordinator

Sue Scorgie: Church Administrator

Maureen Scarborough: Administrative Assistant/Receptionist

Rusty Robertson: Custodian

