

Tidings

First-St. Andrew's United Church

VOLUME 5 ● NUMBER 4

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, EPIPHANY 95/96



Donna Ellis, Mark Cornelissen, Stephanie Ellis, Mike Cornelissen, Ed Ellis, Jen Ellis.

GET CONNECTED TO THE ELLIS FAMILY

By Wendy Ewert

Who do you contact when you need the following:

- a tooth pillow
- some geraniums which are ready to plant
- a banner for the sanctuary
- someone to do lawn work
- a garden shed that cannot be broken into
- someone to work at the sewing table of the Bazaar
- print layout for a newspaper

Well, you might find just the person you need at the home of Donna and Ed Ellis.

The Ellis menagerie is actually a blended family that was united six years ago when Donna and Ed were married (as Donna pointed out, "We each contributed 2 children and a dog"). The household now consists of the two parents, Stephanie, Jennifer, Mark, Mike, two dogs and a budgie. It is a challenge, they admit, to keep communicating with each other and to make one united family. With the two girls in University, the boys in a variety of sports venues and both parents working, everyone has to make a conscious effort to keep up contact.

Ed and Donna made the move to First-St. Andrew's about five years ago. Their previous church was not meeting their needs, and consequently, there was a period of "shopping around." When they finally attended First-St. Andrew's, they felt an instant connection. "We were looking for a family-oriented church, and one in which there was involvement, not just spectators," says Ed. They felt welcome at First-St. Andrew's, and noted its affirmation of people and involvement of the congregation in so many aspects of the worship service. "The before and after and in-between were all well done," Donna says. The clincher came when Donna filled out the visitor's card and "somebody actually called!"

Donna and Ed were impressed by the church for many reasons. The music program was a plus, as was the number of young families. Both

commented on Frank's preaching, and Donna especially liked his sense of humour. "We both think on the same crazy lines," she grins.

They were pleased to be asked to contribute in a variety of ways to the life and work of the church. Having both grown up in small country churches, they had a need to know people, and to gain a sense of "connectedness." By getting involved, they were able to meet people and become part of the community.

Donna is always ready to help wherever she is needed, from Coffee and Conversation to making banners for the church sanctuary. At the most recent Bazaar, while working at the sewing table, she appeased a disappointed customer who was looking in vain for a tooth pillow by reassuring her that she would go home and make one for her!

Ed's biggest contribution at the present time is his volunteer work in the flower beds of the church. All the flowers that graced the church gardens this past summer were started in the Ellis basement, and many of the geraniums are wintering there. He estimates that he has spent 5 to 6 hours a week at work on the church grounds since March break.

Fifteen year old Michael Cornelissen has been hard at work on the lawns (when he is not doing layout for *Tidings!*) this past summer, and takes pride in his job, which includes grass-cutting, trimming, blowing, and painting the lines on the parking lot.

Work on the church property is a never-ending task. As Ed puts it, "Most people don't realize the coming and going and constant wear and tear." Of course, there are always a small minority that make even more work by littering. Ed and Mike can count on a half-hour of picking up garbage before the rest of their jobs can be completed. And believe it, Ed takes it personally!

Then there are the unforeseen problems, like the new shed being broken into five weeks ago and the tractor mower stolen. Ed lay awake one whole night devising a fortified version of a garden shed. Have you noticed the flower box recently installed on the shed window? It's really an anchor for a logging chain to which the tractor will be attached. The whole shed will have to be stolen before the next tractor disappears. How's that for innovation?

Commitment and connectedness seem to be the watch-words one would use to describe the Ellis family as they put themselves into the life of First-St. Andrew's. The importance they place on involvement within the community is certainly to the great benefit of our church. Hopefully, they are gaining back as much as they are giving.

Inside	
What About Our Past?	.....2
The Doctor of Divinity	.....2
Our New Minister of Visitation	.....3
This is All a Pile of Garbage	.....3
Council Reports to You	.....4
BBQ & Auction Benefits M&S Fund	.....4
Rummage Report	.....5
Meet the Music Committee	.....5
Fryke's Christmas	.....6
If God Grants You 70 Years	.....6
Changes	.....6

WHAT ABOUT OUR PAST?

By Roger Snyder

First-St. Andrew's has resurrected the Archives Committee for the purpose of preserving our rich and exciting history. This is an area of ministry that has been inactive for several years. We are planning a number of ambitious projects in the near future.

Currently, several members of our committee are interviewing many of First-St. Andrew's long time members to determine what stories and memorabilia they may have to share with our committee. Members of our committee have visited the Archives in the Regional Collection in the Library at University of Western Ontario where most of our early materials are stored. We plan to have an ongoing and changing display of materials in the Access Atrium area. We are reviewing materials presently in storage in the church vault and we have secured a permanent storage cabinet for archival use in the church. All church committees have been encouraged to submit a copy of records and memorabilia to the Archives Committee for permanent preservation.

Our committee is excited to be working with many projects that will allow for the preservation of our long and interesting history as a faith community.

DON'T THROW IT OUT!!

If you have any old photos, documents or items relating to First-St. Andrew's past, we welcome your contributions. They are accepted on either a loan basis or as permanent contributions.

Tidings

Chairperson	Bob Slater
Editor	Elaine Wilton
Layout Artists	Michael Cornelissen, Don Jones
Photographers	Spencer Inch, June McKay, David Wake
Staff Representative	Emily Woods
Stewardship	Howard Capes
Team Members	Susan Carscadden-Mifsud, Ann Denny, Bruce Hillman, Margaret Wonfor
Typist	Pat Sole
UCW Representative	Joyce Meadows
Distribution	Bob Slater & Team, Alton Ross & Team
Publisher	The Education Committee of Stewardship First-St. Andrew's United Church 350 Queens Avenue, London, Ontario N6B 1X6 Tel:(519) 679-8182 Fax:(519) 439-6838

Four issues yearly. News Deadline for next issue: January 9, 1996
Distribution of next issue: February 4, 1996

Submissions are accepted only from members of the First-St. Andrew's Family. The Tidings Team reserves the right to select and edit submissions. Obtain information from Group and Committee Secretaries or members of the Tidings Team. The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors, not necessarily those of First-St. Andrew's Church.

THE DOCTOR OF DIVINITY

Words by Jean Wright

Sung by the Senior Choir

Behold the Doctor of Divinity
A personage of noble rank and title
A dignified important minister
Whose functions are particularly vital!
Defer, defer, to the Doctor of Divinity
Defer, defer, to the noble Doc to the noble Doc,
to the Doctor of Divinity.



Started out in Montreal,
with his wit and aspiration
Teaching school was a ball
Plus his choir association
All at once he heard the call
to a heavenly vocation
Next out west with Joyce et al
Saskatoon his next rotation
On to Kitch'ner's protocol
Then to Fairlawn's congregation
And then what should befall?
First-St. Andrew's,
the culmination.

What's that little white round ball
He pursues with fascination?
Storyteller sans égal, 'cause he has the where-with-all,
This guy from Montreal.
Defer, defer, to the Doctor of Divinity
Defer, defer, to the highest rank, to our much-loved Frank,
Our Doctor of Divinity.



Following the Mission Sunday Service, October 15, 1995, the congregation enjoyed an Ethiopian meal with Dr. William and Mrs Karen Butt, shown above with Dr. John and Ellen McKim

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

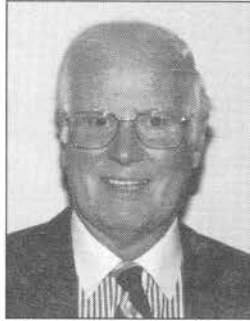
From the M & S Committee

The Mission and Service Fund is our fund as United Church people. We are the only ones who support it. But, it's not an end in itself. It's important because it helps us go out, speak, serve, and share. It's important because it helps us make a difference as God calls us to make a difference.

OUR NEW MINISTER OF VISITATION

By Elaine Wilton

The Rev. John F. (Jack) McKay has accepted the position of Minister of Visitation following the recent resignation of the Rev. Herb Wonfor.



The Rev Jack McKay

Jack has been retired since 1994, having served as minister at Riverside United Church for seventeen years prior to his last placement at Ailsa Craig Pastoral Charge in 1990.

After only a year and a half of retirement, Jack has again felt the need to serve others. With responsibility for visiting eighty elderly shut-in members of the congregation, Jack expects he will often exceed the five hours per week required by the job. Already, after only six days on the job, he has visited fifty-five shut-ins, and driven as many as seventy-five miles in one day.

Jack looks forward to meeting the rest of his congregation in their homes, in hospital, or even over the telephone. He hopes to keep a record of birthdays and send personalized greetings to his members.

Originally from Kintore, Ontario, Jack attended Waterloo College and then Emmanuel College before accepting a four point charge in Saskatchewan. Post-graduate work in Scotland and Boston earned him an S.T.M. degree in 1962, and ten years later he served as President of London Conference of the United Church of Canada.

Jack and his wife, June, have three grown children, Scott, Jeffrey, and Janet, and are proud grandparents to two boys and a girl.

Info-Line

STEWARDSHIP IS CELEBRATION: PLANNING NEEDS PLEDGING

Thanks to each person who pledged gifts of time, talent, energy and money during the fall Stewardship Campaign. You have helped FSA plan its mission for 1996.

POINSETTIAS WILL DECORATE SANCTUARY

If you would like to have a poinsettia placed in memory of a loved one for the Christmas season, please call the church office (679-8182) by Monday, December 4.

UCW OCTOBER RUMMAGE SALE

\$2,000+ was collected by the UCW in support of its projects. Thanks go to the contributors, the more than 50 workers and the patrons in this recycling project. More help has meant greater profits. Your next opportunity will come in April.

M & S FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Goal for 1995	\$22,000
Contributions	
Previously reported	400
Auction & BBQ	8,200
Additional Gifts of money	9,000
Amount yet to be raised	4,400

1996 WEEKLY OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE FOR PICKUP DECEMBER 10

If you would like *monthly* offering envelopes, call Susan Brown at the church office (679-8182) and they will be prepared for you.

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO SIGN UP FOR PAR
What is PAR? It's the easy way to give your offering to FSA. Once a month, the amount you choose is withdrawn from your bank account. No minimum amount is required. Call Susan Brown at the church office (679-8182) for more information.

THIS IS ALL A PILE OF GARBAGE

By Paul Pergau

Do you know how much garbage you get rid of every week? Do you want to help reduce our need for dump sites, save on expenses as we get charged for garbage pickup, help control global warming and get cleaner air? Like a salad that becomes compost when we throw it out, what we call garbage should only be the stuff we, or anyone else, can no longer use.

My family and I are keen participants in a Global Action Plan group at First-St. Andrew's. We have just completed a beneficial exercise of exploring our garbage. Might not sound like fun to you but it can be very rewarding and have some lasting effects.

Our exercise was to complete an easy-to-follow program of sorting, packaging, weighing and distributing what we had previously called garbage. What was recyclable we sorted into different containers and when full enough sought out the various recyclable depots in London. This, for me, was the fun part. I have never seen in one place such a huge pile of glass, paper, cardboard, containers and other recyclable stuff as the depot out near highway 135. True to form I even brought home some excellent remnants of huge rolls of paper which we can use for wrapping. We helped the guys at the Greenway depot sort the leftover paint cans which we could no longer use. There's a great source of used paint if you ever need any! They even took our used batteries. The Children's Museum love to see us pull up and empty the van of bags and bags of spent toilet paper and paper towel rolls and concentrated juice containers. Our family was already making great use of a compost pile so there was no change to us in that area.

We are very proud that we have measurably reduced the amount of true garbage we now set out for collection and that we have increased the amount of recyclable material in our Blue Box and delivered it to the various depots.



Ross McMullen

COUNCIL REPORTS TO YOU

By Ross McMullen
Chair of Council (438-0668)

During the summer months, Council activity continued as the Worship Committee evaluated various options to our Worship Service, the Stewardship Campaign Committee developed the process and the materials for the Campaign, and the Church Barbeque and Auction was put

together. Of course, there was also the wonderful work that was done as we celebrated and recognized the Doctor of Divinity Degree that was bestowed on Frank Meadows.

Now we are into October and Council met with lots of enthusiasm on the 10th. Our Council Meetings are scheduled from 7:30-10:00 p.m., but we have yet to finish by 10:00. The "upside" is that we have not had to have any extra meetings and everyone is still working hard at the end.

Previously in *Tidings*, and in other places, we have been discussing Strategic Planning. The process has been developing, step by step, since the Annual Meeting last February. Now we have reached the point where the Marketing Committee, so effectively led by Jack Hillier and Elaine Wilson, made their initial report to Council. They told us of their objectives, presented a Situation Analysis and recommended a Process. They also presented a list of potential programs, sought the guidance of Council, and requested permission to proceed.

This report was very professionally written and presented. It stimulated lengthy discussion where it became apparent that we would be looking at some "change" and that it would take considerable energy to implement the programs. Council recommended that the Committee continue, that they focus on a few key programs and we asked that they come to the December 12 meeting with their recommendations. We have also provided each member of Council with a copy of the report so they can take it to their Committees and receive their input.

In closing, let me remind you of our invitation to attend the **December 12 Council Meeting**. Besides regular business, and hearing what the Marketing Committee has to say, Frank Meadows has agreed to spend a few minutes addressing "Paradigm Shifts in the Church". That is in the **Lower Hall at 7:30 p.m.** Please feel free to drop in and leave as your time allows. We try to be informal.

ENVIRONMENTAL TIPS

From the Earth Stewardship Committee

Many items can be donated to Day Care Centres for their use in craft lessons. Ask them what they need.

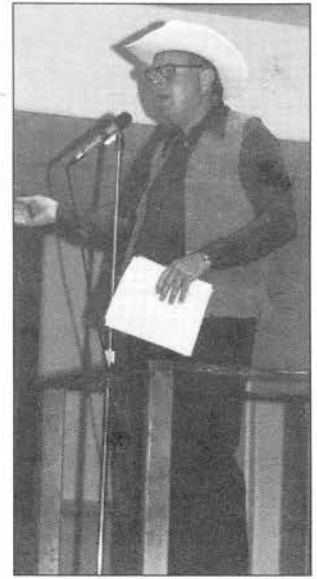
BAR-B-QUE AND AUCTION BENEFITS THE MISSION & SERVICE FUND

By Murray Woods

Sept. 24th was not in any way a regular Sunday morning at First-St. Andrew's. Worshippers arrived in a range of dress from formal suits to very, very casual. If the ushers had donned the black morning coats of yesteryear, the contrast would have been complete.

Following the service, the congregation spilled out the west door to be greeted with the appetizing odours of barbecuing sausages, wieners, hamburgs and steaks. The weather was sunny and warm so people lingered and visited. I am told we even attracted some "passerby" trade from the street who were lured by the enticing smells. During this period the auction staff was distributing "bid numbers" to the people in preparation for the Auction.

At one o'clock everybody gathered in the Lower Hall awaiting those familiar words "Whata ya gona bid now". The auctioneers, Murray Woods, Frank Meadows and Bob Vosper, presided over an afternoon of good fun, healthy competitive bidding and great values. Some 70 items were auctioned in addition to the 14 items presented in the silent auction. A highlight of the good fun occurred when John Eberhard was bidding to buy the legal services of Marvin Mills for "Power of Attorney" preparation. One bidder was so focussed on buying the item that he kept bumping up his own bid!



Auctioneer - Murray Woods



Auctioneer - Frank Meadows

The largest contribution to the auction came when ten couples paid \$1600 for a "Night Wi' Burns" to be hosted on Jan. 25/96 by Bill and Elspeth Watson. A week at John McKim's cottage drew a bid of \$450

and celebrity golf contributed \$500 (5 x \$100).

The committee, chaired by David Shaw, wants to sincerely thank all those individuals and families who provided the wonderful and diverse array of Goods, Services and Talents for the project. Then, secondly, to thank all the people who participated in the bidding, providing an air of excitement with every item auctioned. The final tally shows that over \$9,000 was raised for the M & S Fund. Congratulations to everybody - it was a great event.

RUMMAGE REPORT

By Joyce Meadows

I love rummage sales! Fortunately we have always been at a church that had one at least once a year. There is something enticing about all those bags and boxes waiting to be unpacked, sorted and priced. What hidden treasures might we unearth this time? Now most people are clever enough not to donate real treasures to a rummage sale, but occasionally a prize will turn up. Once, an exquisitely-dressed antique baby doll! Alas, one of our more knowledgeable sorters whisked it away to be sold for a good price to a collector-friend.

This was at Ste. Thérèse, our first small congregation outside Montreal. They were experts at the rummage game. Edie Kately, who was always in charge, even took advance orders; "Edie, if a desk shows up, could you let me know and save it for me?"

One feature of the sale was the Nickel Box, where small unpriced bits were tossed. One year, I got a Jew's harp for 5 cents! We were always watchful, though, for the occasional customer who would bring a suspiciously large item to the cash table, claiming it had come from the nickel box.

Old Joe would turn up for every sale looking for old toasters and other small appliances. He and Edie would haggle over the price, both enjoying the whole thing. "You're taking food out of a hungry man's mouth", he would sigh as he paid up. Not many knew that he took these appliances home to fix them and give them to people in need.

One year, some Portuguese members of the congregation brought their friends and relatives. It turned out that the armloads of clothes they bought were to be sent to needy folk in Portugal.

After the sale was over, it always looked as though hardly a dent had been made in the piles of rummage. But we packed it all up and sent it (in those less enlightened days) to a nearby Indian reserve where their United Church had another rummage sale!

What I like best about rummage sales is the way all those tables piled with "stuff" can fire the creative imagination. Hey, these plastic flowers could be sprayed gold or "podged" and stuck on a wreath. The fabric in this old skirt (Liberty cotton!) would be lovely in a quilt. That old kitchen kettle would look great filled with plants or dried flowers for a "country" decor.

Off home I go after the sale loaded with bags of potential works of art. Frank looks doubtfully at my purchases, and rightly so, for quite often they will become inventory for the next sale. Meanwhile his "new" bike is in the garage waiting for a workout next spring.

Speaking of next spring, the UCW has scheduled FSA's next rummage sale for **Saturday, April 20, 1996**. Please donate your treasures, come and help sort and price, and also come to buy at the sale. Be warned, however, you might become a rummage sale addict like me!

MEET THE MUSIC COMMITTEE

By Jean Wright

When a high school student (Jennifer Cull), a retired doctor (Elmer Butt), a university administrator (Bruce Moor), and a university student (Peter Welch), and others from equally diverse backgrounds meet at the church every second month, what do they discuss? Music, of course. The dozen members, who with Paul Merritt, Director of Music, and Bruce Moor, Chairperson, make up the Music Committee, are committed to maintaining the excellence of the music programmes at First-St. Andrew's. They bring their energy and time and past experiences to support and oversee the many aspects of music at the church. Some of the committee are professional musicians: Ken Bray, Jean Wuensch, and Pauline Owen. A number are Senior Choir members: Bruce Moor, Enid Merritt, Jean Wuensch, Helen Inch and Margie Hennen. Jan Ashall and Helen Inch are Bell Ringers.



Left to right - Peter Welch, Kevin Johnston, Elmer Butt, Ken Bray, Jan Ashall, Bruce Moor, Helen Inch, Paul Merritt, Enid Merritt, Jenn Cull, Margie Hennen, Pauline Owen, Jean Wuensch.

The committee meets with Paul to discuss and plan all aspects of the music programmes. The music for Sunday worship services is the most visible, but the activities of the two Handbell Choirs, the Gone Fishing music programme, the Teen singers, the Children's Choir, the Instrumental soloists who augment the music at worship services, the Teen Musical the Children's Musical, as well as the numerous concerts which take place during the year, all receive consideration from the committee. They take responsibility for budgets and new purchases as well as scholarship funds like the Rudy Eberhard Vocal Scholarship, the Clarke Wilson Music apprenticeship and the Barbara Eberhard Music Trust Fund.

What draws the committee together and motivates their decisions is their shared love of music and their enthusiasm for the place of music in worship in First-St. Andrew's, and the church's reputation for outreach into the community through concerts and other programmes of high quality.

DID YOU KNOW?

- **Kerry Hill has been appointed Executive Director of Westminster College**
- **The Crèche display can be seen in the Lower Hall on Sunday December 10th.**

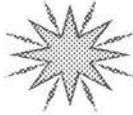
CHRISTMAS

By Fryke Oostenbrug

The stillness has fallen all around,
A day embraced in the evening, I found
The darkness not a hindrance this time.
Ready, gladly, I listen to distant church bells chime.

There is something about Christmas Day
Oh, let it live in my heart I pray.
Let it live with that same jubilant glory
As it was told to me in that very old story;

When so many years ago that night
God used a star shining so brilliant so bright,
Among all the others to guide them
Who answered the call to go out and find Him



IF GOD GRANTS YOU 70 YEARS

From St. Anne's Church, Toronto

If God granted you 70 years of life, you would spend:

24 years sleeping	4 years in conversation
14 years working	3+ years in education
8 years in amusement	3 years reading
6 years at the dinner table	3 years at the television
5 years in transportation	

If you went to Church every Sunday and prayed
5 minutes every morning and night,
you would be giving God
5 months of your life.

Changes...

**First-St. Andrew's United Church: a Christian
Ministry nurturing spiritual growth through
worship, fellowship, learning and action**

BAPTISMS

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

Barbara Elizabeth Bentley
Jennifer Catherine Bentley
Maggie Anne Freeman
Joshua John Paiva Fuller
Andrew John MacDonald
Madeline Mitchell MacDonald

Next Baptism - January 28, 1996

DEATHS

"Well done good and faithful servant!"

W. Harvey Bailey	June 28
Randy Wayne Peaker	July 1
Harold Arnold (Len) Leonard	August 24
Dorothy Lilian MacRae	August 30
Kenneth Turville MacFarlane	September 7
Margaret Isabella Mary McArthur	September 17
Sonja Hertlein	October 21

GOODBYE & GODSPEED

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

Heather Eaman Feeney
Jan Millson

MARRIAGES

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

June 25	Patricia Lyn Pommer Dean Jorge Elieff
July 15	April Elaine Smith Alan Vincent Blois
July 15	Theresa May Jarrett Scott Douglas Martin
July 22	Anita Ringdorfer Peter John Zsebik
August 19	Elizabeth Louise Smith William Jeffery Spencer
August 26	Carolyn Ann Jones Martin Max Natterer
September 2	Heather Joanne Whaley Maxwell John Lloyd
September 9	Donna Michelle Irwin Peter William Rothwell
September 16	Heather Dawn Schneider Gordon Keith Guild
September 23	Laura Elaine Deane Murray James Schumacher
September 30	Sherry Lynn Robertson Brian Michael Hagemeyer
September 30	Martha Isobel Cram Stefan Charles Nowak
October 7	Katherine Wendy Lee Switzer Brian William Hayward
October 7	Jennifer Lynne Wilson Jason Todd O'Neill
October 21	Collee Constance Benoit Donald Samuel Moore

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Every Sunday, following our 11:00 a.m. worship, the congregation is invited to remain after service for refreshment and the deepening of friendship. 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.

Co-ordinator: Donna Fraleigh (672-6116).

RIDES FOR SENIORS

Al and Grace MacIntosh have the responsibility of arranging rides to church for seniors who would otherwise not be able to join us on Sunday morning.

Call them at 472-2408 if you are a senior or know a senior in need of Sunday transportation, or if you would be prepared to drive.



MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Preparation for marriage is important because marriage is important - to

the persons involved, to society in general,

and to God. First-St. Andrew's works in co-

operation with Westminster College to offer

classes. The next marriage preparation

sessions will be held February 23-24 and

April 26-27 (Friday night and Saturday) at

Westminster College. Call the church office

or speak to one of the ministers for details.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

A Baptismal preparation session is held prior to every

Baptism (usually the Thursday evening) to further

prepare the parents who are bringing their children for

Baptism. We explore the meaning of Baptism, and

prepare for the Sunday service. The Sacrament of

Baptism will be celebrated January 28. Call the church

office if interested. (679-8182)



SOCIAL ACTION

IS INVOLVED IN...preparing baby layettes, organizing food

collection for the youth Action Centre and St. Paul's Daily Bread Food

Bank, maintaining a furniture cupboard in Farquhar House for the use

of refugees and the impoverished, actively supports ELUCOC in

special projects, works with St. Mary's United Church in support of

the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and occupies a chair on their board,

sends two members to the LIFT Council meetings and more....

FOOD BANK CONTRIBUTIONS

Please keep in mind the Social Action Committee's

food collection for St. Paul's DAILY BREAD Food

Bank. Baskets are provided to collect food every

Sunday. Baby food is also a special need and may be

left at any time. Baskets are placed at front entrances

of the Chapel and Sanctuary on Sunday mornings.

There is a permanent box in the Lower Hall under *The*

Christ of the Breadline mural. Financial contributions are also welcome.

Thank you for helping others!

FURNITURE DONATIONS

People with excess furniture are invited to call Tom Magee (432-6719),

to arrange for pick up. This furniture will be distributed to needy families



BENEVOLENT FUND DONATIONS

Social Action invites donations to the Benevolent Fund to be used at the discretion of the ministers. Donations may be put on the offering plate in an envelope marked Benevolent Fund or given to one of the ministers.

MITTEN TREE

Once again we will set up a Christmas Tree in front of the Chapel to be decorated with offerings of mittens, scarves, toques, of all sizes. These will be distributed to young people through ELUCOC and Women's Community House.

WHITE GIFT SUNDAY

December 10. Social Action invites the young people of the Church School and Gone Fishing to bring unwrapped gifts of non-perishable food, non-violent toys, and clothes (used are fine as long as they are suitable for use as gifts). There will be baskets in the Narthex and Atrium on **December 10th** for collection.

GROUPS FOR FRIENDSHIP & LEARNING

THIRTIYSOMETHING

Are you, or have you ever been, thirtysomething? Do you enjoy an informal, fun-loving atmosphere? Do you need to unwind on a Friday evening or perhaps find an outlet for your creative energies? Do you enjoy variety in recreational activities and, in particular, do you enjoy festive meals? If so, it sounds like Thirtysomething is the group for you! Contact Richard Dimmen(641-8587), or Ann MacPhail (645-8867), for the details of our next gathering.

BIFOCALS

Come and enjoy good food, warm fellowship and varied programmes on **Tuesdays, November 28 and January 23**, at 6:30 p.m. in the Lower Hall. Interested? Phone Corinne or Ralph King (471-0139).



HAVA JAVA 'N JUICE

An informal group for parents and preschoolers offering networking and support **Tuesday mornings, 9:30-11:00.** Contact Liz Galbraith (471-3439).



UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

First-St. Andrew's has three units meeting monthly as follows:

- the first **Thursday** at 7:30 p.m. in the Church Parlour;
- the second **Wednesday** at 9:30 a.m. at I Grosvenor Gate;
- the third **Tuesday** at 7:30 p.m. in the Church Parlour.

New members are always welcome. Contact the U.C.W. president, Lorna Kilb (432-9938), for more details.

WOMEN'S DECADE GROUP

The Decade Group welcomes you to join them at 7:30 on **Tuesday November 28** at the home of Pauline Owen to learn about feminine spirituality.

Information: Dorothy McPhedran (471-9662)

ECUMENICAL DECADE CHURCHES IN SOLIDARITY WITH WOMEN 1988-1998



Focus: Hebrews. This epistle calls us to a renewed and exciting faith in times of personal despair and apathy. Bring us your questions and your insights as together we seek to discern the message of this disputed new Testament letter with its very good news for our times.



Facilitator: JoAnn Silcox (642-2152)

KERYGMA IN DEPTH

Kerygma offers a thematic approach to the Bible, giving a "whole Bible" grasp of the book we generally read and study in bits and pieces. Ten themes involve the interaction of God and people in both Old and new Testaments. Meets the second Tuesday of each month in the ParLOUR.

Leadership: JoAnn Silcox (642-2152)

MARRIAGE BUILDER WORKSHOPS

These workshops have met with very positive response and are an important offering both to our own members and to the community. We offer these in partnership with the Tillmann Mental Health Services of St. Joseph's Health Centre. The facilitator is Peter Gray, Marriage and Family Therapist. Watch for detailed brochures and Announcements for dates - or let us know the time you prefer.

Further information: Manon Jackson Tyler (679-8182)

DREAMS - BIBLICAL DREAMS AND OUR DREAMS

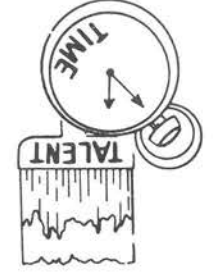
In Bible times, people believed that God spoke in their dreams and revealed to them truth and purpose. Does God speak in our dreams? What would God have us know? How do we find God's meaning in the craziness of the dream's imagery? Five Monday evenings, January 15, 22, 29, February 5 and 12. Cost: \$25 for the series.

CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

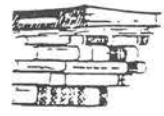
The Christian Development Committee invites gifts of money to this fund so that children and young people of our congregation may be assured of participation in programs or events requiring funding, such as: Gone Fishing; Youth Retreats; Leadership Training events; Kairos; Camps; Conference Events. Your help is always appreciated.

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

"The gifts of all for the needs of all" Thanks to all of you who were able to fill out or update the yellow volunteer sheets included with the Fall Stewardship program. The gifts that we offer enable groups and committees in the church to do God's work in our congregation and community. Thank you for sharing your time, talent and energy. Co-chairs: Lesley Pergau (434-2490) Bob Slater (642-7949)



LIBRARY Books, magazines and videos for all ages. Come in, browse and borrow. Chair, Diane Knoppert, (668-4063)



PASTORAL CARE AND OUTREACH

In addition to the hospital visiting and crisis counselling done by the full-time paid accountable ministers on staff, pastoral care is offered in a variety of ways:

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

At present our team consists of about twenty-four members who offer additional care and support to our shut-ins, to those who are ill or bereaved or in a special kind of need. They visit every month or two. If you know of anyone who needs extra support or if you are one who could offer the support, please call Catharine Moore (679-8182).



RAINBOWS

Rainbows is effective support programmes for children and adults who have experienced death, divorce, separation, or abandonment. First-St. Andrew's is currently working in co-operation with Robinson Memorial and Colborne Street United Churches, sharing facilitators, resources and space. There are 3 adult groups and 2 children's groups in process now. If you know someone who would benefit from such a programme, please contact Catharine about the 1996/97 series. (679-8182)

OUR SENIORS AND THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

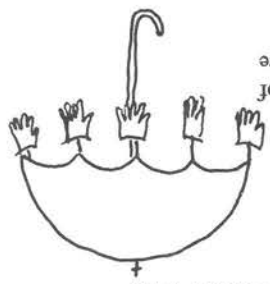
The Rev. Herb Womfor has recently retired from his position as Visitation Minister. We are indebted to him for his faithful service. We welcome the Rev. Jack McKay, a member of our congregation, who will continue this much-appreciated ministry. There are approximately 90 people with whom Jack will keep in touch.

COUNSELLING TEAM

Under the direction of the Ministerial Staff who provide individual spiritual direction to those seeking help where requested, the Counselling Service is staffed voluntarily by three members of the congregation whose professional training and daily work experience is in the counselling context. Mr. Kerry Hill, a management consultant and career counsellor, provides personal counselling and detailed vocational assessment by appointment when mutually convenient. Mrs. Ardath Finnbogason-Hill, a nurse-educator with considerable experience in personal counselling, and Dr. JoAnn Silcox, a psychologist, work as a team to provide initial assessment and follow-through counselling for individuals, couples, families or groups facing personal transitional crises. Referrals may be made through Ardath Hill at (657-3116 or 657-3000). Please feel free to contact the ministerial staff for further details or speak to any of the counsellors directly. Meetings are monthly by appointment.

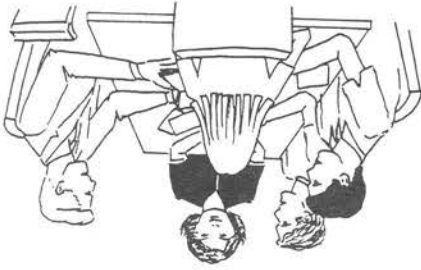
GOOD NEIGHBOURS TEAM

This is a new venture in caring for our congregation being developed by Membership and Nurture, under the leadership of Louise Slater (642-7949) and Gertrude Bergey (675-1207). The Team will offer support to people needing: Post-hospital support Linking Hands-on-help Driving The Good Neighbour Team is in the process of being developed. Volunteers, suggestions, are welcome.



DIAL-A-PRAYER

For a moment of meditation in a busy or a quiet day, please call our Dial-A-Prayer at 439-6838. Anyone who can contribute prayers or a devotional message is asked to call Jim Hendry (471-8492).



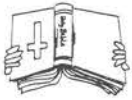
Co-ordinators: Bev Lindsay and Margaret Taylor (433-2908)

OUR PURPOSE: To look to the Bible to inform and strengthen us for daily living and to get to know others in the congregation. *WE WISH YOU WOULD JOIN US!*

THIRD SET: April 11 to May 2 plus a Closing Time on May 9
 This plan allows us to participate in special events and programs at the church for Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter.

SECOND SET: January 11 to February 15 plus the Ash Wednesday Service on February 21.

FIRST SET: winds up on November 30 with a conversation about The Gospel of Matthew. We would be delighted to have you join in.



THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY
 9:30 a.m. in the Parour.
THE NEW PLAN IS UNDERWAY!

HALLELUJAH!
 Join Stephen Adams and Charlotte Ann Bell for a musical approach to Bible Study for the Advent season. The Kerygma "Hallelujah" resource will be used to prompt discussion after listening to relevant portions of Handel's *Messiah*. Four consecutive Sundays, 12:30-2:00 p.m. (bring your lunch) beginning Sunday, November 26.

To help re-focus the craziness of Christmas on Christ...

ADULT DEVELOPMENT

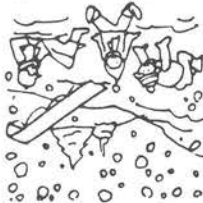
available from Youth Leaders and the Church Office. their biggest event of the year. Registration Forms and more information available from Youth Leaders and the Church Office.

enhances leadership development in an alcohol and drug free environment. The Christmas Conference is About Life, People and Human Achievement and ages 14-24. Toc Alpha means "Taking On Concerns" for young people Cost \$220.00 plus transportation. For young people Bus service available. \$30.00 return

TOC ALPHA CHRISTMAS CONFERENCE

December 27-30 Valhalla Inn, Kitchener
 Registration Deadline: January 28. Cost: probably \$42.00

at Pearce Williams Christian Centre, Fingal, Ontario.
 Includes: theme topic, games, music, food, indoor/outdoor activities, vespers, morning watch, worship and free time! Pray for snow! Registration Forms will be available from Sunday Youth Leaders and the Church Office.



WINTER RETREAT FOR ALL TEENS
The Year's Favourite Big Event!



PANCAKE SUPPER
 Tuesday, February 20 6 p.m.
 A great way to celebrate Shrove Tuesday.
 Sponsored by FSA Youth.
 Includes Music!
 Adults \$4.00, Children \$3.00

During Worship on Sunday, December 10, the teens will be presented with Bibles - a Christian's most valuable resource. Following worship, the teens, their parents and sponsors will be invited for lunch and learning about the programme preparing for Confirmation.

Which line is new?
 (Find a member of the Teen Confirmation Class for help.)

*"We are called to be the Church:
 to celebrate God's presence,
 to live with respect in creation,
 to love and serve others,
 to seek justice and resist evil,
 to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
 our Judge and our hope."*

section now reads:
 interesting because a new line has been added to our Creed. The middle means to be Christian and a part of the church. This is particularly the focus of its study of that it uses the United Church Creed as



CONFIRMATION CLASS

United Church Calendars are for sale, available from the group and the Church Office. \$5.00
 Annual Candlelighting Service 9:15 a.m.
 December 10 in the Chapel.
 Leaders: Joan Beavers, Heather Carter(657-8759), Melody Salton.



CANADIAN GIRLS IN TRAINING
 for GIRLS ages 12-17

SUNDAY MORNING YOUTH GROUP
 returns to normal with Choir at 9 a.m., then SNACK and TALK at 9:30 a.m. (\$1.00). Get yourselves up to the UPPER ROOM, our own space. Play table tennis and music. Visit! Talk about Teen stuff! Leaders: Lionel Morse and the group! (438-8109)



Tickets available at Coffee & Conversation or the Church Office.

LIGHTSHINE

Costs:
 Musical: Adults \$5.00 Children \$3.00
 Lunch: To be announced.
 Tickets available at Coffee & Conversation or the Church Office.

Saturday, November 25 8 pm, Lower Hall
 Sunday, November 26 1 pm, Lower Hall

FSA YOUTH PRESENT ANOTHER MUSICAL "LIGHTSHINE"

YOUTH MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CRADLE ROLL

We have welcomed 7 babies so far this year. Since the last *Things* we have greeted Joshua Fuller and Andrew MacDonald. Be sure to let the church know when baby arrives so messages from GROWING IN GOD'S LOVE package can be sent to celebrate special events in baby's life to age three.

Co-ordinator: Nancy Stanlick, (451-9491).

CHURCH SCHOOL AND NURSERIES

For all children of the church, from the Infant Nursery to Grade Six.

A WARM AND COMMITTED STAFF WELCOMES ALL CHILDREN!

UNIT III - COME WALK WITH US

takes us through the celebrations of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, from December 3 to January 14, 1996.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY SUNDAYS

December 24 and 31 will plan special church school programs.

Nurses available as usual.

UNIT IV - HOLY GROUND

continues with the Season of Epiphany, ending with Shrove Tuesday and the Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 20, 1996 at 6 p.m. in the Lower Hall.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SECRET PALS

For "Adults" and Children Grades 3-6.

Purpose:

To encourage friendships between the generations To help children and adults get to know each other

To have fun and to have a "secret"

One of the adults in last year's programs said, "I hope we can keep in touch for a long time. It has shown me that age does not matter when we participate in sharing and caring."

If you would like to be a "secret pal" correspondent this year, contact Penny Hove, Co-ordinator, (657-1887). Messages are exchanged through the Secret Pal Mailbox. Identities revealed next spring.

GONE FISHING

Gone Fishing is a unique programme for children in Grades 1-6 offering a combination of choir, musical instruments, Christian education, worship and fellowship. During Advent the children will participate in worship services around the Lighting of the Advent Candles and then on Christmas Eve they will give leadership in the Family Service at 7 p.m.

The second term of Gone Fishing will begin Wednesday January 17th and go until April 24 with a two week break (March 6 and 13). The programme begins at 4 pm in the Fireside Room with welcoming games and snack and concludes at 7 p.m. following Worship in the Chapel.

Supper is an important part of the Gone Fishing experience. We count on the parents to help us with this part of the programme. A sign up sheet will be available for the first few gatherings—we ask you to help twice a term, once as leader and once as helper.

Participation Fee: 1 child

\$31.00

2 children

\$29.50 each

3 children

\$28.00 each

(The Participation Fee covers only the cost of food for the suppers).

Christian Development Scholarship Funds are available.

Co-ordinators: Paul Merritt and Marion

Jackson Tyler (679-8182)

POP 'N POPCORN

About once a month, girls and boys in Grades 5,

6 and 7 get together on a Friday evening for

FUN! The next two scheduled outings are

skating at Victoria Park on January 12 and

toboggaming on February 16.

Coordinators: Janice & Jim Elliot (657-7183),

Sharon & Dennis Lunau (472-2099), Virginia & Bob Rogan (472-4137)

POLKA DOT DAYS

When it is a PD Day at school, it's a Polka Dot Day at the Church.

Christian learning is encouraged by creative, active programming.

Circles express love and community — Polka Dots are fun circles. Polka

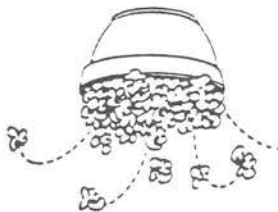
Dot Days will be Friday February 16 and Friday May 10.

Watch Announcements and Posters for theme and plans.

Cost: \$20 for one day, \$35 for both.

Registration Forms will be available at the Church Office.

Polka Dot Days



Leaders: Heather Huston, Paul Huston, Pat Pauli, Liz Galbraith, Karen Knight, Charlie Bell, Marion Jackson Tyler.

9:15 NEW THIS YEAR! This early morning Church School provides a second choice for your family to participate in learning and worship. For JK to Grade 6. The curriculum follows the same lectionary themes as the 11 o'clock program but the format accommodates a smaller, broad-age group. By following the same curriculum, it enables children to move between the two Church School times. We begin in the Chapel with parents and then head to the Kindergarten and Music Rooms for our programme.

THE AT HOME PAKS for these special church seasons are included in this mailing for families with children. Wonderful ideas for families! Take a look and try them!

First-St. Andrew's Ministry
 All of the people and
 The Rev. Dr. Frank Meadows
 The Rev. Catherine Moore
 The Rev. Jack McKay
 Paul Merritt
 Emily Woods Marion Jackson Tyler
 Susan Brown Pat Sole Jim Gagnon

A CELEBRATION OF SONG
 The Amabile Youth Singers
 Sunday, December 17, at 2:30 & 7:30 p.m. (\$10 & \$8)

DELICACIES FROM THE OLD WORLD
 The Aeolian Winds
 Wednesday, January 31, at 8:00 p.m. (\$12 & \$8)

WITH VOICE, PIPE AND STRING
 A Concert Featuring the Vocal Soloists of First-St. Andrew's
 Guest Artists Fiona Wilkinson, Flute & Deborah Pardy, Piano
 Sunday, February 11, at 3 p.m. (\$8 & \$6)



FRIDAY ADVENT NOON RECITALS
 12:00-12:30 p.m. (Free will offering)
 Lunch (\$4.50) is served following

CONCERT SERIES
 Through the generous support of "Friends of Music", First-St. Andrew's
 sponsors an excellent Concert Series which presents a wide variety of
 musical programs as an outreach to the community.



All of our handbell choirs will play during services in Christmastide. In addition, the Laudamus Handbell Choir will perform the first of our Advent Noon Recitals on December 1 and the Mixed Pealers will perform at the University on December 5.

THE HANDBELL CHOIRS
 Service.

THE GONE FISHING CHOIR
 The children will participate in the Advent Lessons and Carols Service, as well as leading the music at the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service.

THE YOUTH CHOIR
 The Youth Choir is busily preparing a musical, *Lightshine*, for presentation on November 25 & 26. Plan now to come and support our young people in this project to raise funds for M & S. The Choir will also provide special music at the annual C.G.L.T. Candlelighting Service on December 10 at 9:15 a.m.

THE SENIOR CHOIR
 The choir looks forward to the music of this season more than any other and will have ample opportunity to sing carols and other music at the annual Advent Lessons and Carols service on December 3 and the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. On Sunday, December 24, we will be joined by a brass quartet for other seasonal music.

THE YOUTH CHOIR
 The Youth Choir is busily preparing a musical, *Lightshine*, for presentation on November 25 & 26. Plan now to come and support our young people in this project to raise funds for M & S. The Choir will also provide special music at the annual C.G.L.T. Candlelighting Service on December 10 at 9:15 a.m.

MUSIC

WORSHIP

Our regular times of worship are 9:15 a.m. in the chapel and 11:00 a.m. in the main sanctuary. Once a month we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion in the chapel at 8:30 a.m. Come and worship with us, and invite others to come with you.

Christ also approaches and his light shines more brightly within us. he comes at Christmas. As Winter approaches and the days darken, St. Andrew's. The happy, busy days of Advent will help us be ready when by taking part in worship. We invite you to join us as we worship at First- sing. One of the ways in which we prepare to receive the Holy Child is "Let every heart prepare him room" - a familiar line from a carol we love

December 3 9:15 & 11 a.m.
 First Sunday in Advent
 Lessons and Carols

December 10 9:15 a.m.
 Second Sunday in Advent
 C.G.L.T. Candlelighting Service
 Offering of White Gifts
 Preacher - Frank Meadows

December 17 9:15 & 11 a.m.
 Third Sunday in Advent
 Preacher - Catherine Moore
 "Blue Christmas" service

December 24 9:15 & 11 a.m.
 Fourth Sunday in Advent
 Preacher - Frank Meadows
 Christmas Eve Family Service -
 Christmas Story in Drama and Music
 broadcast on CFPL-AM
 Candlelight Communion,
 Preacher - Frank Meadows

December 31 11:00 a.m.
 The Sunday after Christmas
 Preacher - Rick Bam

January 7 9:15 & 11 a.m.
 Epiphany Sunday
 Preacher - Frank Meadows

January 14 9:15 & 11 a.m.
 Second Sunday after Epiphany
 Preacher - Frank Meadows

January 21 9:15 & 11 a.m.
 Third Sunday after Epiphany
 The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
 Pulpit exchange with the Rev. Dr. Les
 Files, New St. James Presbyterian Church

January 28 9:15 & 11 a.m.
 Christian Development Week at FSA
 The service will be conducted by Marion
 Jackson Tyler and Emily Woods.
 The Sacrament of Baptism will be
 administered at the 11 o'clock service.

February 4 9:15 & 11 a.m.
 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
 Preacher - Frank Meadows

February 11 9:15 & 11 a.m.
 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
 Preacher - Frank Meadows

February 18 9:15 & 11 a.m.
 The Last Sunday after Epiphany
 The Sunday of the Transfiguration
 Preacher - Frank Meadows

MUSIC

NEW MINISTRY

- "Good Neighbours" Could you drive someone to see the Christmas Lights?
- Could you do emergency babysitting?
- Could you shop for a recent hospital patient?

See Page 5 "Good Neighbours Team"

CHURCH FAMILY EVENTS


- **Lightshine - Teen Musical**
Saturday November 25 - 8 pm
Sunday November 26 - 1 pm
- **Pancake Supper with Entertainment**
Tuesday February 20 - 6 pm

INSIDE

- 2 Worship
- 2 Music
- 3 Children's Ministry
- 4 Youth Ministry
- 4 Adult Development
- 5 Pastoral Care & Outreach
- 6 Social Action
- 6 Friendship & Learning

Dear Friends,

I'll be home for Christmas; you can count on me.
Please have snow, and mistletoe and presents on the tree.



As with every popular song, the above lines reveal what we treasure and long for most. We hope for snow [a little bit, at least!] on Christmas Day. And what would Christmas be without a sprig of mistletoe, and a tree with presents heaped underneath. But the word that touches us most deeply is 'home'. It's hard to imagine spending Christmas alone, away from loved ones, away from home.

Buses, trains, and airplanes are booked to capacity at this time of year. University students, young singles who have gone to the city to work, everyone who can will be making plans to be home for Christmas.

Less obvious, but no less real, is the deep sense of longing that some of us feel. Our world doesn't feel comfortable anymore. We didn't leave home as much as home seems to have left us. Virtues and values that we used to take for granted are scorned and neglected. Like the exiles long ago in far off Babylon we cry "How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" [Psalm 137] They longed to go home to a Jerusalem that was no longer there. We long to go home to the world of our childhood which is no longer there, except in our memory.

It is into such a world that God came, a world in which people felt alienated, out-of-joint, far from the remembered home of days gone by. Because we could not find our way home again, God came to make a home with us, to make a home within our hearts, so that wherever we are, however lost we may feel, we can be at home with God. And the peace and the joy, and all that we hope to find at home will be given to us by God who comes to be at home with us.

Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. [Rev. 3:20]

Wherever we are this Christmas, may we be at home with God, and may there be peace and joy in our hearts.

Yours
Paul Catherine
Jack Family

