

Tidings

First-St. Andrew's United Church

VOLUME 7 ● NUMBER 1

LENT, HOLY WEEK, EASTER 1997



GETTING TO KNOW THE CRAMS

By Elaine Wilton



Elaine Wilton

Attending church on Sunday sometimes becomes a bit of a reunion for the Cram family. With three generations of Crams attending First-St. Andrew's, there is often an opportunity for the children to sit with their grandparents, or for brothers, and cousins to share news after the service.

It was the family atmosphere of the church that drew Brian and Jan Cram back to First-St. Andrew's upon their return to London four years ago. That, along with the excellence in ministry and music has kept them strong supporters of this church.

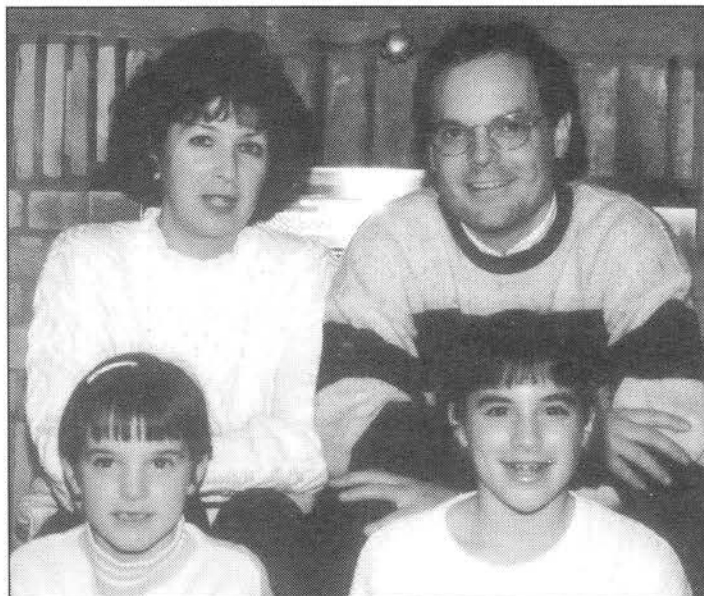
Both Londoners, Jan and Brian have known each other since childhood. In fact, they grew up ten houses apart, and Brian's father was Jan's pediatrician. Upon graduation from Western, Jan taught high school for the Wellington County Board of Education. They married in 1984 and Brian worked for Electrohome in the Kitchener-Waterloo area. With the arrival of the children, Jan became a "stay-at-home mom," caring for daughters Natalie and Danielle.

In 1991, Brian accepted a position with Cuddy International, and the family moved back to London. Currently in his role as executive vice-president with Cold Springs Farm, Brian is responsible for their meat-processing business which keeps him very busy and requires a fair bit of travel. Nevertheless, he serves on the FSA Stewardship Committee where he is involved with the Vision Fund.

When Jan began driving the girls to Gone Fishing four years ago, she decided she should stay and help with the program. Today, she is the Kitchen Coordinator for Gone Fishing, in charge of organizing all of the meals. She finds it a great way to meet other people and also be involved in her daughters' activities.

Natalie 11, and Danielle 7, are both members of the Gone Fishing Choir. Although this is Natalie's last year in the program, she hopes to return as an assistant. Right now she is enjoying the mystery of her church "Secret Pal" with whom she has been corresponding over the past year.

Both girls take piano and swimming lessons and are involved in soccer, as well as arts and crafts. In winter the whole family enjoys skiing, either at Collingwood or at Byron where the girls take ski lessons.



Jan, Brian, Danielle and Natalie Cram

The time they all cherish, however, is their summer vacation at McGregor Bay in the north channel of Georgian Bay. It is a back-to-nature experience with no telephones, plenty of fresh air, clean water, friends, and (Danielle points out) an ice cream store!

Perhaps this vacation time is something like church time — an opportunity to reunite with family and friends and find spiritual refreshment.

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GONE FISHING CHOIR VISITS SYNAGOGUE

By Heather Gunn, age 10



Heather Gunn

On Wednesday, November 20, the Gone Fishing Choir went to a Jewish Synagogue. We had a guided tour by Mr. Silver. First we hung up our coats and Mr. Silver told the boys to put on a special hat that they would wear in the service. Then he showed us their Bible. They read from the back of a book to the front and from right to left on the page, exactly opposite to us. On the page there is Hebrew, then beside it there is English. Then he showed us

the scrolls. They are in a special place called an ark. (It looks nothing like Noah's ark.) In the ark, the scrolls are dressed like kings with robes and crowns and everything. The ark is on the wall that faces Jerusalem. They always pray facing Israel. Thanks to Mr. Silver we had a lot of fun.

Leader's note: To say "thank you" to Mr. Silver, we sang Shalom Chevarim. He said our Hebrew was perfect!



Gone Fishing Choir hosted the Christmas Eve Family Service

Tidings

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Info-Line

INCOME TAX RECEIPT MAY BE ENCLOSED

Please check your Tidings envelope for a sealed envelope containing your tax receipt.

ANNUAL MEETING - FEBRUARY 9 - 1 P.M.

Enjoy a sandwich lunch after church. Hear and see the good news of 1996. Participate in decisions affecting our future.

FSA HOSTS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE - FRIDAY MARCH 7 - 2:00 P.M.

Follows first noon Lenten Recital and luncheon. Bob Crawford, just back from Korea, will speak. Nursery care provided. Reception follows in Lower Hall.

HERB WONFOR'S BACK ON THE JOB

Thanks to Jack McKay for his wonderful contribution to FSA seniors and shut-ins as Minister of Visitation. Welcome back to Herb Wonfor as he continues Jack's work.

FSA DIRECTORY - 52 PAGES! COLOUR!

Will be available soon. Free to participants and new members. Others may purchase a copy for \$5.00

LOVED ONES REMEMBERED

Flowers may be placed in the chapel/sanctuary in memory of loved ones. For available dates, please refer to the flower calendar in the Atrium Lobby. Call the church office(679-8182) by Monday, March 24 if you wish to place Easter lilies.

HOLLY BAZAAR A SUCCESS

UCW community outreach projects were assured when the profits from the Holly Bazaar were counted. \$7,200! Many people worked together for this result. Thanks to all.

OBSERVER RENEWAL TIME HAS ARRIVED

To start or renew monthly home delivery of *The Observer*, place \$10 in an envelope. Print "Observer" and "your name" on it before placing it on the offering plate or getting it to the church office.

APRIL 19 UCW RECYCLING PROJECT

UCW Spring Rummage Sale offers us the opportunity to recycle items we are no longer using.



Our Veterans on Remembrance Sunday at FSA, November 10, 1996

GODSPELL...or GOD'S SPELL...or GOSPEL...or GOOD NEWS

By Wendy Ewert



The production of this musical at First-St. Andrew's was indeed surrounded by an energy that kept things exciting and buoyant right from the beginning. I think the only regret we actors have is that we didn't do a longer run! The excitement and enthusiasm that was felt by cast, crew and audience was truly magical.

Godspell the musical is special in and of itself because it tells the story of Christ in a way that very much makes it feel like Good News. There is humour and innocence, wonder and delight. There is also pain and suffering and death. But in this truly inspired version, directed by George Jolink, there is resurrection, hope and joy.



The FSA production of Godspell was special for many reasons, and I could share memories like: the popcorn bag, which Liz was to sweep up at the beginning of act two, and always seeming to disappear; Jim, getting his props hopelessly caught up in his coat pockets; Chris, as the elder brother ("Aw, c' mon!"); Dale, hysterically funny as the Jewish father; Annaka's incredibly beautiful and expressive eyes; Kaitlin, stuffing her face with eclairs; Dana, bopping around as the valley girl ("Whatever!"); Deborah, ("No Deborah, you're supposed to be over *here!*"); me, taking ten minutes to come out of the change room the first time I wore my costume; Peter, singing "All For the Best" faster than Angela could play it; Kevin, galloping around in hot pursuit of Deborah; and Kerry, as the servant with the news ("Nope, nope and nope...")

From my own perspective, however, I would choose to speak about the spell that was cast over all the people involved. There was a bond of connection and communication that many of us felt, and that audience members are still commenting upon. Part of that can be

attributed to the nature of the show - a relatively small cast dealing with religious themes - but I don't think this entirely explains it. Good acting? Good singing? Good direction? Good tech support? Good publicity? Yes, all these elements, and more, made Godspell work.

But I still have a haunting feeling that all those things were bound by something else - something that wove those elements into a complete picture. As I write this, I am reminded of opening night at 7:45 when the cast stood with linked hands and bowed heads and tears in our eyes as George prayed: "Lord, we do this for thee."

Perhaps we were blessed by the spell of God.



WILL YOU BECOME A FRIEND OF MUSIC AT FSA?

By Jan Ashall, Chair of Music Committee

This is the nineteenth season for the *Music at First-St. Andrew's* Concert Series. This series is co-ordinated and managed by Paul Merritt who reports to the Music Committee. The Concert Series continues to be self-supporting and operates independently of the Church Council, and is entirely funded by the Friends of Music.

Friends of Music at First-St. Andrew's are people in our church and community who contribute financially to enable our Christian witness in the community to continue to flourish and provide the benefits of quality music to London and beyond. With this financial help the series is able to continue on a non-profit basis, keeping ticket prices as low as possible. Our Concert Series presents a wide variety of musical programs including organ

recitals, vocal concerts, choral/orchestral programs and instrumental recitals as a musical outreach to the community.

While our 1996/97 series has already featured many wonderful events, the culmination of the season will be the concert "Heaven and Earth" in which the combined forces of our own Senior Choir, soloists, and orchestra will present sacred music of Franz Schubert and a secular folk song cycle by John Rutter.

Will you become a *Friend of Music* at First-St. Andrew's? Enclose your cheque in an envelope marked **Friends of Music** and place it on the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Your contributions are tax deductible and we will know that we have your support in this special ministry.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

From the Mission & Service Committee

The Mission & Service Fund is one of the most efficient charitable enterprises in Canada. The actual cost to promote and process the Fund is less than 3% of the total received. This efficiency means that over 97% of all donations is used to put the Mission & Service Fund into action.



Ross McMullen

COUNCIL REPORTS TO YOU

By Ross McMullen
Chair of Council (438-0668)

Since the last issue of Tidings, we have had one council meeting and a congregational meeting. At the Congregational Meeting, we elected ten people from First-St. Andrew's as a Pastoral Relations Committee to fill the vacancy of Director of Christian

Development and Volunteer Management. There are also two appointees from Presbytery. We will miss Emily and Marion when they retire at the end of June. This committee certainly has its work cut out for it.

To improve our communications to the community around First-St. Andrew's, Jan Ashall, on behalf of the Music Committee, has recommended that we install an appropriate sign to provide space for changeable messages, or to modify the present sign to provide for a similar effect. A committee was established to bring a final recommendation to Council.

Representing First-St. Andrew's in the community and the world are two of our younger members. Pamela Commodore will represent us on Mayor Dianne Haskett's "Poverty Action Committee" and Chris Silcox will represent the United Church of Canada as a steward at the World Alliance of Reform Churches meeting, to be held in Hungary in August 1997. Congratulations you two, and thank you.

At First-St. Andrew's we are doing most everything very well indeed. If there is a soft spot, it is in our ability to finance our objectives. Looking to the future, our Stewardship Committee and our Board of Trustees have established a Vision Fund Committee which will be a sub-committee of Trustees. Its concern is our long term financial health. Council has received a report from this committee, has provided input, and is looking forward to hearing from them again early in the new year.

The direction that our Vision takes us in the years ahead is the mandate of our Strategic Planning Committee. Much work has gone into this over the past two years, spearheaded by Jack Hillier. On Saturday, November 30, Jack spent a full day with the committee and then wrote the first draft of the report, which has been distributed to the members. They met on January 6 to finalize the report which was distributed to Council on January 14. A special meeting of Council was called for January 21 to hear the final version, to discuss and to determine the course of action to be followed. I trust that this will in fact lead to a presentation at the Annual Meeting on **February 9, 1997**.

The next Council Report in Tidings will be written by our new chairperson, Annabelle Logan. I am delighted that she will be our next chairperson, and as Past Chair, I look forward to working with her. We are very fortunate indeed to have her.

ENSURING THE FUTURE OF FSA

By Paul Wilde

In the last issue of Tidings, I introduced our very talented group, (Picture below) and asked you to watch for many exciting ideas emanating in the future.

Before we share ideas, however, it is important that I define the meaning of Planned Giving as it pertains to the Vision Fund Committee. Although Planned Giving means many things to many people, our definition is as follows: "A planned deferred gift such as a bequest (in a Will), life insurance (death benefits), annuities and trusts."

It is equally important that I share the reason for our existence. The committee was formed out of the concern for the future of our church and the financial support needed to keep the programs we now cherish from being in jeopardy at a future date.



Back Row: Stan Hill, Jim Elliott, Brian Cram
Front Row: Murray Woods, Paul Wilde, Rick Matchett

As a member of the Finance Committee for several years, I have gained first-hand knowledge of the struggle to meet our financial commitments each year. Generally pledges fall short of our objectives. Because of job loss and wage freezes, the family budget is strained and I do not see where there will be significant change in the foreseeable future.

Not only do we have concerns maintaining current programs, but it becomes even more difficult to support new initiatives such as the "Out of the Cold" program. With current government cutbacks to social assistance programs, churches like First-St. Andrew's increasingly will be called upon to fill the void.

The government realizes they can no longer maintain social assistance spending and have provided new tax incentives to encourage gifting through the private sector.

We have a wonderful opportunity to grow through Planned Giving which not only will provide for the ongoing strength of our church but allow it to grow in new, meaningful programs, and increase our social outreach services. This will keep us strong for our children, grandchildren and our local community.

In future articles, the following will be addressed:

- Bequests
- Life Insurance
- Annuities
- Charitable Remainder Trusts

What they are, how they work and taxation pros/cons.

MINISTRY AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

By Don Jones



Back: Augie Meacham, Muriel Hill, Jan Ashall, Paul Pennington
Front: Don Jones, David Pederson, Jan Hendry

The Ministry and Personnel Committee of First-St. Andrew's United Church consists of seven members appointed by the Church Council. They are David Pederson, *Chair*, Donald Jones, *Chair elect*, Jan Ashall, Jan Hendry, Muriel Hill, Augie Meacham, Paul Pennington. The committee is mandated by the United Church to take responsibility for consultative support of the church staff, members and adherents of the Pastoral Charge.

In the regular exercise of its responsibility, matters such as conditions of work, remuneration, relationships with staff and the congregation and among staff members provide the main agenda discussion items in the monthly meetings. The supervision of staff and the annual review of both staff effectiveness and staff position descriptions occupy the committee at specific times of the year. Ensuring appropriate continuing education of church personnel is another important responsibility of the committee.

Most of the work of the committee is done quietly and confidentially. The goal is to achieve an environment of mutual trust where clear messages can be given and received, establishing helpful relationships for the furthering of the Church's ministry and mission. To achieve this, regular and consistent consultation with staff members is essential.

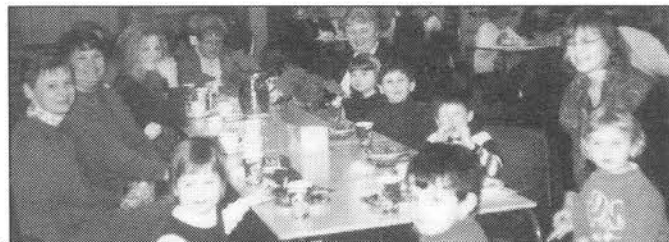
The congregation may direct any comments about personnel to a member of the committee. While the committee will react to requests or concerns, it is not mandated to report directly back to congregation members. Rather, it takes action as required and reports to the Church Council on items requested by it.

Some of the agenda items that have occupied the time of the committee in recent months include Catherine's medical leave, Frank's sabbatical continuing education plans, the resignation of the Rev Jack McKay as Minister of Visitation and the subsequent reappointment of Herb Wonfor to that position following his successful recuperation from surgery. The committee has also studied the new United Church Pastoral Relations process as it affects First-St. Andrew's during the search for new leadership in Christian Development.

The members of the committee are very proud of the excellent, caring and professional staff at the church and feel it a privilege to serve on this vitally important committee.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Beth Bailey represented the community on the Free Press editorial board in January
- Pamela Commodore is serving on the Mayor's task force on poverty
- Chris Silcox will represent the United Church of Canada in Hungary at the World Council of Reformed Churches
- Charlie Thompson has been made a member of the Order of Canada.
- Each member of the Confirmation Class '97 received a Bible from the congregation December 8.



Students from CTEC enjoy Advent Recital at FSA



David Carrothers, Betty Sangster, Frank Meadows at 164th Anniversary

"VOICES UNITED" AS MEMORIAL GIFTS

By June McKay


On November 17, our 164th Anniversary Sunday, 650 new copies of the newly-published hymnal were dedicated. The Trustees graciously funded these, with the understanding that memorials could be designated to repay the funds. The cost of each hymn book is \$25.00.

We suggest three types of dedication: "in memory of", "on the occasion of", and "to the Glory of God."

Envelopes are available in the pews and through the church office. The Worship and Music Committees have done an extensive study of the book, and feel confident that our worship services will be greatly enhanced for years to come.

May we count on your donation?

If you have questions, please call June McKay. (471-5668)

	Presented to First-St. Andrew's United Church
	In Loving Memory of Name of Person
Donated by Name of Member	
November 17, 1996 - Anniversary Sunday	

"Voices United" Dedication Plate

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."

Mitchell Brennan Ballantyne
Jeremy Alexandre Engel
Tyler Charles William Jarrett

Next Baptism: May 11, 1997

DEATHS

"Well done good and faithful servant."

Dorothy Velma Davey	October 27
Margaret Doris Butt	November 14
Brian Charles Baker	December 9
Janet P. Campbell	December 13

GOODBYE & GODSPEED

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

Mrs. A. J. Hodgins
Ada MacDonald Morris
Mary Beth Davies
Penny, Rhico, Hilary & Susan Hove

NEW MEMBERS

"We pray for God's power to help you do all the good things that you hope to do and that your faith makes you want to do"

New Members received November 24, 1996:



Wendy Noble, Elaine Travis, Brian Joyce, Jennifer Field, Cathleen McGinley, *John Bell, *Susan Bell Not Pictured, *Tamara Bernardi

**Received by Confirmation*

Next Reception of New Members - May 4, 1997

MARRIAGES

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

October 13	Jennifer Christine Mansell James Anthony Davies
December 31	Kathie Helen Davis Michael William Osborne
January 11	Dorothy May Keddie Philip John Harrison

Dentistry is not the highly developed profession in Bosnia that it is here in Canada -- most people there avoid the dentist if they possibly can. Soon after the Jozics arrived in Canada, an emergency root canal had to be arranged for Jelena, and our committee was able to cover the unexpected extra cost. Since then, the children have both had visits to the dentist, but their father is still reluctant to go.

The Jozics are very hospitable, welcoming visits from committee members which give them an opportunity to practise English conversation. They speak poignantly of the beautiful country and the many relatives they have left behind. They say Canada is a good country and they are happy to be here.

Thank you, First-St. Andrew's, for your generous support of this undertaking. We have been able to send \$1,643, well in excess of the basic \$1,000 pledged. The sponsorship committee is at this point just a few hundred dollars short of the total needed to complete our responsibility to support the Jozic family to the end of their first year.

ENVIRONMENTAL TIPS

From the Earth Stewardship Committee

Baking soda on a damp sponge will clean tubs, showers, toilets and tile.

SPONSORSHIP PROJECT A COMPLETE SUCCESS

By Marion Johnson

When First-St. Andrew's joined with five other churches last April to sponsor a refugee family from Bosnia, I felt that I had become part of something truly momentous: a project that would affect people's lives in a dramatic way, giving them a new chance at security and prosperity after having lost all they had in the terrible war in former Yugoslavia.

While there have been problems to deal with along the way, this has turned into a very successful undertaking, an example of what churches can accomplish by uniting their energy and resources. It is a joy to support people as charming and conscientious as the Jozic family, who are warmly appreciative of our help, and reluctant ever to ask for anything. They are devout Roman Catholics who have been attending mass at St. Andrew The Apostle Catholic Church with one of our committee members. They have also visited the Croatian Catholic church in London, but it is too far away for them to join. However, they were able to attend a dinner dance at that church, a fun social evening with other Croatians that was a highlight of the fall.

For now, Svetozar and Jelena are focussing their efforts on acquiring English, attending ESL classes 5 days a week while their 3 year old daughter, Matea, goes to the day nursery at the school. She enjoys this so much she misses it on the weekend. Ten year old Mario is registered at St. Michael's Separate School, where he takes a combination of ESL and regular grade 5 classes. Mario has made very rapid progress in learning English, and often acts as interpreter for the rest of the family. The highlight of his week is a Thursday night trip to the Memorial Boys' and Girls' Club for a sports program.

Before winter set in, Sveto had a part time job doing yard maintenance on a country property owned by a member of Siloam United Church. The work and extra money were a valuable morale booster for him. The job will resume in the spring. Any other work experience that congregation members might be able to offer would be very much appreciated.

IS INVOLVED IN... Out of the cold, preparing baby layettes, organizing food collections for the youth Action Centre and St. Paul's Daily Bread, maintaining a furniture cupboard in Farquhar House for the use of refugees and the impoverished, actively supporting ELUCOC in special projects, working with St. Marys United Church in support of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and occupying a chair on their board, sending two members to the LIFT Council meetings, and more...

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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 7-8 and April 25-26, 1997** (Friday night and Saturday), and three Wednesday evenings, 7-10 p.m., **March 5, 12 and 19** at Westminster College. Call the church office or speak to one of the ministers for details.

MARRIAGE 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 administered **May 11** (Mothers' Day). Call the church office if interested. (679-8182)

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION



Every Sunday following our 9:15 and 11:00 a.m. worship services, 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. 9:15 - Liz Galbraith (471-3439)
11:00 - Isabel & Howard Moffatt (439-2960)
Kathleen & Clint Grealis (439-8391)

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION



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).

DIAL-A-PRAYER



Referrals may be made through Ardath Hill at 657-3000. Please feel free to contact the Ministerial staff for further details or speak to any of the counsellors directly.

Kerry Hill, a management consultant and career counsellor, provides personal counselling and detailed vocational assessment by appointment when mutually convenient. Ardath Finbogason-Hill, a nurse-educator with considerable experience in personal counselling, and Jo Ann Silcox, a psychiatrist, work as a team to provide initial assessment and follow-through counselling for individuals, couples, families or groups facing personal transitional crises.

FOOD BANK CONTRIBUTIONS

Please keep in mind the Social Action 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!

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 such as refugees.

BENEVOLENT FUND DONATIONS

The Community Outreach Committee 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.

GROUPS FOR FRIENDSHIP & LEARNING

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

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS



Singles and marrieds who enjoy fun are invited to join with the circle of friends. Children welcome. Saturday, **March 8** - 7:30 p.m. Curling, Saturday, **April 12** - 7:30 p.m. Spirituality; Saturday, **May 10** - 7:30 p.m. Games Night. Please call Richard Dimen (438-4485) or Ann MacPhail (645-8867) so you can be included or for more information.

BIFOCALS

Come and enjoy good food, warm fellowship and varied programs. Mark your calendar - 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays **March 25**; **April 22**; and **May 27**. The final evening will feature a variety show. Guests and new members are always welcome. Call Katharine or Alton Ross (641-6215).

FSA ECUMENICAL DECADE GROUP



From Whence to Where? - Video workshop to celebrate women from the past through the present to the hopes and dreams of tomorrow
Saturday March 15th, 1997 - 9:00 am - 3:30pm - \$10
Contact Phyllis Barnes (667-7022) - Info or Registration.

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 7:30 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

New members are always welcome. Contact the UCW president, Louise McLarty (451-8067), for more information.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

9:30 a.m. in the Parlour

This Winter and Spring we are looking at the scripture readings

that are the basis of the Sunday Service, a wonderful readiness for

Sunday. Each Thursday is different so come any time that you

can. We also plan to read the *Book of Job* privately during the

Winter, then we will discuss it in the spring. WE WISH YOU

WOULD JOIN US!

SEED THAT DIES TO RISE

The United Church's 1997 Daily Devotional Booklet for Lent.

Copies of this booklet will be available for purchase at Coffee &

Conversation and from the Church Office. The material offered

for daily meditation and prayer is based on hymns from *Voices*

United. Stephen Adams, a member of First-St. Andrew's

congregation and choir, is a contributor to this collection.

LAMENT

Where is God in the pain of our lives?

How do Christians deal with grief, anguish or disappointment?

What does Scripture offer us as appropriate vehicles of expressions?

How much power can a Christian give to suffering? Does God

expect us to be nice and control our anger?

This 3 evening Lenten series will use Scripture, video clips, art,

story and ample discussion time to explore these tough questions -

Monday evenings 7:30 - 9:30

February 17, March 3, March 17.

Leadership: Frank Meadows, Marion Jackson Tyler (679-8182)

GETSEMANE VIGIL

Mandy Thursday evening and through the night to Good Friday

We are invited to take seriously Jesus' invitation to "Watch and

Pray" with him during his time of prayer and struggle in the garden.

Suggestions: In preparation, visit the Church Library for a

thought-full book.

Re-read the Scripture - Matthew 26-27 or Mark 14-15 or Luke

22-23 or John 17-19.

Use a favourite way of prayer or meditation to dwell in the

experience of Gethsemane.

DANCING WITH CHANGE

A Workshop for the Congregation April 27 1:15-3:30 p.m.

Facilitator - the Rev. Bill Lord. Bill is currently the Director of

Continuing Education for the Toronto School of Theology and

has long been recognized for his skill in Adult Education. He will

also be sharing in the Worship services with us that day as Frank

leaves to begin his sabbatical.

VISION TV

VISION TV offers a Lenten series *Story-tellers of Faith*. Check

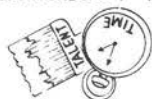
TV Guide Spirit Connection times for details.

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

Check our new Bulletin Board in the Lower Hall! A PICTURE

GALLERY is planned to honour as many of our volunteer activities

as possible. We invite contributions to add pictures to the Board or



PASTORAL CARE

In addition to the hospital visiting and crisis counselling done

by the fulltime paid accountable ministers on staff, pastoral care

is offered in a variety of ways.

OUR MINISTER OF VISITATION

The Rev. Herb Womfor has returned to his former role. Minister

of Visitation, after recovering from heart surgery. We thank the

Rev. Jack McKay for his time, care and attention during his 15

month's tenure, and wish him well as he begins to take retirement

more seriously. Herb takes up where Jack left off, visiting our

seniors living in care facilities or on their own. There are

approximately 90 people with whom Herb keeps in touch.

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

Our Pastoral Care visitors are members of our congregation who

offer ongoing support to our shut-ins, to those who are ill, bereaved

or have special chronic needs. We have about 24 men and women

who visit every six weeks, maintaining contact with members of

our congregation on a regular basis, and especially at birthday

and holiday times. If you know of anyone who needs extra support

or if you are one who could offer the support, please call Catherine

Moore (679-8182).

GOOD NEIGHBOURS TEAM

This is a venture in caring for our congregation under the

leadership of Sheila Alton (663-9522) and Debbie Schram (434-

8189). The Team offers support to people needing post-hospital

support, linking, hands-on help, and driving. Good Neighbour

Team volunteers and suggestions are welcome.

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.

give to a committee member or Emily Woods.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MANY VOLUNTEERS FOR ALL
YOUR GIFTS OF TIME, TALENT & ENERGY!

LIBRARY

The Library has Lenten and Easter books and videos for your

personal reflection or to share at a meeting or gathering. Watch

for displays at Coffee & Conversation, 9:15 & 11:00 a.m., or come

browse in the Library. And check out the new Biblical curtains!

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; Katros; Camps; Conference events. Your help is

always appreciated.

gone fishing

Gone Fishing combines an experience of Christian learning, music, choir, worship and fellowship for children 6 to 12 years of age. We meet **Wednesdays, 4:15-7:00 p.m.**

From January through early Lent, our theme, *Healing Words and Hurting Words*, will involve us in roleplay, moviemaking, and various other activities to explore the power of words. The prayer from Psalm 19 "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you..." along with other Scripture and faith stories will focus our learning. We have plans to share these thoughts in worship in early March.

Our Spring Term will conclude on **April 30** with a Family Potluck Supper. That evening we will recognize participants and graduates and express thanks to the leaders.

POP 'N' POPCORN

About once a month, girls and boys in Grades 5 and 6 get together on a Friday evening for FUN! Here are the plans: **February 28 - Swimming; April 4 - Movie & Pizza Night; May 2 - Mini Golf; June 6 - Mr. Chuckles.** Watch weekly announcements for details of time and place. Or call one of the co-ordinators, Janice & Jim Elliott (657-7183); 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. This year's theme of exploring the festivals and celebrations of the world's faiths and cultures has engaged us in fascinating and fun activities. Polka Dot Days will be:



Friday, February 14 Festivals of the Heart

Wear Red and bring your skates (non-skaters can slide and make snow sculptures) and enjoy crafts, games, cooking and more. **Friday, April 19 Celebrations of Life and New Life!** Egg shell mosaics, windsocks and a beach party lunch. We hope to arrange a visit to a Mosque.



Cost: \$20 for one day; \$35 for both. Registration Forms will be available from tables outside the Chapel and in the Atrium. Also look on the CD Bulletin Board in the Lower Hall.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

SUNDAY MORNING YOUTH GROUP

9:30 a.m.

For all Teens, Grade 7 and up. Following Choir at 9 a.m., these Teens head up to their Upper Room for a snack and program. New leader, Peter Welch, joins Pamela Commodore and Lionel Morise. **All Teens Welcome.**



TEENS IN TRANSIT for Grades 7 & 8

New dynamic group meets at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings in "their room" off the Upper Room. Conversations, games, learnings. Holds fun events at other times too.

PANCAKE SUPPER - SHROVE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1997 6:00 p.m.

Shrove Tuesday became known as Pancake Day because pancakes and other rich foods were prepared on this day to use up forbidden Lenten foods such as fats, eggs and butter. Be ready for the Season of Lent! Come and enjoy our Pancake and Sausage Supper! Entertainment too! Sponsored by the youth of the Church and the Youth Committee.

BEAT THE BLAHS WINTER FUN FEST

Sunday, March 2 4:30-7:00 p.m.

Memorial Boys and Girls Club on Horton Street

FOR EVERYONE IN THE CONGREGATION - ALL AGES! Swimming Pool - "Balls" and "Foam" Rooms - Gym - Games Room (Pool, Table Tennis, Shuffle Board, etc.) And more! Light refreshments available for purchase. No entry fee. Sponsored by Youth and Young Adult Committee.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

March 30 8 a.m. in the Atrium

The Youth of our church plan to lead us in a celebration of the Easter Surprise, early Easter morning in the Atrium. Special music and readings. **FOR ALL AGES.**

TEEN CONFIRMATION CLASS

The Teen Confirmation Class continues to explore what it means to be Christian and a member of the Church in preparation for making decisions about Confirmation. We look forward to a Retreat at Westminster College on Saturday, **April 19**; to a Dinner; and to Confirmation on **Sunday, May 4.**

CANADIAN GIRLS IN TRAINING

(for GIRLS ages 12-17)

CGIT - a place where girls' issues can be discussed through the Purpose: To cherish health, seek truth, know God and serve others. **Wednesdays, 7 p.m., in the UpperRoom.**

TEEN CAMPING WEEKEND

(can't rain 2 years in a row!)

MAY 30 - JUNE 1, 1997

Pearce Williams, Christian Centre

For all Teens of the Church

Cost: Probably \$25.00

Contact: Emily Woods (679-8182)



ADULT DEVELOPMENT

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

9:15 in the Keygma Room
Facilitator: JoAnn Silcox (642-2152)
BY POPULAR DEMAND



MUSIC

The Music Ministry puts faith into action as it serves the congregation, reaches out to the community, and develops a bond of love and spiritual growth among its participants. Consider becoming a part of our music program in 1997.

THE SENIOR CHOIR

The Musical World tends to celebrate the anniversaries of various composers each year. 1997 marks important anniversaries for Franz Schubert, Johannes Brahms and Felix Mendelssohn. We will feature the choral and organ music of these composers in our services and concerts throughout the coming months.

On Easter Sunday, the choir will be joined by the First-St. Andrew's Strings to present portions of Handel's *Messiah*, music that is synonymous with the joy of the resurrection.

THE TEEN CHOIR

As they did last year, the teens of the Youth Choir will present a chancel drama during Easteride. *He Is Risen* by Allen Pote will be presented on **Sunday, April 6** at the 11:00 a.m. service. All youth are encouraged to join us for the work and fun this presentation will involve.

St. Andrew's AT FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S

THE ART OF SONG

Sunday, February 16, 3:00 p.m. Celebrating Franz Schubert's Bi-Centennial with the Soloists of First-St. Andrew's Guest artist Deborah Parry, Piano

Admission at the door \$8.00 and \$6.00 Reception to follow.

SEVENTH ANNUAL AMABILE FESTIVAL

Sunday, March 2, at 2:30 & 7:30 p.m.

Amabile Youth Singers, Junior Amabile Singers & Amabile Boys Choir

Admission \$10.00, \$8.00 and \$5.00

WIND SONG

Wednesday, March 26 at 8:00 p.m.

The Aeolian Winds and Elmer Isele Singers

Elmer Isele, Conductor

Works by Freidman, Telfer, Holman, Bray

Admission \$12.00 and \$8.00 Reception at interval.



FRIDAY LENTEN NOON RECITALS

12:00-12:30 - Luncheon (\$4.50) served following

March 7 Paul Merritt, Organ

March 14 Mary Ellen Gustafson, Soprano

March 21 Schubert on Original Instruments

Paul Earl, Violin; Joan Hysen, Viola; Daniel Payne, Cello

HEAVEN AND EARTH

Sunday, April 13 at 8:00 p.m.

The Choir of First-St. Andrew's United Church

with Orchestra

Paul Merritt, Conductor

Schubert's Mass in G

A Sprig of Thyme - John Rutter

(a cycle of Folk Song settings)

Admission \$12.00 and \$10.00

Reception to follow

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CRADLE ROLL

We are delighted to welcome each new baby into the church family with our *Growing in God's Love* mailings. Be sure to let the church know when your new baby arrives. There were 12 babies enrolled in 1996. Since the last Tidings, we have greeted Jeremy Alexandre Engel, Emma Brooks, Natasha Hope Lee-Diemert, Tyler Charles William Jarrett.

NURSERY

For infants, one and two year olds.

Open for both the 9:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday Worship.

CHURCH SCHOOL

9:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Continuing with the *Whole People of God* curriculum, *Unit V People of the Covenant*, helps us to prepare for the celebration of Easter by exploring our covenant relationship with God through the stories of Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Jesus in the Temple, Nicodemus, Jesus and the Wheat Seeds, then the Palm Parade into Jerusalem. **February 16 to March 23**

On Palm/Passion Sunday, **March 23**, we will welcome the children for communion in a special multigenerational service.

Unit VI, Into All The World celebrates the Great 50 Days of Easter. We hear about the amazing day of the Resurrection, then how the followers of Jesus spread the Good News and reached out to others with courage and love. **March 30 to May 18**

The *At Home Paks* for Units V and VI are included in this mailing for all families with children.

SECRET PALS

Eighteen or so sets of adults and children are exchanging letters using mystery code names and the Secret Pal Mailbox. In the spring they will find out if they have picked up enough clues to guess the true identities - before unmasking!



Basic Christian Beliefs Workshop
 Is For You!
 April 5, ● 9:30 - 3:30 ● Lunch provided
 No Fee! - Call Church Office
 679-8182

- Interested in joining FSA?
- Want/Need a refresher course?

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

WORSHIP

Come and worship at First-St. Andrew's as we follow Christ on the Lenten journey that takes us to Calvary, and beyond - to the empty tomb and the glorious light of the resurrection. Our regular worship times are 9:15 am in the chapel and 11:00 am in the main sanctuary. Everyone is welcome. Obtain up to date information regarding our worship services by dialing the Presto number 679-0000, ext. 3905. We are also on the internet:
<http://www.info.london.on.ca/~aa103/fsa.html>

February 12 Ash Wednesday service in the main sanctuary with Communion.
 7:30 pm the imposition of ashes and the sacrament of Holy Communion.

February 16 The First Sunday in Lent.
 Preacher - Frank Meadows

February 23 The Second Sunday of Lent. We will conduct a brief service of installation for the new Council.
 Preacher - Catherine Moore

March 2 The Third Sunday in Lent.
 There will be a special presentation by the Gone Fishing youngsters at the 11 o'clock service.
 Preacher - Frank Meadows

March 7 World Day of Prayer
 2:00 pm Speaker - Bob Crawford

March 9 The Fourth Sunday in Lent.
 Preacher - Frank Meadows

March 16 The Fifth Sunday in Lent.
 Preacher - Catherine Moore

March 23 Palm/Passion Sunday.
 There will be a special multigenerational service of worship in which we shall remember the last days of Christ's ministry on earth, and celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion.

March 28 Good Friday. We will invite the clergy and members of Metropolitan United Church to join us in our sanctuary for this special service.
 Easter Sunday The Day of Resurrection
 Sunrise Service in the Atrium.

March 30 Easter Sunday
 The joyful worship of Easter. At the 11:00 o'clock service the senior choir will sing music from the Easter section of Handel's *Messiah* with brass and string accompaniment.



April 6 The Second Sunday of Easter
 9:15 & 11:00 The service will include special music and drama performed by our Teen Group.
 The Third Sunday of Easter.
 On this Sunday we will recognize and pay tribute to the work of all the volunteers in our congregation.
 Preacher - Frank Meadows

April 20 Earth Stewardship Sunday
 9:15 & 11:00 Members of the Earth Stewardship Committee will take part in the service.
 Preacher - Frank Meadows

April 27 The Fifth Sunday of Easter.
 On this Sunday we will send Frank Meadows on his way to his Sabbatical leave, a time of study and renewal.
 Preacher - Rev Bill Lord, Director of Continuing Education for the Toronto School of Theology. Bill Lord will stay on for the afternoon to conduct a congregational workshop on Church renewal.
 The Sixth Sunday of Easter.
 On this Sunday we will receive new members at the 11:00 o'clock service. Young people and adults will be confirmed, and we will welcome those who are transferring their membership to First-St. Andrew's.

May 4 Preacher - Catherine Moore
 Christian Family Sunday/Mothers' Day
 We shall celebrate the sacrament of Baptism at the 11:00 o'clock service.
 Preacher - Barry Moore

May 18 The Day of Pentecost
 9:15 & 11:00 Preacher - Catherine Moore

May 25 The First Sunday after Pentecost.
 On this Sunday we shall have a guest preacher as the annual meeting of London Conference is happening this weekend in Woodstock.

June 1 On this Sunday we shall have our annual outdoor service at the Pearce Williams Retreat Centre near Iona Station. Transportation will be arranged for all who wish to come. The sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated by Rev. Betty Sangster. For those who are unable to attend the outdoor service, communion will be celebrated in the chapel at 9:15am.



FSA Program Guide

Lent, Holy Week and Easter 1997



Dear Friends,
 You are invited to begin the season of Lent at First-St. Andrew's by joining the Teens for the Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 6:00 p.m., Feb. 11. Bring your family and your friends. This is a very appropriate way to begin the journey of faith through Lent to Easter.

Sunday's palms are Wednesday's ashes as another Lent begins: thus we kneel before our Maker in contrition for our sins. (Voices United #107) There are members of this congregation who cannot imagine missing the annual Ash Wednesday service that takes place in the chancel. Join us at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 12 as we remember how Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem led him directly to his crucifixion. Ashes, from the charred remains of the palm branches used in the 1996 Palm Sunday observance, will be used to make the sign of the cross on the forehead of believers. They are traditional symbols of repentance from sin, or of grief and mourning.

Throughout these Lenten days and nights we turn to walk the inward way, where, meeting Christ, our guide and light, we live in hope till Easter Day. (Voices United #108) Lent is a 40 day season of preparation for the greatest of all Christian festivals. Traditionally, Lent is a time for both society and individuals to focus on self-examination. Are our choices and actions compatible with God's will? Knowing and experiencing God's forgiveness and anticipating Easter resurrection makes it possible for us to honestly examine our lives.

He came riding on a donkey, he came riding into town. Slow and easy, kind of lowly; he came riding with the dawn. (Voices United #124) Holy Week begins with Passion/Palm Sunday in which we re-enact the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Christians develop a deeper understanding of faith by following the drama as it unfolds in scripture.

Lord you know what day-break holds: thorns and beatings, cross and nails... (Voices United #134) The Gethsemane Vigil is an opportunity to integrate the experience of Holy Week as we move into Good Friday. At the cross her vigil keeping, stood the mournful mother weeping, where he hung, the dying Lord... (Voices United #139) This year we will observe Good Friday in our own sanctuary with our friends from Metropolitan joining us.

And then we come to Easter, the celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead. Once more, the church's worship is joyful, music changes to the major key, 'alleluias' are restored, and our liturgical colours change from penitential purple to pure white and gold.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age, till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love and praise. (Voices United #158) Easter at First-St. Andrew's is celebrated by an 8:00 a.m. sunrise service in the atrium, led by our youth and young adults. As is our custom, our regular services at 9:15 and 11:00 a.m. will proclaim the Resurrection with trumpets and lilies and celestial music.

May God richly bless you as we make our Easter journey together!

Paul Lynn
Catherine
Mark
Pat
Mark
Pat
Mark
Pat
Mark
Pat



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CHURCH FAMILY EVENTS

- Pancake Supper with Entertainment
 Tues. February 11, 6 pm (see page 4)
- Beat the Blahs Fun Fest (Page 4)
 Sunday March 2, 4:30 - 7:00 pm
- Pizza Supper and Talent Show
 Friday April 4, 6:30 pm

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

- ✓ Pain in Our Lives
 Feb. 17, Mar. 3, 17..... 5
- ✓ From Whence to Where?
 March 15 6
- ✓ Dancing With Change
 April 27 5