

Tidings



First-St. Andrew's United Church

VOLUME 14 ● NUMBER 2

PENTECOST 2004

THE WRIGHTS

by Nancy Howard



Those in our FSA Community who have never had the pleasure of getting to know Ken and Jean Wright, have no less reaped the rewards of their active commitment. Even if you have just passed them in the hallway you will certainly have been the recipient of a warm smile and a

friendly "hello."

When approached to interview for Tidings, Jean responded, "You must be kidding. We're really very boring." But that is hardly the case. For Ken and Jean have wonderful stories to share of a purposeful life of witness and stewardship. Their motivation to follow God's will is driven by a passion for justice. Most of their commitments stem from causes that have touched their personal lives.

Ken was born and raised in Montreal, Jean in Sudbury. The couple has a close relationship with their children and play a significant role in the upbringing of their grandchildren. Clearly family is a priority.

The pair met on a boat when they were travelling separately to Europe. Early in their marriage they settled in Toronto, where Jean was a teacher and Ken worked for IBM. Together they led a church youth group for fifteen and sixteen year olds.

Ken switched careers to dentistry and that is how he met the Rev. Hunter, who was ultimately responsible for Ken's arrival at FSA. When Ken graduated and transferred to London, Rev. Hunter contacted Alex Farquhar who approached Ken and Jean. The music program under the direction of Barrie Cabena gave Jean an excellent opportunity to enjoy her talent.

Over the years Ken and Jean have taught Sunday School, served on numerous committees and worked for Out of the Cold. Ken was on the Finance Committee and headed a Stewardship Campaign. Jean is still a member of the Senior Choir, and the UCW Tuesday Unit.

Beyond FSA, Ken plays tennis and hockey, teaches at UWO, and organizes major fund raising efforts. He is involved with the Association for the Mentally Retarded, the London International Children's Festival, McCormick Home, and the United Way.

Jean is involved with Nostalgic Theatre, the Ethics Review Committee for CPRI, a London Conference Committee for Ministry with People with Disabilities, Ross Secondary School Community Liaison, and representative for the Board of Education.

Both participate in the Annual Aids Walk.

Their commitments derive from personal experience. Daughter Susie has Down's Syndrome, and their son Neill died from AIDS.

In their 'Spare Time', Ken and Jean enjoy art and theatre, reading and travel.

FSA is truly blessed by the outstanding witness and service of this precious couple.



Ken and Jean Wright with granddaughter Payton William-Wright

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MYSTERY PICTURE PUZZLE SOLVED



Congratulations to Sue Scorgie, Lillian Reid and Barbara Dalrymple for being quick to identify the event and location of the above photo. Barbara was also able to identify Don and herself in the picture. (She was the one facing the camera.) And Below, Yes, we held a brief service at the grave of the Rev. William Proudfoot in Oakland cemetery in the winter of 1982 to begin the activities celebrating our 150th anniversary year.



MEMORABLE WORSHIP SERVICES



Top left: Sharon Jones as "Mary" during the Passion/Palm Sunday Service.

Top right: David and Winifred Wake participate in the "Greening of the Cross".



Left: Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad displays a carved wood tableau of the Palm Sunday/Passion Procession crafted by her grandfather, Wally Murdoch. Susan used it during the children's story.

Tidings

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Info-Line

BELLS BY BUS: SAT. AUG. 7

See the final afternoon concert of the International Handbell Symposium in Toronto. The \$69 cost includes travel, tickets to the 3pm concert and dinner at the Town and Country. Call the church office to reserve a place. 679-8182

AMISH COUNTRYSIDE TRIP

Oct 12-16 Roger Snyder is putting together a trip to Lancaster, Pennsylvania to see "Noah" and "Abraham & Sarah", the Amish Countryside in the fall and lots of shopping in Corning and Hershey. Contact Roger at 782-4966 for more information.

HEALTH COUNCIL UPDATE

by Audrey Coulthard and Mary Vernon Co Chairs)

In May 2002, FSA Council approved a motion to form a committee to evaluate the need for a Parish Nurse. Committee members included Dr. David McKane, Mary Vernon, Audrey Coulthard, Donna Travis and Aldis Murray. The group met regularly to discuss literature research, consultation with other congregations and dialogue with experts. In the fall, several focus groups were held for congregational input and committee response. The groups were not well attended but the main themes that emerged included 1) Health Education; 2) Advocacy; 3) Pastoral Care/Visitation; 4) Referral and coordination of health issues.

A report to FSA Council in 2003 recommended the establishment of a Health Council as a tool based on a model encouraging stewardship of health expressed in all areas of congregational life. (Westberg 1990)

A survey tool was prepared and circulated in a Sunday bulletin with limited response. A second survey was mailed to all FSA members in Feb. 2004 with a good response. 76% of respondents were over the age of 55 with the most interest expressed in healthy aging, spirituality, stress management and faith/healing. Some requested information on specific medical problems and there was also interest in parenting and caring for aging parents. The information was all useful and will be kept for future reference.

The final report to Council in March/04 included the following recommendations:

- 1) Additional health information on FSA website
- 2) Computer to be available at church to access information
- 3) Offer our facility for specific health programs
- 4) Provide a mechanism to keep the process active through existing committees and groups
- 5) The concept of a Health Council will not be formalised

However, as planning continues, FSA will endeavour to provide information and support for health-related issues.

On behalf of the committee, thank you to everyone who assisted with and supported this project.

LEAVE A LEGACY

by Ted Kostecki, Community Development Coordinator

May was "Leave-A-Legacy" month across Canada, a volunteer initiative in which FSA takes a part to create awareness around leaving a gift through a will or estate plan to the charity of choice.

Fewer than 10% of us have made arrangements to leave a gift. And when people are asked why they have not, the answer is simply that they had not been asked.

Please consider First-St. Andrew's in your will and estate planning.

There are a variety of ways to arrange a gift that will benefit the ministry of FSA as well as provide certain tax benefits.

For more information, talk to your professional advisor and lawyer. If you have any questions, I will be glad to assist.

FROM THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL

by Doug Jones



As you read this we will hopefully have gone through the last of the yo-yo of cold and hot, be into warm spring weather, and thinking of summer.

We have again had the pleasure of recognizing the many volunteers who make this church function with the guidance of our excellent staff. Particular thanks were extended to Judy Cull and Mary Gonder for their

long service to the children. We also welcomed new members and recognized new confirmands.

The Health Ad-hoc Committee has already published a brief report of its findings in the Weekly Bulletin, and expanded it for inclusion in this issue of Tidings. Thank you to Audrey Coulthard (Co-chair), David McKane (ex officio), Aldis Murray, Joanne Silcox, Donna Travis, and Mary Vernon (Co-chair), This is the committee's last communication, having passed the torch to the Membership and Nurture Committee: Audrey Coulthard has volunteered to be the liaison for this important task.

The Parking Ad-hoc Committee was also received at the last Council meeting, and several initiatives have been passed to Property and Trustees. Thank you to Russ Gonder (Chair), Jack Hillier, Doug Jones (ex officio), Ted Kostecki, Bill Peel and Bob Schram. One surprising finding is the number of parking spaces within a one block radius of FSA which are available to members in the evenings and Sundays. A comprehensive listing of these locations will be made available to the membership, and we will be approaching corporations who have parking abutting FSA, to determine if their lots might be available on "off hours" and weekends.

Financial matters are on the agenda for all members of Council as well as the Congregation. Major components of the expenses are the Personnel and Mission and Service allocation. Concern over the deficit was one of the considerations in reallocating duties, and having one staff position unfilled from the total number which the congregation has approved. Nevertheless, with the projection of a \$50,000+ deficit this year, Council recognized the need for some long-range planning. Therefore, we will be having a full day strategic planning workshop on May 29th to examine the goals and directions of FSA for the next 3 years. This workshop will cover all aspects of activity, including finance, programs and membership issues.

I am looking forward to the development of the strategic plan and to the establishment of firm targets with implementation dates.

On behalf of Council, we wish you a happy, healthy and rejuvenating summer, and remind you that Council meetings are open to all members of the congregation.

Respectfully,

Doug Jones

Chair of Council

May, 2004

PAT SOLE

by Barbara Plante

On June 15 we will bid a reluctant farewell to Pat Sole as our Secretary/Receptionist. For 13 1/2 years Pat has been the voice on the telephone and that key person in the office. She has opened the door to let us in, looked up addresses and phone numbers for us, copied our minutes, fixed our mistakes, found obscure documents, produced our Sunday bulletins, helped with typing of Tidings, taken our messages, cared for the church, the congregation, and the other members of the staff in her wonderful maternal way, and much, much more. And now Pat has decided to take her very well-earned retirement and find out what life has to offer outside the doors of First-St. Andrew's.

Pat first became a member of our staff on Dec. 2, 1990. She has met and enjoyed the challenges of the job, and the interaction with the staff and the many members of the congregation who come into her office each day. In her own words, she "will miss most working with our present staff team, and the interaction with the members of the congregation." And we will all miss her.

What does retirement hold for Pat? First of all, more time with Wes. She and Wes have become rather addicted to cruising, and I think we may see a ship or two in their future. And Pat is looking forward to having more time to spend with their two grandsons: Patrick, 11, and Sean, 9. Then there are their 2 daughters - Tracie, who has just finished, "with distinction", her MDiv at Huron College, is now doing her clinical pastoral experience, and hopes to be ordained as an Anglican priest and Dawn, who works in a Chartered Accountant's office - son-in-law Ron, and extended family in Sarnia and Kingston.

Pat will remain a member of the congregation. She plays in the Laudamus Bells, and, in her words, "I'll still be around - just in a different capacity." And we are so glad of that. Pat has been a wonderful, efficient, and very valued member of the FSA team. Thank you Pat, most sincerely, for all you have done for us during the past 13 1/2 years, and very best wishes for a happy and full retirement.



Pat Sole at her familiar spot in the office

A NEW FACE IS COMING TO FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S.

By Susan Scorgie, Office Administrator

Maureen Scarborough has been hired as our new Administrative Assistant/Receptionist and will be joining the staff team on June 1st.

Maureen is an active member at Colborne St. United Church. Accomplishments at Colborne St. United include two years as the President of the UCW and a representative on their Official Board. Recently, Maureen coordinated their new Directory.

Maureen is a busy wife and mother but still manages to remain actively involved in her community. Her volunteer list includes School Councils and Music Associations as well as being an organizer for fundraisers and community events.

With considerable computer knowledge, a strong work experience and plenty of personality and patience, we know that Maureen will be a "good fit". Please introduce yourself to Maureen when you get a chance and make her feel welcome at FSA.



Beginning June 1, Maureen Scarborough will be in the office to help you.

Changes...

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

BAPTISMS

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

- Matthew Jordan Dixon, child of Rose-Ann & Shawn Dixon.
- Bronwyn Alexandra Duffy, child of Kelly & Kirby Duffy.
- Chloë Marjorie Irwin, child of Isabel and Michael Irwin.
- Aidan Robert James Moore, child of Laurie and Jeffrey Moore.
- Sarah Dorothea Richardson, child of Joanne and David Richardson.
- Meghan Jean Wright, child of Wendy Thompson and Ian Wright.

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."

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Michael Bryans | Geoff Pickering |
| Erin Hurley | Iris Pickering |
| Alfred Koetter | Andrew Spencer |
| Val Koetter | Kari Spencer |
| Caroly Mercer | Margaret Trethewey |

DEATHS

"Well done good and faithful servant."

- Feb. 25, 2004 - Dr. James Connor
- Feb. 26, 2004 - John R. W. Kestle
- Mar. 6, 2004 - Hugh Gregory
- Mar. 7, 2004 - Lynda Mitchell
- Apr. 14, 2004 - Barbara May Lloyd
- Apr. 25, 2004 - Marie McLachlan
- Apr. 27, 2004 - Gordon Alexander Wield
- May 4, 2004 - James Allen Gagnon
- May 5, 2004 - Ralph Thomas MacKinnon Allan
- May 14, 2004 - Rodney Bruce Osborne

GOODBYE & GODSPEED

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

- Deral & Marie Johnson
- Nikki Atwell and John Whitehead



Above: The Congregation honours Judy Cull (4th from left) for her years of volunteer service in the Nursery. Also honoured was Mary Gonder who was unable to be here, but was represented by her son Doug. Posthumous thanks were also offered to two pioneers in the Nursery: Mary's mother, Agnes Callaghan and Jean Fysh.



Left: The cast of the Jane Austen Society, London Chapter, which meets at FSA, preparing for a presentation of dramatic readings from "Pride and Prejudice" The group had a large turnout and has repeated the production at a Bi-Focal's Meeting.

PEOPLE

Right: Bill and Edith McCosh at the annual meeting of London Conference where Bill was honoured as a Jubiland for his 50 years of service to the church.



Below: Moira Bell, the chaplain at Catholic Central organized a "prayer crawl for social justice" of the downtown churches which sponsor outreach programs for the needy. The students made a stop at FSA, where they offered prayers of support for our programs and the volunteers involved.



“AND THE BEAT GOES ON!”

by Kevin E. Johnston – Candidate for Ordained Ministry



The “journey” toward Ordination in the United Church at first appears long and daunting. However, five years later, I can begin to see the “light at the end of the tunnel” – a long tunnel that not-too-long-ago appeared never-ending at best!

The United Church requires M. Div. Candidates to undergo an 8-month Internship between years 2 and 3 of study at a U.C.C. theological institution. I was afforded the opportunity to minister with, and to, the wonderful people at St. Paul’s

United Church in Virden Manitoba from September 1, 2003 to April 30, 2004.

During Internship, the Candidate acquires practical, hands-on, day-to-day experience in ministry, as opposed to in-school classroom education. “It’s all about learning”, quipped one of my classmates/colleagues in an e-mail to us last fall. And indeed, it was! I will be unpacking, and naming, the learning from my “adventure” far into the future.

In July I will begin a one-year, half time student supply position at the Fingal United Church Charge. I look forward very much to sharing ministry with the folk in Fingal. I will begin my final (HOPEFULLY is the operative word!) year of study at Emmanuel College (U. of T) this September, and hope to both graduate and be ordained in May 2005. After that, who knows where we will go? I certainly look forward to finding out!

REMEMBERING THE RUMMAGE SALE



Howard Capes demonstrates a keyboard for a potential customer while super-salesman Bob Plante works his wonders on a customer.



A View from behind the “Treasures” table



Another successful Rummage Sale! Thanks to those people who contributed items for the sale, to the volunteers who set up and priced the items and then sold them, and to the people who purchased something. The Sale is organized by the UCW, but the volunteers are drawn from a wide spectrum of members at FSA. The Rummage Sales generally raise about \$2500 for the Outreach work sponsored by the UCW and FSA.

GUESS WHAT WE HAVE IN OUR ATTIC

by Liz Mignotte and Barbara Williamson

No, it's not a ghost but it is something quite amazing.

We have bags of clothing waiting for distribution to the outreach communities of London and to thirty-five northern communities. We are now the collection point and storage region for all of the London and Middlesex United Churches for baby layettes and gently used clothing.

For some years now, the United Church Women have been sending hand made and used clothing up to size five to people in need. All the clothing was kept at the home of Mrs. Libby Elston, whose sudden death necessitated finding a new transition area. The clothing for the London region is distributed by Lynn Ardiel and the clothing for the North starts it's journey by car, specifically Liz Mignotte's car, who delivers it to her friends in Mount Forest.

Bill Kreps, O.P.P. [retired] drives it to Orillia where it is placed on an O.P.P. airplane for Sioux Lookout. Once there, two wonderful O.P.P. pilots fly it again to the nursing stations. The nurses then distribute the clothing to needy mothers, many as young as thirteen years of age.

And what is the amazing part about all of this? Not one penny has ever been spent, thanks to a small group of volunteers and some very dedicated police.

PEOPLE WHO HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE



(Above) Marg Leonard checks out the last of the stock from her annual Geranium Sale. This year, it raised more than \$2000 for the work of FSA.

(Right) ELUCOC Social Worker Carol Langford speaks to an information luncheon in the Fireside Room about one of FSA's major Outreach Activities.



(Left) Bill and Jean Knowles use the Minute For Mission to kick off the Grow-A-Row campaign.



(Above) The Yard Cleanup Crew pose after a busy morning of making the church exterior look well-groomed.

(Below) David Wake speaks to the Bi-Focals group on his favorite topic: the environment.



(Above) Liz Galbraith and son Paul empty out a barrel of pennies being collected for the "Beads of Hope" campaign to fight HIV/AIDS in Africa. The campaign slogan was "Give your two-cents worth".

FSA Program Guide

Pentecost 2004

WORSHIP

- May 30 Pentecost Communion**
9 am and 10:30 am
Rev. Dr. David McKane
Last 9:00 am service until fall
- June 6 Trinity Sunday - 1st after Pentecost**
10:30am
Rev. Dr. David McKane
- June 13 2nd after Pentecost**
10:30am
Kevin Johnston
- June 20 3rd after Pentecost**
10:30am Lower Hall
- June 27 4th after Pentecost**
10:30am Lower Hall
Rev. Dr. David McKane
- July 4, 11, 18, 25 10:30 am Lower Hall**
Rev. Dr. David McKane
- August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 10:30 am Lower Hall**
Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad
- Sept. 5 Sacrament of Baptism**
10:30am Lower Hall
Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad
- Sept. 12 Recovenanting Sunday**
9am and 10:30 am
Rev. Dr. David McKane

MUSIC



**THE POLOKWANE CHORAL SOCIETY
FROM SOUTH AFRICA
TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2004 AT 8:00 PM
ADMISSION \$15
TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE CHURCH
OFFICE AND AT THE DOOR
DON'T MISS THE ONLY CONCERT
IN OUR AREA
BY THIS DYNAMIC CHOIR.**

SUMMER MUSIC

As I write this, Enid and I are getting excited about the extended leave you have graciously offered us as we complete 20 years at First-St. Andrew's. What a time of growth these years have been for us. We look forward to returning in September, renewed in body and spirit and ready to continue our ministry of music with all of you.

While we are away, our music will be in good hands. Bob and Lynda Kennedy have kindly agreed to look after the choral and organ duties for the rest of May and all of June. They will be joined by other pianists and soloists as the services move to the Lower Hall for the summer.

How blessed with talent our congregation is, and we thank each of these musicians for their willingness to share their gifts with us

(Left) Paul Merritt, the senior choir of First-St. Andrew's and guest soloists receive a standing ovation, following their performance of an excerpt from Benjamin Britten's "Peter Grimes". The performance was part of a successful "Opera Gala" at FSA organized by Paul and Don Neville, Music History Professor at UWO.



CHOIR OPEN HOUSE - SUNDAY, JUNE 13

If you've always wanted to sing with the Senior Choir, here's your chance! Just come along to the pre-service rehearsal at 10 am on that day. All music will be provided.



The Baldwin brothers, Josh, Jordan and Jamie take a break after their concert with their friends.



The Joyful Singers, led by Enid and Paul Merritt, prepare to sing excerpts from Benedicite at an April Worship service.



(Left) FSA Youth led by Deborah Maund, Erin Linforth and Jordan Berard lead the May 23 service. The group includes Michelle Galbraith, Martha Elliott, Jamie Baldwin, Carolyn Joles, Jordan Baldwin, Will Joles, Jordan Berard and Calvin Radoja.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CRADLE ROLL

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

Coordinator: Nancy Stanlick (451-9491)

NURSERY

Our nursery is available at both services and during the summer months for infants to two years. The nursery room is next door to the Chapel on the main floor.

Coordinator: Judy Cull

CHURCH SCHOOL

Regular church school program continues until June 6th when one multi-age class for children 3 years of age to grade 6 will be offered. Services will move to the Lower Hall for the summer from June 20th until Sept. 5th. Teachers and helpers will be needed, so if you're able, please speak to Chris and Monique. **Check out the new Children's Library off the Fireside Room!**

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

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

TEENS IN TRANSIT (TNT)

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

Leader: Nancy Howard (289-0540)

TEEN CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation took place on Sun. May 2. A new class will begin meeting in the fall.

If you are about to enter grade 9 this fall, expect a letter in September!

YOUTH COUNCIL

The Youth Council is run by the young people of the congregation under the supervision of Debbie Maund and Erin Linforth, and supported by the Christian Development Committee. They decide on programs, activities, and worship that is relevant to them.

Advisors: Debbie Maund (679-0716) & Erin Linforth

ADULT DEVELOPMENT

MOST GROUPS WILL TAKE A BREAK OVER THE SUMMER, BUT PLAN TO JOIN US IN THESE ACTIVITIES IN THE FALL!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

This lively group meets on Sunday mornings from 9 to 10:15am upstairs in the Music Room.

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

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

10 am in the Parlour. This popular lectionary Bible Study group is guaranteed to make you laugh and help you grow in your Christian faith. Why not join us?

Leader: Susan Shelstad (679-8182)

DREAM GROUP

Come and discover the amazing world of your dreams. We meet usually on the last Friday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Parlour. For more information, contact Anne Cunningham (433-9663) or Susan Shelstad (679-8182).

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP

On the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Meditation training is part of the experience along with stretching, drumming, scripture, silence and prayer. Come and restore your soul!

SPIRITUALITY ON TAP

An informal evening of a movie and discussion about faith in a pub setting. The movie is at Rainbow Cinemas. The pub is the Elephant & Castle.

Both are at Galleria Mall. Watch the announcement insert for dates, movies and times.

LABYRINTH WALKS

Watch for the next walk this fall



NEW OFFERINGS FROM THE CD COMMITTEE THIS FALL:

*A closer look at **The Da Vinci Code** by Dan Brown. We'll explore some of the interesting topics included in this bestselling mystery novel.

*Book study on Bishop Spong's, **A New Christianity for a New World** in preparation for his visit to FSA on Mon. Nov. 8th.

*Book study on Tom Harpur's new book, **The Pagan Christ**.

OTHER: LIBRARY

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

CD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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

PASTORAL CARE

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

COUNSELLING TEAM

There is a counselling service available to FSA members staffed voluntarily by the following: Kerry Hill, a management consultant and career counsellor, provides personal counselling and detailed vocational assessment by appointment when mutually convenient; Ardath Finnbogason-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. Referrals may be made through Ardath Hill at 657-3000.

PRAYER CHAIN

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

CONGREGATIONAL VISITING TEAM

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

CARE FOR THE CAREGIVER

This group is for those who find themselves in the role of caregiver, and who are feeling a bit overwhelmed. Please contact Heather Bedford (685-1714) or JoAnn Silcox (642-2152) for further details.

RIDES FOR SENIORS

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

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Every Sunday, following our 9:15 am and 11:00 am worship services, the congregation is invited to remain 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.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

A Baptismal preparation session is held prior to every Baptism (usually the Thursday evening) to prepare the parents who are bringing their children for Baptism. We explore the meaning of Baptism, and prepare for the Sunday service. The Sacrament of Baptism will be administered again in the fall. Call the church office if interested. (679-8182).

STEWARDSHIP MISSION OUTREACH

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

HOSPITALITY MEALS

This program runs year round on Mondays, 5:30 p.m. providing hospitality meals for more than 100 persons. One hundred or more volunteers have been involved, many of them from other churches. We are looking for team leaders for the fall. For information, contact Donna Travis, 672-6116, or the church office, 679-8182

GROW-A-ROW PROJECT

Over the past five years, money has been provided for the Canadian Food Grains Program through the efforts of St. Marys United Church and FSA. The donations are matched 4:1 by CIDA. This summer, the project is using a farm outside London owned by Tom McLarty. Over the last four years, the congregations of FSA and St. Marys United have donated about \$84,000 to the Grow-A-Row project and when matched by the government, that means \$420,000 worth of food was shipped to countries where the need is high.

FOOD BANK CONTRIBUTIONS

Please keep in mind the 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!.

FRIENDSHIP & LEARNING GROUPS

BIFOCALS

Bifocals resumes in the fall. Last season finished with a Talent Night and the new season promises another full schedule of events beginning October 25. Get ready to come and enjoy good food, warm fellowship, plea sing song and varied programs. New members and guests are always welcome. Call Shirley Wynne, 474-4788, or June McKay, 471-5668, for information.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

All persons twenty and over who enjoy fun are invited to join with the Circle of Friends. Look for information in the weekly bulletin. The next event is a "Beach Bash" hosted by Kevin and Roger at their Port Stanley Beach House. It's the Bring-A-Friend Pot Luck Supper. Contact Ann MacPhail for more information at 645-8867.

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 7:00 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.

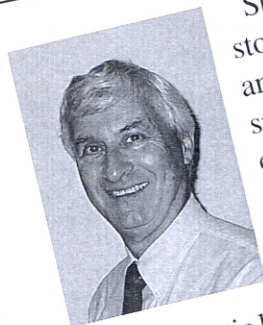
BRIDGE GROUP

Another season gets underway in the fall. The group plans to wrap up its year in June with a final get-together. The group will be looking for new members. If you're interested, call the church office (679-8182) and leave your name. And please watch the bulletin for more information



A FINAL WORD

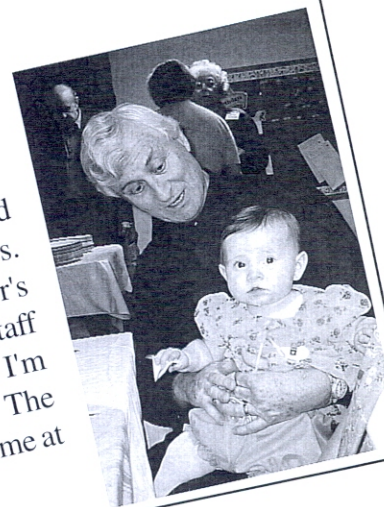
PENTECOST 2004



Summertime is often regarded as fallow time in churches. Programs stop for the summer and our thoughts turn to gardens, golf, cottages, and other outdoor activities. But summertime can be a rich time spiritually. It can be a time to reflect and ponder, a time to catch up on our reading or on all those movies on our "must see" list.

I want to applaud the Christian Development Committee and my colleague Susan Shelstad on the rich diversity of our Christian Development programs. In addition to a growing Church School under the enthusiastic leadership of Monique and Chris Silcox, our adult education has included The Gospel According To The Simpsons, Spirituality On Tap, a study group on Ann Silcox on Sunday mornings and Susan on Thursday mornings. Such a wide range of opportunities and variety of studies serves us well as we explore our questions, share our insights, grow our faith and deepen our commitment.

On November 8th we will have Bishop Spong as our guest speaker for the first Proudfoot Lecture. We look forward to sharing with this controversial and courageous prophet and author of 17 ground-breaking books. You might wish to add one to your summer reading list in preparation for his visit.



PS: You might be interested to know that we have welcomed more than 120 new members to FSA over the last three years. Each New Member's Sunday is preceeded by a New Member's Supper as we introduce the newcomers to each other, to the staff and to other members of the congregation. On the right, I'm holding Cloe Irwin, the daughter of Isabel and Michael. The Irwins are indicative of many who have found a church home at FSA as the next generation takes root.



First-St. Andrew's Ministry

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

Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad: Minister of Christian Development

Paul Merritt: Director of Music

Ted Kostecki: Community Development Coordinator

Sue Scorgie: Church Administrator

Pat Sole: Secretary/Receptionist

Rusty Robertson: Custodian