

Tidings



First-St. Andrew's United Church

VOLUME 12 ● NUMBER 3

FALL 2002

THE CHURCH STEEPLE

*By Doug Jones
Chair of Council*

I am writing to provide everyone with information regarding the urgent need for repairs to the Church Steeple, and to invite you to come to an information meeting immediately after the service on September 15th.

This past spring, during one of the severe wind storms, one of the copper panels on the steeple was blown loose. It posed a risk to those on the ground and became a problem needing immediate attention. During the ensuing weeks an extensive examination of the steeple was made, and costing for repairs was obtained. The loose panel was reattached using a large crane and bucket. Although the remaining panels may be secure for a month or two, many are loose, buckling, and/or cracking, and all are in need of replacement urgently.

Quotations have been obtained from two companies recommended by the United Church Office, and the lowest bid at approximately \$225,000 has been recommended.

Inspection of the main support for the steeple indicates that it is in excellent condition. The height of the steeple is 217 feet, and although the crane and bucket was able to provide access to the part of the steeple needing immediate repair, scaffolding must be used for access to the entire steeple. The cost of the scaffolding alone is



Although there are cheaper roofing materials than copper, our records indicate that it was installed in 1899,

which means that it has lasted just over 100 years. However, with the current levels of acid rain and air pollution in Southwestern Ontario, we may only get 75 to 85 years with the replacement. Nevertheless, with the high cost of scaffolding, using alternative roofing materials with life expectancies of only 10 to 15 years would not be cost effective.

I trust this has provided you with an understanding of the main issues. Please stay after the service on September 15th when more information will be provided, and there will be an opportunity to ask questions

INSIDE

Council Report.....	2
Profile: The Swartmans.....	3
God's Steward: Bev Lindsay.....	4
Earth Stewardship.....	5
Bible Study Groups.....	6
UCW report: Five Oaks Visit.....	6
Worship and Music Guide.....	8

COUNCIL REPORT

Doug Jones, Council chair



There are several exciting things happening through your Council which need to be shared. George Jolink and Kerry Stover provided a wrap-up of the recent production of Jesus Christ Superstar. As was obvious to all who attended, this was a tremendous success - from the standpoints of artistic achievement, spiritual expression matched to the Church calendar, outreach both within and outside the walls of FSA, and financially. Over 2100 people came to the 4 evening performances. Both George and Kerry were humble in acknowledging the many who had contributed to this success. To George, Kerry, the cast, staging, costumes, design of program and poster, to volunteers on the doors, senior managers, to program printing by Bob Schram, we all THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED! (And look forward to another "delight" - maybe in a couple of years.)

Three exciting new ventures were also initiated by Council. It is setting up 2 ad-hoc committees. (Details on page 3). These are small working groups reporting back to Council in the fall. One will explore the long range plan for the "physical plant" at FSA, with a mandate to look at the needs of the congregation and the community. The second committee is charged with exploring the position of Parish Nurse for FSA, with the mandate to canvass the congregation, as well as review the material which is being produced by the United Church of Canada, and other organizations which have similar staff positions.

If you have any comments for either committee, suggest names, or wish to be considered for membership, please contact Doug Jones, or leave a message with the Church office. We look forward to your input and assistance.

The third item followed a presentation by Ron Logan, who has enthusiastically agreed to co-chair a campaign to build a much needed new facility for Mission Services London. Council heartily endorsed this project and recommended that Presbytery also lend its support and facilitate information dissemination about this vital project. In addition, Council committed a minimum of \$2,000 per year, for the 5 years of the campaign. We will keep you posted on how you, individually or as a group, may be able to contribute.

What an exciting time to be a member of this vital Church family!

All council meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend. We meet during the months of September through June, usually at 7:30 PM on the second Tuesday of the month. If you have any comments, accolades, or concerns - I want to hear from you.

Doug Jones,

(Note: The two motions passed by council dealing with the adhoc committees are reprinted on the next page. A list of the committee members is included).

Info-Line

RUMMAGE SALE

The sale is set for Saturday October 19, 9-11:30am. Contributions of clothing, household articles, toys, shoes, jewelry and books are welcome.

BAZAAR

The annual bazaar will be held Saturday November 16. This annual UCW event annually raises more than \$9,000.

DOORS OPEN

This is a new event for the City of London in which First-St. Andrew's is taking part. It is scheduled for the weekend of Oct. 5 and 6. Londoners will be able to tour our beautiful building and learn its history.

CELTIC SPIRITUALITY

This is a new series of four Wednesday night events beginning Oct 30th led by David McKane. The series concludes with a session on Saturday November 30 which features a Labyrinth Walk.

PHOTO DIRECTORY

Another series of photos for the directory will be held September 24-28. Please sign up by September 15 to have your picture taken. We would like as many people as possible to be featured in the directory.

Tidings

Acting Chairperson	Margaret Wonfor
Editor	Bill Watson
Layout Artist	Ted Kostecki
Photographers	Paul Pergau, Ted Kosteck, Jean Knowles
Staff Representative	Ted Kostecki, Paul Merritt
Team Members	Nancy Howard, Howard Capes Kate Pickering
Typist	Pat Sole
Distribution	Mary & John Jones & Team, Alton Ross & Team
Printer:	Stat Communications
Publisher	First-St. Andrew's United Church 350 Queens Avenue, London, Ontario N6B 1X6 Tel:(519) 679-8182 Fax:(519) 439-6838 www.fsaunited.london.on.ca

Four issues yearly. News Deadline for next issue: Oct 22, 2002
Distribution of next issue: Nov. 17, 2002

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 SWARTMAN FAMILY

by Bill Watson

How does one, in limited space, manage to tell something of the story of a family of two parents, five children and thirteen grandchildren, some of whom have spent significant periods of their lives in Germany and Canada?

Let's start with Bob, retired Faculty of Engineering professor, teacher and researcher in the fields of fluid mechanics and thermodynamics, and pioneer in the field of solar energy conversion, an interest which he has cultivated and developed since 1962, presented in a demonstration booth at the Kyoto Trade Fair, and markets here in Canada through his company 'Solcan'.

Then Laura, nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital, part-time from 1965 to '77, then full-time till her retirement in '94, a period during which mothers and babies came to be cared for as an integral unit, breast feeding was encouraged, and hospital birth stays were significantly shortened.

Bob and Laura met in Kingston, where he was an instructor in engineering to cadets at the Royal Military College, and she was a nurse in training at the General Hospital. They met on a blind date at a wiener roast in the fall of '51, got married the following year, and lost no time in having their closely knit family of Jim, Christine, Tom, Barbara and Peter during the years '53 to '60.

They spent the four years between '53 and '57 in Germany, where Bob was assigned to a post with NATO, until they returned to Ottawa and then made their way to London via Kingston, in 1964. Once in London it didn't take them long, after a few tastings, to settle in FSA, attracted by Alex Farquhar, the Farquhar kids, a friendly congregation, and one particularly memorable event for Laura, namely a White Elephant Sale run by Faye Bass!

Over the years Laura has taught Sunday School, been assistant convenor of the Thursday Evening Unit, done a spell with an Out of the Cold team, and a spell as the Narthex Coordinator. Bob got involved with the Scout pack when we had one, also spelled on OOTC, and is currently a member of the M & P Committee.



Now for the kids.

Barbara, who plays clarinet and piano, is a Sunday School teacher, served on one of our recent search committees, and has done a 2-year stint on Coffee and Conversation. Christine, who played classical guitar with Fred's Folk at Banting, is an elder. Jim, who played the saxophone in stage and jazz band at Beal, is a Trust Officer with Canada Trust. Tom plays French Horn with the Mainz Chamber Orchestra in Germany, and Peter, who plays the Tuba, is a firefighter. Love may make the world go round, but as far as the

Swartman kids are concerned, music helps to keep it spinning.

Of the thirteen grandchildren, five have been baptised at FSA, and eight confirmed.

You may wonder if the Swartmans ever relax. Yes, they do, and how better than on a boat in Georgian Bay. It is "George", oddly enough, the one in Jerome K. Jerome's classic "Three Men in a Boat", who says, "There is nothing, absolutely nothing, better than messing about in boats."

If there is anything better, it is probably messing about in gardens. And if you ever want to see a supreme outcome of that, take the opportunity to behold the gorgeous bed of rhododendrons in the Swartman's front yard. When they are in bloom, of course!

GOD'S STEWARD: BEV LINDSAY

by Elspeth Watson



"Stewardship is everything I do with everything I possess." That definition by the United Church's Department of Stewardship Services in the '80s fittingly describes Bev's commitment.

Bev speaks of FSA as being "the foundation" of her formative years. Her parents had moved from Ottawa to a home in London South, and by the age of five Bev can remember learning 'Jesus bids us shine' and 'Jesus loves me' as a member of

Mission Band under Helen Eberhard and Kay MacDonald. Then came Junior Choir, Explorers (led by Helen McLeod), CGIT, Confirmation, and singing lessons at the Mother House. When she joined the Senior Choir in 1962, they were still wearing mortar-boards! On Sunday mornings, nourished and inspired by Dr. Angus MacQueen's preaching, Bev liked to be in the Sanctuary rather than teaching church school. Sunday evenings she would often spend at the Young People's group led by Ross and Mary Jane McMullen.

Meanwhile she was getting ready for the workplace. A secretarial course at Beal S.S. prepared her for a post in the Department of National Defence as a cheque writer. When up to speed she could type 3,000 cheques a day! In '66 she married Bob, the handsome young man she had first met as the family's paper-boy. Their wedding, conducted by the Rev. Alex Farquhar, was one of the last before the organ was moved to the rear of the church. In 1971 Rob was born, with Heather and Christina following six and seven years later. Bev's hands were full as a homemaker, but she joined the Young Mother's Unit of UCW (formed by Jean Comfort and Marg Leonard) where she was the telephone convener and then secretary until the Unit disbanded in '83.



When her younger daughter, Christina, was old enough for Explorers, Bev felt called to serve the youth of the church and volunteered as leader. This was her first step on the Christian Development ladder, with Emily Woods as her mentor. She served twelve years with CD, six of them as Chair, before moving to Membership and Nurture.

Where will you find Bev serving right now? Try the Senior Choir (40 years); the Laudamus Bells (30 years - a founding member, delegate to Expo in Vancouver and one-time President); the Thursday Morning Bible Study (16 years - founding member and facilitator); Coffee & Conversation (volunteer from the start); Secret Pals (which she launched in '95); running the Church Office when Pat Sole goes on holiday; organising DIAL-A-PRAYER; passing requests along the Prayer Chain; being a faithful friend to everyone

With this wonderful example, another generation of Christian stewards is emerging. Instilling in her family Christian values and a deep sense of responsibility to church and community, Bev, with Bob's help, has given them the proverbial roots and wings. They are now flying high in their professions. Heather is training as a manager in a software firm; Christina has a degree in music, loves to work with the physically-challenged, and will soon qualify as an interpreter for the deaf; while Rob is a printer who has found fulfilment in nursing. As teenagers all three were already contributing to the life of FSA - singing, ringing, helping and leading in various groups.

Bev is the recruiter's dream. She never waits to be asked. She offers. Innovative, dedicated, and productive, she enjoys teamwork. "It's like the Vine and the Branches," she says. She serves quietly, and without fanfare, out of love. Where does she get her energy? The answer is prayer. That is true for all God's stewards.

Meet Bev Lindsay

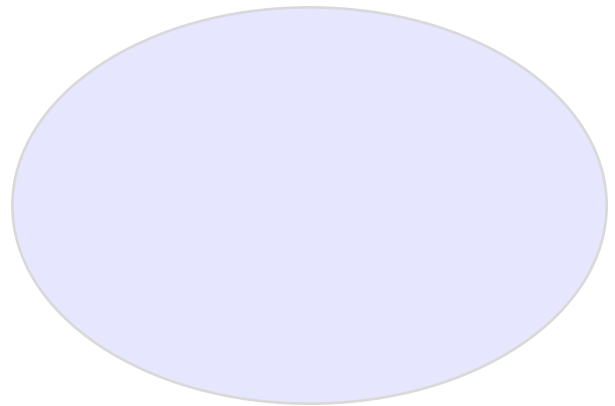
PEOPLE WHO COUNT

For Bev MacDonald and Fred McLarty, attendance at FSA on a Tuesday morning has been just as important as Sunday morning.

Bev MacDonald and Fred McLarty have been counting and sorting the bills and change from collection plate and envelope givings that have been set aside by Office Co-ordinator Sue Scor-



gie. Bev has been doing it for five years, Fred for nearly twenty years.



RUN THE CHURCH FOR A DAY

Celebrate a special occasion, a birthday or anniversary, or just remember someone. Your donation can help defray the operating expenses of our beautiful church and its ministry.

Call the church officer for more information.

Changes...

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

MARRIAGES

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

May 18	Alethea Ramlal, Abraham Martens
May 25	Michelle Caddy, Alasdair MacLean
June 1	Darlene Bibby, Mark Snyders
June 1	Lillian Peterson, James Halliday
June 8	Laurie Bachman, Mark Casselman
June 15	Stephanie Johnson, Jody Simmons
June 22	Heather Cousins, Christopher Gray
July 6	Elizabeth Melo, Peter Zsebik
July 6	Wendy Thompson, Ian Wright
July 20	Judith MacRae, Todd Cull
Aug. 31	Elisa Salmoni, David Way

BAPTISMS

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

Aiden Cary Duffy, child of Kelly & Kirby Duffy.

DEATHS

"Well done good and faithful servant."

Elizabeth Rose Spencer	March 26, 2002
Beatrice Bellamy Scott	May 31, 2002
Alma Capes	June 9, 2002
Rita Beattie	July 24, 2002

EARTH STEWARDSHIP

by Winifred & David Wake



Endangered species have been in the news in recent months, as parliament has been considering "species at risk" legislation.

Some nationally designated species at risk live in London. Each summer, Peregrine Falcons, the world's fastest birds, nest on the TD Canada Trust tower on Wellington Street. Peregrine Falcons always get lots of public attention, but have you ever heard about the Spiny Softshell Turtle? Between 1000 and 2000 of the threatened turtles live in Southern Ontario, in the Thames River, Sydenham River, and portions of Lake Erie shoreline. A significant portion of the Canadian population lives in the Thames River, including sections within the City of London.

The Spiny Softshell Turtle is readily distinguished from other Ontario turtles by its relatively flat, leathery shell. In summer, one can see them from various vantage points along the north branch of the Thames River within the city. By September, the turtles will be basking less often, so are harder to spot.

Spiny Softshell Turtles are disappearing for many reasons. Urban development eliminates nest sites, basking sites, and hibernation sites. Sewage and chemical pollution may harm the turtles. Disturbance by humans may interfere with basking and discourage reproduction. Perhaps most important is the destruction of eggs by predators including racoons, foxes, coyotes, and other animals. A local turtle recovery team tries to protect nest sites from racoons by placing cages around the nests.

Predation is a major problem today, because racoon populations are much higher than in the past. Racoons thrive in cities and in rural areas. Garbage in cities, and bountiful farm crops provide a veritable buffet for racoons. This buffet allows racoon populations to increase, and the more racoons there are, the greater the chance that turtle nests will be destroyed.

The Spiny Softshell Turtle is but one of the many species at risk that will need our stewardship if they are to survive. Think of the declining turtle when you are dealing with your garbage. Don't encourage racoons on your property!



FSA SNAPSHOTS

Herb Wonfor and Fred Loyd were honoured at London Conference in May for 50 years of service to the United

Members of FSA Council and Staff met in June for a Strategic Planning session. This was the first of a series of events designed to look to the future.



MEET THE BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

by Joan Bancroft



Do you ever wish you had more knowledge of the scripture passages from which our ministers preach each Sunday morning? If you do, there are two excellent opportunities awaiting you each week, from September through May.

Every Thursday morning from 10:00-11:30 there is a great learning and discussion experience that takes place in the parlour, under the excellent leadership of Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad. Susan bases the study time on the lectionary readings for the following Sunday. These readings are taken from the Revised Common Lectionary, which is used by the Roman Catholic Church and many Protestant Denominations.

There are usually four passages to choose from: an Old Testament scripture, a Psalm, an Epistle, and a Gospel reading. From these Susan chooses one or two passages for study, giving us biblical and textual background. There follows lively discussion about the scripture and how it applies to us in our daily lives.

Between 14 and 24 men and women attend on any given week, and each can participate as much or as little as they wish.

I first began attending this study on its inception in the mid 1980s, but was absent for the period while I worked in the churches in St. Thomas and Saskatoon. However, I have always found the challenge and the fellowship an important part of my week, and usually on Sunday morning feel much more in tune with the liturgy and the sermon based on the passages we have studied.

On Sunday morning, another opportunity is available from 9:15 to 10:30, when Dr. Jo Ann Silcox gives leadership to a group of up to 15 men and women. This study is based on a theme or a particular book of the bible. This past season the focus was the Gospel of Matthew. Jo Ann always has excellent information about the historical context, the meaning and significance of the passage.

If you want to come to Sunday worship a little more prepared, or if you simply enjoy learning opportunities, join us on Thursday or Sunday mornings. These are great opportunities to nurture and deepen one's faith.

UCW FIVE OAKS VISIT

by Margot Linton

On June 6, forty members of First-St. Andrew's UCW went by bus and car to the United Church Education and Retreat Centre at Five Oaks. After a stop in Paris, we arrived at the centre to be greeted by Yvonne Stewart, the Director. A delicious lunch was served and enjoyed by all.

Our worship service was conducted by Rev. Don Robinson, the resident chaplain. His message was based on the new United Church mission theme - "Children: Is Anybody Listening?" We divided into small groups and discussed topics such as, "What do children think when God is mentioned?" We also examined the story of Samuel and Eli, and we considered the positive and negative side of the average, typical child.

Don Robinson suggested we must challenge churches to:

1. Listen to children.
2. Affirm and stand in solidarity with children.
3. Ensure that children's voices are heard, by engaging in concrete action with them, both in their own communities and around the world.

To accomplish this we should be more appreciative of our youth, and not be afraid to show them that they are a vital part of the church. Don suggested we hold an agape meal, such as the early Christians did, to make young people realise how important they are to us.

At First-St. Andrew's our young people have been responsible for planning and participating in one service, so we already have gone part of the way suggested by the mission theme. As a result of our visit to Five Oaks, we realise we probably could do more.

A general meeting was also held, and so unfortunately we had little time to walk through the beautiful grounds that cover 128 acres. But we all enjoyed, and were stimulated by our visit, and are most grateful to all the staff at Five Oaks.

Below: The Day Trippers. Members of First-St. Andrew's UCW take a photo break before boarding the bus for Five Oaks.



MAYTIME COMMUNION, MAY 15, 2002

by Jean Comfort



This annual event was a joyous occasion for all who participated. The weather cooperated beautifully. As guests and their drivers arrived at the church, they were greeted at the Atrium door by Susan, David, Jim and members of the Congregational Visiting Team. Some came in wheelchairs by Aboutown conveyance or were pushed from home by a good friend and caregiver.

Others were driven by friends and family members.

By 2:00 p.m. all were assembled in the Sanctuary and were warmly welcomed by David and Susan. Many of our guests had not been able to attend a service of worship in First-St. Andrew's for months and were delighted to be present. There was music with Paul at the organ, reading of scripture and prayers led by Susan, and an inspirational message given by David. The service of communion which followed, was shared by all in a very special way, as we were reminded of Jesus' words at the Last Supper when we received the bread and wine. It was good to be there.

After the service, all gathered in the church parlour for a time of sharing. Refreshments were served by members of the UCW, and everyone enjoyed being with friends at the church. Judging from the many expressions of pleasure from guests and others, all had a memorable time. As our guests were leaving, each received a small pot of mums as a remembrance of the occasion.

Special thanks go to all who came as well as to those who led the service and participated in any way to bring success to this important event at First-St. Andrew's.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES

Our website at FSA has been updated with a new exchange server. The emails will be handled by Microsoft Outlook, reducing our chances for computer viruses.

As a result, the email addresses for the church and staff have been changed.

The is fairly straightforward:

first initial, last name @ fsaunited.london.on.ca

Here are the new addresses:

dmckane@fsaunited.london.on.ca

sshelstad@fsaunited.london.on.ca

pmerritt@fsaunited.london.on.ca

tkostecki@fsaunited.london.on.ca

sscorgie@fsaunited.london.on.ca

kjohnston@fsaunited.london.on.ca

psole@fsaunited.london.on.ca

MISSION AND SERVICE PRAYER

Loving God, make us true partners in your creation.
Help us to recognize that the gifts we give through the Mission and Service Fund unite us in your work,
for in this way we, too, are contributing to the struggle for peace and justice around the world. Amen.

NEW LOGO FOR CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE



The new logo for the CD Committee was officially "launched" this summer when several of the young members of our congregation, some of whom are pictured on the right, prepared "flyers" in the form of paper airplanes and pitched the information bulletins into the congregation. Our thanks to graphics designer Lionel Morise who came up with the design based on the collaboration of everyone on the committee. The Committee is planning a full shedule of events and programs, some of which are listed on page 10 of Tidings, and all designed to promote spiritual fitness through children's, youth and adult ministry. Successful new programs included the Men's Brown Bag Lunch and "Her Stories".



DOORS OPEN LONDON

On Saturday and Sunday October 5 and 6, Londoners will have a chance to explore some of the city's history, including FSA.

First-St. Andrew's United will take part in a "Doors Open London" weekend, part of a province-wide event. The local program is being organized by the City of London's Heritage and Museum Coordinating Committee.

We will need help with the open house, giving directions to visitors and perhaps tours of the building. If you are interested in helping with this project, please call Ted Kostecki or Pat Sole in the the office at 679-8182

FSA Program Guide

Fall 2002

WORSHIP

Sept. 8: Recovenanting - Communion

9:15 & 11:00 am

Rev. Dr. David McKane

Sept. 15: 17th after Pentecost

9:15 & 11:00 am

Rev. Dr. David McKane

Sept. 22: 18th after Pentecost

9:15 & 11:00 am

Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad

Sept. 29: Sacrament of Baptism at 11:00 am

9:15 & 11:00 am

Rev. Dr. David McKane

Oct. 6: World Wide Communion

9:15 & 11:00 am

Rev. Dr. David McKane

Oct. 13: Thanksgiving Sunday

9:15 & 11:00 am

Rev. Dr. David McKane

Oct. 20: Mission & Service Sunday

9:15 & 11:00 am

Guest Preacher:

Oct. 27: 23rd after Pentecost

9:15 & 11:00 am

Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad

Nov. 3: Music Awareness Sunday

9:15 & 11:00 am

Rev. Dr. David McKane

Nov. 10: Remembrance Sunday

9:15 & 11:00 am

Rev. Dr. David McKane

Nov. 17: Celebration Sunday; Reception of New Members

9:15 & 11:00 am

Guest Preacher:

Nov. 24: Anniversary Sunday

9:15 & 11:00 am

Guest Preacher:

Rev. Dr. Paul Wilson

Professor of Homiletics, Emmanuel
College

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 the many opportunities to rejoice at First-St. Andrew's in 2002.

COME SING WITH US!

THE SENIOR CHOIR

Our Senior Choir leads in worship at all 11:00 a.m. services as well as presenting a number of concerts each year. Rehearsals are each Thursday from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Lower Hall. Please contact Paul Merritt (679-8182 or 679-9173).



THE JOYFUL SINGERS and JOYFUL RINGERS

This choir, for children aged 8 to grade 8 has just completed its third year of activities. Besides leading in worship throughout the church year, the choir also participated in the church's production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. If your child (children) would like to sing and ring with us, bring them to our first rehearsal on WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. We're sure they'll enjoy themselves.

THE JUNIOR JOYFULS

This group, for children aged 5, 6 and 7, will begin its second year of activities on WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18. Under the direction of Margaret Bereznick, the Junior Joyfuls learn a variety of musical skills and share these with the congregation in worship throughout the year. To have your child (children) join in the fun, please call Mrs. Bereznick at 474-6877.

MUSIKGARTEN

This preschool music program for children of ages 3 and 4 years is offered by registered Kindermusik Teacher Enid Merritt. This program offers rhythms, dance and nature appreciation and will begin in the autumn. Please call Enid Merritt, 679-9173, for more information.

COME RING WITH US!

THE LAUDAMUS BELLS

The Laudamus Bells, now in its 32nd year of offering praise at First-St. Andrew's, is reaching out for new members in readiness for the fall season. Men and women who read music and can commit to a weekly practice from September through May are invited to join our friendly, enthusiastic group, and to let Barbara know of others in the community who may be interested. Please call Barbara Plante, Director (472-4586 or 461-1202) for further information, or leave your name at the Church Office (679-8182).

COME PLAY WITH US!

THE FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S STRINGS

If you play a stringed instrument (violin, viola, cello, bass) this may be the group for you! The FSA Strings, under the guidance of Bruce Richardson, add their glorious sound to worship throughout the church year. The group accompanies the Senior choir on occasion as well. For more information, please call Bruce Richardson at 473-1023 or Paul Merritt at 679-8234 or 679-9173.

OTHER INSTRUMENTALISTS

Would you be interested in sharing with us your talents on the instrument you play? If so, call Paul Merritt at 679-8234 or 679-9173.



CONCERT SERIES

Our well-known Concert Series features distinguished artists, performing in a beautiful space at very affordable ticket prices. Through the generous support of Friends of Music, First-St. Andrew's sponsors a wide variety of musical programs as a musical outreach to the community. A highlight of the upcoming series will be the ROBBIE BURNS NIGHT on Saturday, January 25, featuring our own David McKane!

For information on all our concerts, please refer to our 2002-2003 brochure.

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 newly renovated nursery is available at both services for infants to two years. The nursery room is next door to the Chapel on the main floor.

Coordinator: Judy Cull

(There is also a nursery class at 11 am for children 3 years old to kindergarten in the classroom across the hall from the infant nursery, next to the washroom on the main floor. These children go to their class after the children's story in church.)

CHURCH SCHOOL

Church School classes are offered at both services. At 11 am the children go to their classes following the children's story in church. This fall we are beginning a new curriculum called *Seasons of the Spirit*, which is lectionary based so that the scriptures we are reading in church are the scriptures the children are studying in their classes. We can always use more teachers, so if you can help, please call!

Church School Coordinator: Kevin Johnston (672-5664)

POP 'N' POPCORN

Girls and boys in grades 5 & 6 are invited to events on Friday evenings about once a month, just for fun and friendship.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

TEENS IN TRANSIT (TNT)

For young people in grades 7 and 8. This group meets on Sunday mornings at 11 am in the Upper Room during the regular church school year.

Leader: Nancy Howard (289-0540)

TEEN CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation classes will again be offered this year for any young people in grade 9 or high school age who would like to prepare for church membership. For more information or to register, please call Susan at the church. (679-8182)

YOUTH COUNCIL

Last fall we began a new venture with our young people in the formation of a Youth Council. The Council is run by the young people of the congregation, supported by the Youth & Young Adult Committee. They decide on programs, activities, and worship that is relevant to them.

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



Last year's Confirmands prepared and served the meal for this year's confirmation class.

ADULT DEVELOPMENT

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

This group meets on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am upstairs in the Primary Room.

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

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

10 am in the Parlour. This popular lectionary Bible Study group will resume on Sept. 12th. Please 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. We will begin again on September 27th. For more information, contact Anne Cunningham (433-9663)

LABYRINTH WALK

Our next labyrinth walk will take place on Nov. 30th as preparation for Advent.

(See announcement below on Celtic Spirituality.)

MEN'S BROWN BAG LUNCH

This discussion group will begin again on Wed. Oct. 2, and run for 9 weeks to the end of November.



New This Fall!

CELTIC SPIRITUALITY SERIES

David McKane will lead four sessions on Celtic Spirituality called Mistletoe and Manitous on Wednesday evenings, October 30, November 6, 13, 20. A special one-day event called Borderlands and Sacred Circles will wrap up the series on Sat. Nov. 30. There will be a session from 2:00-5:00 pm, followed by supper, and then the labyrinth walk.

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 and young people attend programs and events such as youth retreats, camp, and Conference events. Your help is appreciated.

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 cooperation with Westminster College to offer classes. Call Westminster College (673-0040) as soon as possible.

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

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 permissions 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 Jo Anne Silcox (642-2152) for further details.

RIDES FOR SENIORS

If you need a ride to and from church and/or church events, please call Stan Harris (473-2453).

DIAL-A-PRAYER 439-6838

For a moment of meditation in a busy or a quiet day, please call our Dial-A-Prayer at 439-6838. Coordinator Bev Lindsay.

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Every Sunday, following our 9:15 am and 11:00 am 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.

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 administered in late September. Call the church office if interested. (679-8182).

COMMUNITY 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 about 100 persons. One hundred or more volunteers have been involved, many of them from other churches. Could you help out for a 4 month period? May to August, September to December, January to April. 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, GROW-A-ROW organized a "blessing of the crops" at the Richardson farm on Hwy 7 and a Corn Roast at First-St. Andrew's. The proceeds toward the program were more than \$3,000.

Right: Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad blesses the crop at the farm of Jack and Irene Richarson (on left).

Below: the "Blessing of the Crops".



FOOD BANK CONTRIBUTIONS

Please keep in mind the Community Outreach 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

FRIENDSHIP & LEARNING GROUPS

BIFOCALS

This is an opportunity to come and enjoy good food, warm fellowship, a sing song and varied programs. Watch the weekly announcements for upcoming events this fall. New members and guests are always welcome. Meetings are scheduled for Oct. 22 and Nov. 26. Look for details in future Tidings.



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.

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

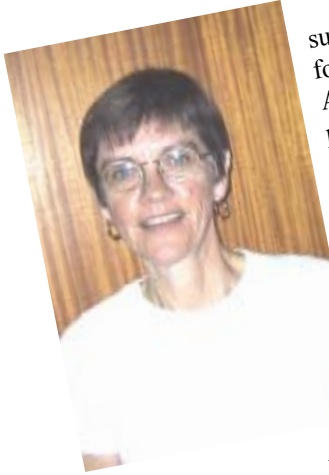
Have fun and make friends this fall. Arrange games to fit your calendar. For more information, call John and Mary Scott (238-





A FINAL WORD

Fall 2002



It's back to school and back to church time. Hope your summer has been relaxing and refreshing. We are looking forward to a very exciting and busy fall season at First-St. Andrew's. The Stewardship campaign is full of fun and surprises. There are some great programs lined up for all ages. Committees are ready to get going on new initiatives. But the center of all of our activities is our worship. That is what binds us together, and that is what sends us back out into the world to do what we need to do as followers of Jesus.

If you have been away from our services for a while, don't let that keep you from coming. We miss you, and we want you back in our midst. The roof is in pretty good shape, and it's doubtful that it will fall in if you step in the door.

It's easy to get out of the habit of coming to church, but it's worth the effort to get hooked on weekly worship again. This is where you can come and give thanks to God for all the blessings you have. This is where you can come with all that weighs heavily upon you, and give it up to God's care. This is where you can hear God's voice, learn God's will, and be inspired to act in God's way. We come together in worship as a community that seeks to praise our great God, and to learn how to better serve God in our lives. We're a fallible community to be sure, like any other. Our strength is in our admission of vulnerability.

If you are already an active participant in the life and work of First-St. Andrew's, please know that you are appreciated and not taken for granted. There are so many people here that work very hard, living out the ministry of this church. But if you have let your membership slip, if you've backed away for a rest, or even if you've felt slighted or angered at something or someone here, please give this community a second chance. We need and want the full participation of all of our members as we seek to make First-St. Andrew's a church that truly makes a difference. We are blessed with many gifts here in this church. It's what makes us special. We'd like you to offer yours too.

This fall, as we gear up again for work and school and all the community organizations and sports we participate in, let's not forget the most important activity of all... worship. Come back to church. We would all love to see you!



Be part of ensuring the future of First-St. Andrew's United Church through a planned gift to the VISION FUND

First-St. Andrew's Ministry
 The Rev. Dr. David McKane: Minister of Worship and Administration
 The Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad: Minister of Christian Development
 Paul Merritt: Director of Music
 Ted Kostecki: Community Development Coordinator
 Kevin Johnston: Church School Coordinator
 Sue Scorgie: Office Coordinator
 Pat Sole: Secretary/Receptionist