

Tidings

First-St. Andrew's United Church

VOLUME 7 ● NUMBER 4



ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, EPIPHANY 1997/8

LOGAN -

A NAME SYNONYMOUS WITH INVOLVEMENT

By Elaine Wilton



Annabelle & Ron Logan

Ron and Annabelle Logan say they have a little more time nowadays to sit and enjoy some relaxation. They have the house to themselves, and as Ron has just recently retired, they feel as if they are on a permanent vacation.

But as they explain how they will fill their time, it becomes apparent that these people will continue to be as involved in community activities as they always have been.

At the present time, both hold leadership positions at First-St. Andrew's, Annabelle as chair of Council, and Ron as chair of Trustees. While the job on Council is time consuming, Annabelle says it has come at an appropriate moment for her, and she is able to devote herself to it. She finds it a rewarding learning experience that has enabled her to get to know many more members of the congregation on a first-name basis.

Ron's committee of twelve Trustees has a mandate to oversee the management of bequests to the church. For example, interest from investments has paid for a new lawn sign and repairs to a stained glass window, and has provided a \$300,000 donation to the Access Fund. In addition, the committee has loaned money for renovations to Farquhar House, and for the purchase of new hymn books. Ron describes the Trustees as a "tough and frugal team with good business expertise." The Trustees' current project is the launching of the Vision Fund which provides an opportunity for individual members of the congregation to direct future funds to FSA.

Ron is a veteran of four fundraising campaigns at FSA, charter president of Shriners, and chair of the fundraising foundation at University Hospital. Although he is officially retired from his business, he has been spending part of each day winding down Patton's Place.

Prior to becoming Chair of Council, Annabelle held a wide variety of

volunteer positions. At FSA she was president of the UCW in 1971-72, a member of Session, and chair of the membership committee. In the community, she was a member of the Service League of London, on the board of Family and Children's Services and the Ontario Advisory Council on Women's Issues, as well as president of both Childreach and the Arthritis Society.

How did all this get started? Annabelle and Ron lived next door to each other, and like a number of other FSA couples, they have known each other since childhood. They were involved in church activities such as choir, drama and 2-3 worship services every Sunday. When they were married, Ron's job with General Motors necessitated a move to London. Annabelle, a Registered Nurse from Toronto General Hospital, worked in a doctor's office until the children were born. Their four daughters, now living in Vancouver, Barbados, Quebec City and Toronto, are strong, community-minded women, all involved in marketing or fund raising careers. Ron and Annabelle have four grandchildren with another due in Barbados in February.

As Annabelle looks back on the years when the children were babies, she notes that without Faye McLean Bass and Netta MacQueen visiting her in the hospital, she would not have become so involved in FSA. It was Faye and Netta who urged her to get out of the house and join some church groups. And...as the saying goes, the rest is history.

As for the future, of the church, Annabelle and Ron see FSA as a centre of Social Action. While such programs as Out of the Cold and food donations should continue, they envision a job centre being established at FSA where retired members of the congregation could act as consultants for the jobless/homeless of the community who are in need of direction. They also look forward to the formation of an alternative worship service to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse community.

It is probably safe to assume that on the list of volunteers to help organize any of these new ventures, the name Logan is likely to appear.

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Info-Line

UCW OCTOBER RUMMAGE SALE

Holding it Friday evening and Saturday morning boosted results by 15% to \$2,300. Thanks to all who helped.

FSA MAKING THE DIFFERENCE

Thanks to each person who pledged gifts of time, talent, energy and money during the fall Stewardship Visitation. Creators of the logo, musical theme, FSA on Display, joined visitors and behind the scenes people to *make the difference* for FSA.

1998 OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE DEC. 7

Tables will be set up in the Access Lobby for convenient pick-up.

POINSETTIAS WILL DECORATE SANCTUARY

If you would like to have a poinsettia placed in memory of a loved one for the Christmas season, please call the church office (679-8182) by Monday, December 1.

PEACE WINDOW HASTI-NOTES

AS CHRISTMAS CARDS?

Why not? Packages of 10 for \$6.50 are available at the church office

EVERY FAMILY MAIL SLOTS TO BE READY SOON

Located just inside the access door, the cabinet has been installed and the 700 shelves ordered.

VOICES UNITED UPDATE

Six hundred and fifty *VOICES UNITED*, costing \$17,500 have been funded so far by \$5,500 in memorial donations. Consider remembering persons or events by funding books at \$25 each.

Tidings

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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.

Series: God's Stewards THE BAILEYS OF REGINA

By Al & Grace MacIntosh



Tom Magee, Grace MacIntosh, Al

Last January we had a phone call from an old friend, Rev. Harold Bailey, now retired in Guelph. The main purpose of his call was to tell us his daughter-in-law and 15 year old granddaughter from Regina were coming to London for five months and were anxious to find accommodation. They hoped for a "house sitting" arrangement or a furnished apartment.

The granddaughter, Elizabeth, had been in hospital in Regina for five months suffering from depression. There seemed to be little or no progress, and doctors there told the family of the SAFE Counselling Program available in either Chicago or London. Costs for Chicago were rather high, and so after talking with the staff in London, the family enrolled Liz here for five months.

Through UWO, they were able to obtain an unfurnished apartment, but still needed to outfit it for the time they would be in London. We talked with Tom Magee, and when Elizabeth and her mother Priscilla arrived, Tom went to see them. Next day he visited them with a truck containing nearly everything they needed (from Dundas Centre stock). We were able to furnish some cooking utensils, linens, and a floor lamp.

Catherine Moore visited them, and Priscilla came to church with us on several Sundays. Liz and her mom came with us to the service and potluck at Pearce Williams.

Both mother and daughter attended SAFE Counselling Sessions three evenings a week, and Elizabeth was able to continue her grade ten studies at Banting Secondary School.

They returned to Regina late in June, and according to her parents, Elizabeth is doing well. As a result of the SAFE program, the Baileys are now better equipped to deal with their daughter's depression should there be any signs of it returning. Priscilla is also prepared to volunteer her assistance should the SAFE people decide to start such a program in Regina.

Parents, grandparents, and Liz have expressed their deepest appreciation for the assistance given to them while in London, especially to Tom Magee and the Community Outreach Committee of First-St. Andrew's Church.

ENVIRONMENTAL TIPS

From the Earth Stewardship Committee

Use an electric dishwasher to wash full loads using the shortest cycle possible.

YOUR CHURCH VISITOR

By Margaret Wonfor

Each month a United Church visitor comes into 140 First-St. Andrew's homes. It brings news of the United Church of Canada: its work and mission at home and abroad, issues of concern to the membership, readers' section, and much, much more. This visitor is *The United Church Observer*, a periodical designed to keep United Church people abreast of what is happening in our denomination and in the Christian community around the world.

FSA's 140 subscriptions represent 22% of our congregation's 630 financially supporting households. This is an increase of 3% over last year's 124 subscriptions, a creditable increase, although we covet the information *The Observer* brings for all our members.

The Observer is well respected by members of the Associated Church Press. In 1995, the last year for which figures are available, it won 21 press awards for the excellence of its articles. It is available to church families at a group rate of \$10 for an 11 issue subscription. This is a visitor we can't afford to miss.

CONFERENCE ON POVERTY

By Ann Denny



Jack Burghardt, Bill Watson

On Saturday, October 18, First-St. Andrew's hosted the first city wide inter-faith conference on poverty, organized by Bill Watson, held at Central Secondary School. Jack Burghardt was chair of the proceedings. After a greeting and opening remarks by Dianne Haskett, seven presenters spoke about their fields of expertise. The topics raised ranged from the experience of poverty, analysis of food bank usage, and affordable housing dilemmas to finding a job in today's economy. Often the reality of the situation was surprising, such as the fact that 40% of welfare recipients do have a high school diploma, and of those, 20% have some post secondary education.

Participants were asked to bring a brown bag lunch, and beverages and desserts were provided. In the afternoon, presentations were heard from representatives of the participating religious communities (Jewish, Christian and Muslim), on the topic of "Traditions of Caring for the Needy." Then there was time for group discussion, and everyone split up into preassigned workshop groups to discuss the issues together, providing some feedback after all they had heard that day. At 4:00 p.m., the conference members reassembled, to report back to the group about their ideas and conclusions.

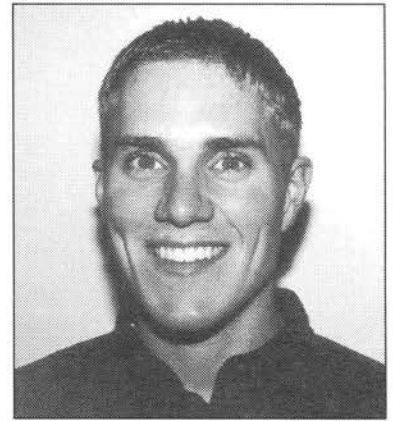
In bringing to attention the needs of the poor in our own city, the first *Conference on Poverty*, hosted by FSA, marks an important step in finding out about, and acknowledging the difficulties faced by poor people in London.

SUMMER EXPERIENCE '97

REPORT ON CONFERENCE IN HUNGARY

By Chris Silcox

This past August, for three weeks, I left the North American continent for the first time in my life. My travel was for the purpose of representing myself, First-St. Andrew's United Church, and the United Church of Canada as a steward at the 23rd General Council Meeting of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches in Debrecen, Hungary. Debrecen is a city situated approximately 400 kilometres East-North-East of Budapest and is roughly half the size of London.



Chris Silcox

I was asked to use my two languages (English and French) to assist participants at the council in addition to all the energies I was willing to contribute to ensure meetings ran smoothly, buses were boarded, microphones were passed, and participants were well-informed of what they needed to know. Issues discussed were divisive, including homosexuality and women's roles in the church. Being an observer of progressive leaders and of their opposite helped foster my growing love of politics.

I came away from Debrecen rich in the wealth of good friends, more knowledgeable of concerns and obstacles facing others around the world, and feeling smaller but by no means insignificant in my role in relation to others.



OUT OF THE COLD UPDATE

By Barb Plante & Bill Watson

Over 100 volunteers participated in the April through October hospitality meal program. In addition to the essential core of FSA members, we had helpers from other churches, particularly St. Aidan's Anglican, and prior to the school break, an enthusiastic group from Clarke Road Secondary School. Approximately 2,500 meals were served. A special thanks to Donna Fraleigh and Elaine Travis, the Food Coordinators, who were there nearly every Monday, and to the Team Leaders.

We intended to reintroduce the overnight shelter component of the program in November, and were planning to that end, when we were informed that two every night shelters, one each for men and women, were being set up, staffed by paid help and funded officially. It therefore seemed reasonable to limit our own efforts to maintaining the evening meal on an ongoing basis.

Once again we have an excellent group of volunteers for November through March. Debbie Roberts and Patti Moldowan are taking on the job of Food Coordinators and we have just recruited the necessary number of Team Leaders.

COUNCIL REPORTS TO YOU

By Annabelle Logan
Chair of Council (471-2518)



Once again it is my privilege to report to you from Council. We were delighted to welcome Susan Shelstad to Council and to her new position as Minister of Christian Development, and of course we welcomed Frank Meadows back. Dr. Barry Moore gave a final wrap-up and some encouraging and stimulating words regarding his summer ministry. Chris Silcox was also welcomed and he gave a short report on his summer trip to Hungary with the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. His role was as a steward, and the theme of the conference was "Breaking the Chains of Justice."

I'm sure you've all seen the new sign on the church lawn and heartily agree it is the perfect spot for our messages.

"Meeting the Challenge", the seminar in response to the Mayor's task force on poverty, took place at Central Secondary School on Oct. 18th. It was an extremely enlightening conference with Mayor Diane Haskett as plenary speaker and Jack Burghardt as Chairperson. About 100 people attended.

October 26 was Stewardship Sunday. "Making the Difference" is a great theme, and Emily & Murray Woods, Susan Brown and their dedicated team members are to be highly congratulated on such an efficiently organized campaign.

The Vision Fund Committee is still working on its mandate. All the committees work extremely hard and give a great deal of time to the life and work of First-St. Andrew's.

The resignations of Mary Jane & Ross McMullen (Ross from Past Chair of Council, Nominating Committee Chair, and communion clerk, and Mary Jane as Chair of Christian Development) were regretfully accepted. David Shaw resigned from Community Outreach and Michael Walker resigned from Marketing. All these dedicated and sharing people have moved - McMullens to Haliburton, David Shaw to Toronto and Mike to Bayfield. On a happy note, though, we welcome Bev Lindsay as Chair of Christian Development, David Knoppert as Chair of Community Outreach, and Emily Woods as Chair of Nominating Committee. Thank you all.

The sharing of time and talent at First-St. Andrew's from preaching, music, visiting and caring is proof we are all trying to be God's people.



The New Lawn Sign

MEET THE VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

By Emily Woods

Our Volunteer Management Committee is a **dream come true!**

In September 1990, four of us from First-St. Andrew's attended a conference at Five Oaks where Marlene Wilson, North America's volunteer guru, was the theme speaker and motivator extraordinaire! When the Church Council came into being, **Volunteer Management** was introduced as a **new committee**. The number of people elected to the committee matches the number of committees requiring volunteers, and each member works in liaison with one of these committees.

Each committee submits a list of their volunteer needs, over seventy all together, such as ushers, teachers, help on computers or at Coffee and Conversation or Out of the Cold. All of these are printed on a **yellow volunteer form** through which the congregation, starting with Grade Seven, marks the activities where they are willing to serve. These **offers of service** are entered into the **computer** so that lists of volunteers can be provided for each activity. These lists are kept in binders, one in the office and one in the Kerygma Room.

More than **2500 offers of service** help our church to live out its mission: **Rejoice! Renew! Reach Out!** Each Fall, in the Stewardship Campaign, we are invited to update how we wish to volunteer, so we can **try something new** and not do the same things forever.

Left to Right
Back: Bob Slater, Lesley
Pergau Co-chairs
Middle: Emily Woods,
Susan Shelstad, Heather
Burns
Front: Sally Smith,
Barb Williamson,
Kathleen Grealis
Not pictured: Muriel
Parsons, Gloria Wiebe



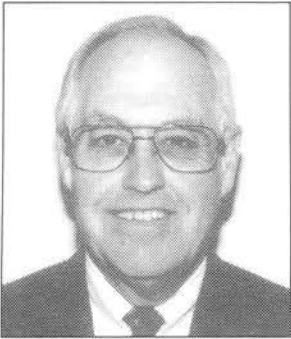
Now the committee is working on **job descriptions** for each volunteer activity, describing the responsibilities and other details to help people **know what is needed**.

Lastly, it is most important to say **Thank you!** All committees are encouraged to thank their volunteers **personally**. Public thanks is celebrated through the **Sunday Announcements** and **Volunteer Appreciation Sunday**.

It has been an immense satisfaction to staff this committee in its development stages. Many thanks to the pioneering spirit of the members. An enthusiastic welcome greeted Susan Shelstad when she arrived!

ENSURING THE FUTURE OF FSA: CHARITABLE ANNUITIES

By Paul Wilde



Paul Wilde

In previous articles I have presented various forms of gifting such as Bequests and Life Insurance. Another unique way of giving is through annuities. This form of giving has many taxable benefits.

Depending on your age, you may be able to purchase an annuity and receive the income, tax free, while providing a gift to FSA. The older one is, the greater the advantages to this type of giving. Although there may be some

tax advantage for folks in their 60s, the concept works best for those in their 70s and beyond.

There are two types of annuities, insured and reinsured. The United Church of Canada provides an insured annuity and insurance companies provide reinsured annuities. You can purchase an annuity either way.

The difference in the two ways of giving is basically this: an

insured annuity means that FSA would get the remaining value of the annuity, if it still has value, after death. A reinsured annuity provides a portion of the value to FSA at the time of purchase.

Regardless of the way you would care to give, our committee is there to help guide in your decision making. It is important to remember that the tax advantages provided in a charitable gift are encouraged by the federal and provincial governments.

We of the Vision Fund are looking forward to your gifts through bequests, annuities and life insurance. Let us be your financial planning architects, assisting you in a way to best meet your donation goals. This will ensure a long and healthy life for FSA to serve your children and grandchildren.

Our weekly envelope contribution is a vital part of the church operation. It is like the seeds we sow for our annual flower garden - they are pretty, but we must count on those seeds being available each year. Long term giving through the Vision Fund is like the seeds planted to grow trees. They take longer to mature but they will be there year after year providing beauty and stability for years to come.

Please feel free to contact me at 432-5123 or leave your name with the church office, 679-8182. Either way, I will be pleased to assist you with your questions. *See Enclosed Flyer.*

35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UCW

By Laurel Kenney

We celebrated the 35th anniversary of the United Church Women!

Yes - we lit candles - 3 of them; that is Jean Comfort, Louise McLarty, and Helen Mahabir did, after they spoke and prayed about the past, present and future of our organization at the 11:00 a.m. service.



Natalie & Danielle Cram
watch Jean Gorwill

Yes - we served cake - 2 of them; cut formally by Jean Gorwill, member of the Wednesday unit, amid the whirr-r of cameras to record this special day.

Yes - we honoured the past presidents of the 35 years when Louise McLarty, our president, presented each with a commemorative spoon.

Yes - there was music - played by Eleanor Hetherington, on the piano, while we reminisced over scrapbooks, quilts, and memorabilia so kindly gathered by our members and church archivist Roger Snyder.

But no! we didn't import a woman speaker for the two special services because the Rev. Dr. Frank Meadows provided us with the background of the tribulations involved when the UCW was born, within the experiences of his mother as she served in both the former organizations, the Women's

Missionary Society and the Women's Association. He reminded us that the strong characteristics of each organization have remained. Like Mary and Martha in the Bible, both are needed, one concerned with the "physical" needs of the church; and the other with the spiritual needs. And also, as the children found out in their story, centred in the life of women in the early rural churches, money was scarce and they tithed their offerings. In this case the eggs were carefully gathered and traded at the general store before they could present their offering at the "Ladies Aid."

So the work of women in the United Church continues and each offering is treasured. Congratulations to you all!



Past Presidents: Lorna Kilb, Debbie
Roberts, Gertrude Bergey and Jean

DID YOU KNOW?

- Marg & Fred Hickman celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in September
- Nancy McNee was given the Award of Merit by the UWO Alumni Association
- Earl Orser was inducted into the London Business Hall of Fame

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 the world."

Kaelyn Anne Bernardo
 Emma Eileen Brooks
 Katherine Elizabeth Holstein
 Christopher Grant Kime-Gradidge
 Brendan Michael Llew-Williams
 Brandon Jesse Peter Parker

Next Baptism: January 11, 1998

MARRIAGES

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

August 2	Julie Denise Dennett, Marvin Lee Holmen
August 23	Julie Christine Aldred, Gregory James Conley
August 29	Gillian Spencer-Kirby, James Neal Sinclair
September 6	Margaret Elaine Tukara, Matthew James McConnell
September 20	Jennifer Anne Monahan, Steven Russell Parker
October 4	Carol Marie Eyre, Phillip William Earl Vanderpost
October 11	Julie Elizabeth Hale, John Paul Hollestelle
October 25	Angela Nicole Tucker, Peiman Afshar

DEATHS

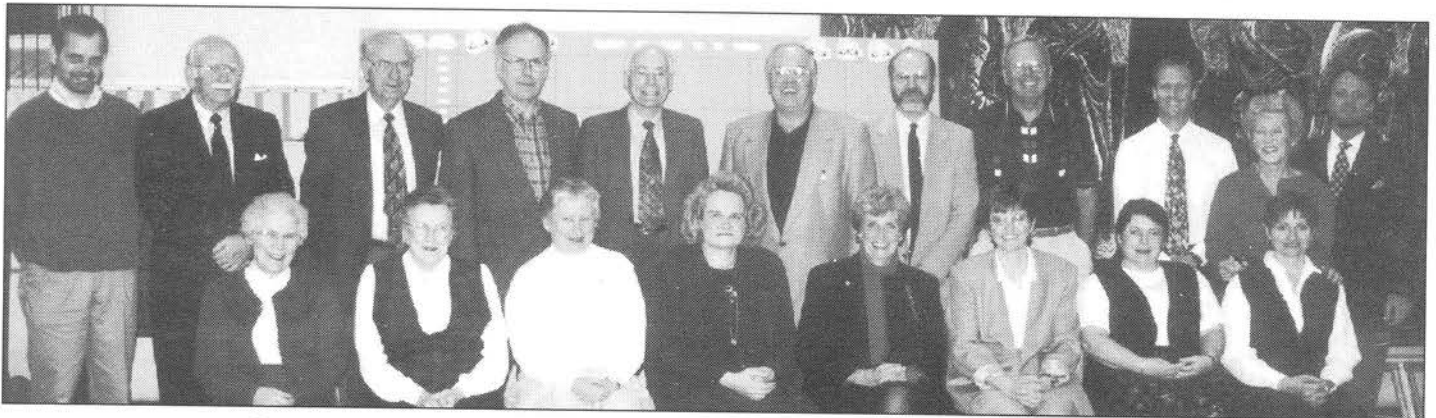
"Well done good and faithful servant."

Julie Anne Pogson	August 6
Mary Margaret Agnes Meadows	August 22
Hellen Meryl Borg	October 7
Gary Marshall Ferneyhough	October 9
Marie Marguerite Stoute	October 16
Naomi Gladys Fraser	October 19
John Stewart Simpson	October 22

GOODBYE & GODSPEED

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

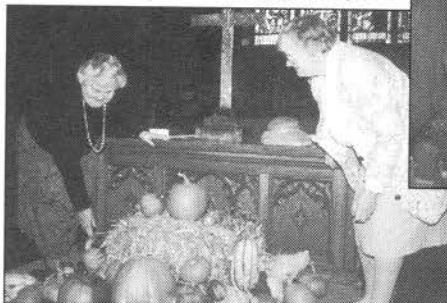
Maggie Montgomery
 Tom & Darlene Jennings



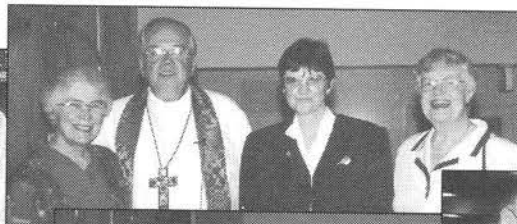
1997 Council

Back: David Knoppert, Mike Walker, Bill Watson, Don Jones, Bob Slater, Frank Meadows, Paul Merritt, Murray Woods, Scott Sneigrove, June McKay, Robin Procnier.
 Front: Louise Slater, Louise McLarty, Bev Lindsay, Heather Vosper, Annabelle Logan, Susan Shelstad, Catherine Moore, Jan Ashall,
 Not Pictured: Ron Logan, Lesley Pergau, Karen Procnier, Eileen Pyper, Emily Woods

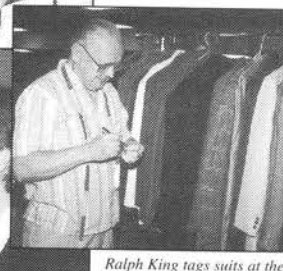
Louise Slater, Frank Meadows, Susan Shelstad,
 Margaret Wonfor---->



Bev Fowler, Barbara Lloyd decorate for Thanksgiving Sunday



*Paul welcomes Susan at her Covenanting Service
 September 14, 1997*

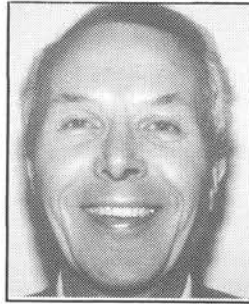


Ralph King tags suits at the Rummage Sale



EXCERPTS FROM SERMON - "REPORT CARD"

By Barry Moore



Barry Moore

I Strengths of FSA

- strong worship life (our music is "out of this world")
- finances in good shape
- we are good organizers
- strong connections into our community through individual members and through programs, e.g. *Out of the Cold*
- new system of Council governance is effective
- excellent staff
- we have worked out well the roles of clergy and laity
- the congregation's support for the sabbatical for Frank Meadows is a model for other congregations.

II A Potential Problem

This is our comparative wealth. (Of course, this wealth is a strength as well - we can afford things as a church that many others cannot.) But most of us at FSA live pretty well. Many of us head north to cottages for the summer and head south for the winter. Most of us drive good cars, have RRSP's, have connections with people of influence, have decent jobs or decent pensions. **But, the daily struggles for survival of many people even in our own city pass us by. We are comfortable.** As such, we do not seem at times to have a deep hunger for the things of the Spirit. I don't see evidence in the congregation of significant numbers of adults wanting to share, for instance, in the hard work of studying our faith. The task of "not dumbing down" is not just for a few, it is for all of us. Also, with many of our members away for substantial portions of the year (I am not criticizing these members), we need to tackle ways of dealing with the extra burden borne by key members who are here year round in essentially carrying the year-round work of the congregation. There is a lot of reference in scripture to the dangers of wealth for individuals. "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than someone who is rich to enter the Kingdom of God." **Is there also a similar danger for rich congregations?**

III My Main Point Over The Summer

This is about where we find God, and thereby where God finds us. I have said repeatedly that we do not find God by trying to live in the past. God does not live there. The two scripture passages this morning (Exodus 3:11-15; Matthew 28:1-10) which describe two of the most central events in our faith illustrate this future reference for God very well. In the first reading, which was about the call of Moses to go and bring the people of Israel out of Exile, and in the second reading, which recounts the earliest events around Jesus' resurrection, we see that the future is where followers must track the living God.

The real Report Card for FSA is not based upon what we have done so far, but on what we have yet to do.

Barry Moore preached the sermon report card on September 14, at FSA

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.

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

Call Alton Ross, (641-6215).

welcome.

Come and enjoy good food, warm fellowship and varied programs. Save Tuesdays, Nov. 25 and Jan. 27 at 6:00 p.m. for the next gathering in the Lower Hall. New members and guests are always



BIFOCALS

Ann MacPhail, (645-8867).

Richard Dinnen, (645-0868);

(7497);

Coordinators: Pat Tripp, (432-

Sat., Feb. 21 - 7:00 p.m. Skating

Sat., Jan. 24 - 7:30 p.m. Square Dancing

Sat., Dec. 13 - 4:00 p.m. Carolling and Potluck

invited to join with the Circle of Friends.

Singles and marrieds who enjoy fun are

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Contact Sandra Dwyer, (438-6546).

support, Tuesday mornings 9:30-11:00.

An informal group for parents and preschoolers offering networking and



HAVA JAVA 'N' JUICE

GROUPS FOR FRIENDSHIP & LEARNING

December 7. Community Outreach invites the young people of the Church School and Gone Fishing to bring unwrapped gifts of non-perishable food, non-violent toys, and clothes (used are fine as long as they are suitable as gifts). There will be baskets in the Narthex and Atrium on December 7 for collection.

WHITE GIFT SUNDAY

Women's Community House.

These will be distributed to young people through ELUCOC and decorated with offerings of mittens, scarves, toques, of all sizes. Once again we will set up a Christmas Tree in the Atrium to be

MITTEN TREE

given to one of the ministers.

Community Outreach invites donations to the Benevolent Fund on the offering plate in an envelope marked **Benevolent Fund**, or to be used at the discretion of the ministers. Donations may be put

BENEVOLENT FUND 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.

FURNITURE DONATIONS

BREXID. Baskets are provided to collect food every Sunday. Baby food is also a special need and may be left at any time. Baskets are placed at entrances of the Chapel and Sanctuary, and in the Atrium.

Please keep in mind the food collection for St. Paul's DAILY



FOOD BANK CONTRIBUTIONS

HOSPITALITY MEALS on Mondays, 5:30 p.m., will continue throughout the winter. Two every night shelters, one each for men and women, will be set up, staffed by paid help and funded officially. Therefore we will focus our efforts on maintaining the Monday evening meal on an ongoing basis.

OUT OF THE COLD (OOC)

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 for the use of refugees and the impoverished, actively supports ELUCCOC in special projects, works with St. Marys United Church in support of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and occupies a chair on their board, sends two members to the LIFT Council meetings and more....

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. Call Westminster College (673-0040) as soon as possible and choose from a variety of workshop dates.

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 January 11. Call the church office if interested. (679-8182)

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

- Jan.-Mar. Isabel & Howard Moffatt (439-2960)
- Apr.-June Kathleen & Clint Grealis (439-8391)
- July-Sept. Carolyn & Don Hambly (649-4557)
- Oct.-Dec. Harumi & Rick Matchett

Coordinators: 9:15 a.m. Liz Galbraith (471-3439) 11:00 a.m.

Volunteers are needed to make and serve coffee, and to clean journey as a valued individual within our community of faith.

Every Sunday, following our 9:15 a.m. 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



COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

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



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 counselors directly.

Kerry Hill, a management consultant and career counselor, provides personal counseling and detailed vocational assessment by appointment when mutually convenient. Ardath Finbogason-Hill, a nurse-educator with considerable experience in personal counselling, and JoAnn 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.

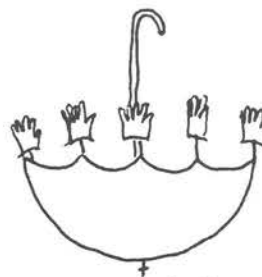
COUNSELLING TEAM

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.



RAINBOWS

Rainbows is effective support programmes for children and adults who have experienced death, divorce, separation, or abandonment. First-St. Andrew's is currently working in co-operation with Robinson Memorial and Colborne Street United Churches, sharing facilities, resources and space. There are 2 adult groups and 1 children's group in process now. If you know someone who would benefit from such a programme, please contact Catherine Moore (679-8182) or Mary Vernon (657-7568) about the 1998/99 series.



GOOD NEIGHBOUR 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.

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 20 men and women who visit every six weeks, maintaining contact with 70 members

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

The Rev. Herb Wontor visits our seniors living in care facilities or on their own, on a regular basis. There are approximately 90 people with whom Herb keeps in touch.

OUR MINISTER OF VISITATION

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.

PASTORAL CARE

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

CD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Chair: Diane Knoppert (668-4063)

It is wonderfully satisfying to sit down with a good book. Our Church Library offers many choices. Watch for book displays at Coffee & Conversation, or browse in the Library. New books and videos for children and adults.

LIBRARY (Next to chapel)



Pre-registration is necessary so that we can order the books for you. Please call the office at (679-8182).

In Lent, we will look at a book called, *A Time To Live*, by Robert Raines on creative aging. After Lent we will pick up on the study of Mark again.

Frank Meadows will lead this study based on the Gospel of Mark. We will use a book, *Say To This Mountain*, by Ched Myers, to guide us in our study. The study will begin on Wednesday Jan. 7 at 7:30 p.m. and continue for four weeks.

SUBVERSIVE BIBLE STUDY

Leader: Stephen Adams (434-7519)

Mondays at 7:30 p.m. in the Library. **KERYGMA** year on Jan. 5.

This thematic approach to the Bible using the *Kerygma* resource will continue through to Dec. 8, and will begin again in the new

KERYGMA: THE BIBLE IN DEPTH

Leader: JoAnn Silcox (642-2152)

God, and lead his fellow Hebrews to freedom and new life. and triumphs of this ancestor of faith as he tried to be faithful to has chosen to companion with Moses, exploring the challenges fellowship warm, and the insight and learning rich. This group 9:15 a.m. in the Kerygma Room. The coffee pot is on, the

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

9:30 a.m. in the Parlour. Our purpose: To look to the Bible to inform and strengthen us for daily living and to get to know others in the congregation. Everyone welcome.



**BIBLE STUDY
THURSDAY MORNING
BIBLE STUDY**

ADULT DEVELOPMENT

THANK YOU!

Can be phoned into or left in the church office. (679-8182). or e-mail, address. If you have someone in your family who is a post-high school person, up to age 25 or so, who is at school or otherwise engaged, in London or out-of-town, please let us have a postal mailing, among familiar faces.

We always try to contact our Post-High Young Adults early in December. We want to let them know that their church continues to think about them in their Post-High experiences and we want to let them know what is happening at their church in the Christmas season. Christmas at the church is a time for those away and those in London to see each other again in this familiar place and

Postal and e-mail addresses needed!

ADULTS

GREETINGS TO OUR POST-HIGH YOUNG

Friday January 30 to Sunday February 1 at Pearce-Williams United Church Christian Centre, Fingal, Ont. Includes: theme topic, games, music, food, indoor/outdoor activities, vespers, morning watch, worship and free time! Registration forms will be available from Youth Group leaders and at Church office closer to the date. Cost: around \$40.00

WINTER RETREAT FOR ALL TEENS

Adults \$4.00 Children \$3.00



Shrove Tuesday, February 24 at 6 p.m. Sponsored by FSA Youth. Includes music!

PANCAKE SUPPER

prepare for this date.

Shelstad (679-8182) so that we can 11:00 a.m. worship service. If you are interested, please call Susan Our first gathering will be on Sunday, Dec. 7 for lunch after the for Confirmation next spring.

Grade 9 and up. The Teen Confirmation Class is for those who want to learn about the Christian faith and lifestyle in preparation

CONFIRMATION CLASS

This group is actively seeking new members. If you are interested in meeting on Wednesdays at 7 p.m., please call Heather Carter (657-8759).



For girls ages 12 - 17.

CANADIAN GIRLS IN TRAINING

MUSIC FOR VOICE AND ORGAN

Sunday, February 15, 1998 at 3:00 p.m.
 Concert with Soloists of First-St. Andrew's
 Paul Merritt, Organist

Admission at the door \$8.00 and \$6.00

Reception to follow

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CRADLE ROLL

Let the church know when your baby arrives so that messages from "Growing in God's Love" package can be sent to celebrate events in your baby's life to age three. Since the last Tidings we have greeted: Brandon Parker, Spencer Harrison and Grace Wagner.

Coordinator: Nancy Stanlick (451-9491)

NURSERY

For infants to two years old - located next to the Chapel on the main floor.
 Open for 9:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services.

Coordinator: Judy Gull; Mary Gonder

CHURCH SCHOOL

Children are invited to participate in our exciting program, using the *Whole People of God* curriculum on Sunday mornings.

At the 9:15 a.m. service, the children leave for a group class after the children's story.

At 11:00 a.m. the three year nursery is open, across from the infant nursery. Other classes from Kindergarten to Grade 6 go to the sanctuary and leave for classes after the children's story. We have some time together in the Fireside Room and then separate into individual classes.

"Unit 3: Birthing a Blessing" covers the period from Nov. 30

to Jan. 11. There will be no Church School classes on Dec. 28 or Jan. 4. The children are invited to attend the regular worship services on these two dates.

"Unit 4: We Have This Ministry" goes from Jan. 18 to Feb. 22

SECRET PALS

Children in grades 3 to 6 exchange letters with adults in the congregation on a monthly basis. Using code names hides your identity until an "unmasking event" in the spring.

Coordinator: Nancy Howard (519-289-2352)



GONE FISHING

The Gone Fishing program, a joint effort of Music and Christian Development, is for children in grades one to six. We meet on Wednesdays from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The children come for a snack, then have choir, music and Christian development times. At 6:15 p.m. we have dinner, prepared by parents who take turns doing this, and then at 6:50 p.m., we go to Chapel, and conclude at 7 p.m. The cost is only \$20 per child (actual cost is about \$35 - pay this if you can.)

The Fall term ends on Wed. Dec. 17. The children will be participating in the Family Christmas Eve Service at 7 p.m. on Dec. 24.

The next term begins on Wed. Jan. 14. Please pre-register by calling the church office, 679-8182.

Coordinators: Susan Shelstad and Paul Merritt (679-8182)

POP, N' POPCORN

Just for fun and friendship! Girls and boys in grade 5 and 6 get together on Friday evenings about once a month. Upcoming events:

November 21 Boys & Girls Club

January Tube Sliding

February Roller Skating

Coordinators: Janice and Jim Elliott, (657-7183), Virginia and Bob Rogan, (472-4137), Jeannette and Stuart Eberhard, (672-8400), Abba and Susan Ahmed, (453-0669).

POLKA DOT DAYS

Children in JK to grade 8 are invited to come to the church on some Professional Development days at school for a fun program. Polka Dot Days are Friday, November 28; Friday, December 5 and Friday, February 27/98.

The program goes from 9 a.m. to 4:40 p.m., but children may arrive as early as 7:30 a.m. and stay until 5:30 p.m. They bring their own lunch, but juice and snacks are provided. Cost is \$20 per day, or \$50 for all three days. Pre-registration is necessary at least one week in advance. Forms are available at the office, or call 679-8182.

Coordinator: Richard Dimmen (645-0868)

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

SUNDAY MORNING YOUTH GROUP

Grade 7 and up!
 Come join the group in the newly painted Upper Room on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. after Youth Choir.

Leaders: Pamela Commodore (858-8759), Lionel Morise (438-8109), and Peter Welch (439-8023).

TEENS IN TRANSIT

Grade 7 and 8

This lively group meets at 11:00 a.m. in their own room off the Upper Room.

Leaders: Ann Denny (433-0319) and Chris Silcox (642-2152)





"Let every heart prepare him room." One of the ways in which we prepare room for the Christ child is worship. We invite you to take part in some of the many opportunities for worship at First-St. Andrew's. The happy, busy days of Advent will help us to be ready to go to Bethlehem in spirit and imagination to worship and adore. As Winter approaches and the days darken, the light of Christ shines ever more brightly within us. Our regular times of Sunday worship are 9:15 a.m. in the chapel and 11:00 a.m. in the main sanctuary. For more detailed information about our services please call the church office at 679-8182. You can also get up to date information at our web site on the internet: <http://www.info.london.on.ca/~aa103/fsa.html>

November 30 9:15 & 11 a.m. First Sunday in Advent
Lessons and Carols

December 7 9:15 & 11 a.m. Second Sunday in Advent
White Gift Sunday Preacher - Frank Meadows

December 14 9:15 & 11 a.m. Third Sunday in Advent
Preacher - Catherine Moore

December 21 9:15 & 11 a.m. Fourth Sunday in Advent
Preacher - Frank Meadows

December 24 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service.
The Christmas story in drama and music.
10:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion
Preacher - Frank Meadows
Broadcast on CFPL-AM Radio 98

December 28 11:00 a.m. The Sunday after Christmas
Preacher - Frank Meadows

January 4 11:00 a.m. The Sunday of the Epiphany
A service for the whole family to celebrate the beginning of the season of light.
Preacher Catherine Moore

January 11 9:15 & 11 a.m. The Baptism of Jesus
The Sacrament of Baptism at the 11 am service.

January 18 9:15 & 11 a.m. Second Sunday after Epiphany
Preacher - Frank Meadows

January 25 9:15 & 11 a.m. Third Sunday after Epiphany
Preacher - Frank Meadows

February 1 9:15 & 11 a.m. Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
The Social Outreach Committee will lead a service focussing on the work of the East London United Church Outreach Cluster.

February 8 9:15 & 11 a.m. Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Preacher - Carol Langford

February 15 9:15 & 11 a.m. Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
Preacher - Catherine Moore

February 22 9:15 & 11 a.m. Last Sunday in Epiphany
Preacher - Frank Meadows

February 25 7:30 p.m. An Ash Wednesday service will be held in the main sanctuary with the imposition of ashes and the sacrament of Holy Communion

WORSHIP

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. There is nothing that expresses the joy of Christmas better than the music of the season. All of the musical groups in our church will participate in the services for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany.

THE CHOIRS

The Senior, Youth and Gone Fishing choirs will add their "joyous strains" at the Advent Lessons and Carols service on November 30. The Senior Choir will sing seasonal music accompanied by the First-St. Andrew's Strings on Christmas Sunday, December 21, and Christmas Eve, and the Gone Fishing Choir will lead the worship at the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service.

THE HANDBELL CHOIRS

The Mixed Pealers and Laudamus Handbell choirs will play during services in Christmas Eve and the Laudamus Handbell Choir will perform the second of our Advent Noon Recitals on Dec. 12.

MUSIC

AT FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S

Music

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

FRIDAY ADVENT NOON RECITALS

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

December 5 Central Secondary School Chamber Orchestra.
Bruce Richardson, Conductor

December 12 The Laudamus Handbell Choir
Barbara Plante, Conductor

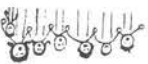
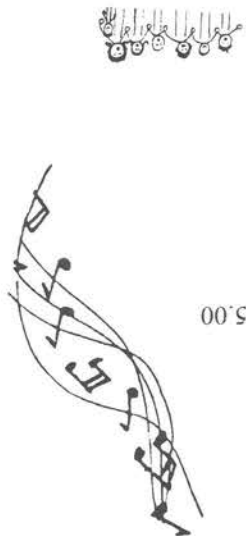
December 19 Paul Merritt, Organ

AN AMABILE CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 7 at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m.
The Amabile Youth Singers
Admission \$10.00, Seniors \$8.00, Students \$5.00

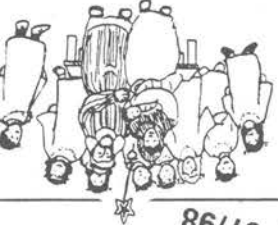
HOPE FOR TOMORROW

Saturday, January 31, 1998 at 8:00 p.m.
The Toronto Mendelssohn Youth Choir
Orchestra, Talisker Players
Robert Cooper, Conductor
Benefit for Aids Committee of London
Admission \$15.00



FSA Program Guide

Advent, Christmas & Epiphany 97/98



Advent is a time of watching and waiting, hoping and expecting. As you know, it is usually a quiet time of the year with not much going on. We are left wondering, "what to do? ... what to do? ...". Hours of emptiness stretch before us in these weeks before Christmas, too many uncommitted evenings. In response, we would like to offer you some suggestions for ways to keep busy this Advent season so that your preparations for the celebration of Christmas are focussed and meaningful. So, here we have:

TOP TEN THINGS TO DO AT F.S.A. THIS ADVENT SEASON:

1. Give Frank a hug. (For that matter, give everyone a hug.)
2. Pray every day. Pray for yourself. Pray for others. Pray in the shower, in the car, over coffee, with a friend, for an enemy.
3. Check out for yourself the Out Of The Cold Program on a Monday night. It will give you perspective.
4. Come to church. Worship is good for the soul.
5. On Sunday afternoons, have a nap instead of going to the mall.
6. Read the lectionary passages (printed each week in the announcements) during the week before Sunday worship. Sit in silence and let the words speak to your heart.
7. Think about how perfect small children are.
8. Breathe deeply.
9. Be like an outstretched palm, open to God's blessings.
10. Christmas Eve, make sure your spirit is open to Christ's coming. Ask the question, is there any room in my life for Christ to come in?

If you still need ideas for things to do, please read the FSA Program Guide. Blessings to you from all the staff here at F.S.A.!

Paul
Catherine
Heidi
Frank



NEW
 Subversive
 Bible Study
 7:30 pm
 Wednesday Evening
 January 7

CHURCH FAMILY EVENTS

- Christmas Eve Family Service
December 24 - 7 pm, Sanctuary
- Lunch After Church
February 8 - Noon, Lower Hall
- Pancake Supper
February 24 - 6 pm Lower Hall

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