

Tidings

First-St. Andrew's United Church

VOLUME 4 • NUMBER 4

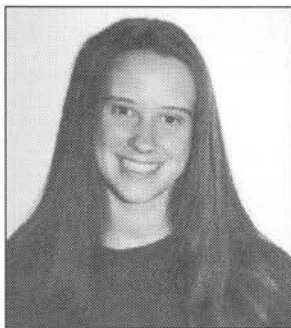
ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, EPIPHANY 94/95



MY EXPERIENCES AT GENERAL COUNCIL '94

By Heather Lindsay

Youth Forum at General Council was an awesome experience. We had ten days of camping, talking, singing, eating, and getting to know people all across Canada. Five or six people slept in eight-person tents that were ten minutes away from the nearest building, shower, and indoor washroom! The tents were a nice size - until people, luggage, and bedding were added.



Heather Lindsay

In court we were given a chance to speak, either in table groups or at microphones, about what we thought on certain issues. Throughout the day, we were given constant cookies and coffee (food for thought?) as well as a chance to get up and stretch our legs once in a while.

After court was adjourned, Youth Forum would have its own program where we sang to let off steam and then split up into "home groups" to reflect on our day. After that (which was 11:00 p.m. or later) we were free to do whatever - as long as we were on the arena grounds by 12:00 a.m. We didn't have an official "bed-time".

All in all, I had a terrific time, met lots of new people, and I know I will never forget those ten days in August.

ACCESS NEARS COMPLETION

By Gary Mount

The First-St. Andrew's Access Addition is finally nearing completion. The bricks are going on, the glass is being installed, and the wallboard nailed in place. Soon we will all be enjoying improved access to our beautiful church building. The pictures show how much progress has been made.



The glass in the atrium is being installed.



The brickwork is truly marvellous. The arch over the door is self supporting!

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The official opening has been tentatively scheduled for January 8, 1995 after the 11:00 a.m. service. The lower floor should be open by the time you read this. Starting November 11th, traffic in and out of both Queens Avenue and Waterloo Street driveways became **two way**. Drive carefully!

THE GENESIS OF THE THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY GROUP

By Jean Hill

In 1986, at a spring meeting of the Christian Development Committee, Sue Taylor, Director, expressed the hope that First-St. Andrew's would soon have more Bible study groups functioning. Ruth MacLean and I offered to help set plans in motion for a new group by September. Sue could not undertake the weekly preparation, so we wondered about rotational leaders for Bible study. Each member would take a week's preparation and presentation in turn.

The personal touch seemed to be good - so each of us wrote five or six notes of invitation to friends that might be interested. Coffee and refreshment were waiting as folks arrived at 9:15 a.m. on September 25, 1986.

During our term - September to mid-December - we studied and discussed *Living Between Memory and Hope* by David Lohead and Betty Jane Klassen. Attendance varied from eleven to seventeen - all women at first! Gerry Meacham, Aggie Ramsden, Madeline Cram, Lesley Pergau, Joan Bancroft and Marion Wilson and our original three met for several weeks. Then Piercey MacLean joined us and suggested we open it up to men. Ruth invited Gordon Hill and Bill Brintnell and they joined the Thursday Morning Bible Study.

The next term - January 15 to mid-May, we studied *An Everyday God* by James Taylor. Leadership and refreshment details were on a rotational sign-up system. That spring, Marion Wilson



Jean Hill

wondered if we might be doing something for some of the children in the Third World. She knew Prof. Del Wolsey, on staff at Althouse College of Education, for he and his wife were interested in adopting into their own home children from the third world. Consequently, Prof. Wolsey was invited to speak to the group. The response was very positive and the group felt they could contribute each fall and spring to "Families For Children".

Correspondence started. Soon after, our Bible Study Group received word about a joint project: a) Children's Home in Dhaka (Bangladesh) and b) Children's Home in Podanur (India), which at that time had over 1,000 children. In Bangladesh the children have their own school, whereas in Podanur, India, the children attend public school. Both projects supply extra vocational training. All children are accepted regardless of handicap. The majority of children are abandoned or orphaned, or children of such poor families they cannot afford to feed or care for them. "Families for Children" also arranges for surgery or medical attention as needed.

For some time now we have sponsored a brother and sister and pictures and reports of their progress are sent to us. Through all the intervening years, we have made two contributions yearly for "Families for Children". Soon after, we receive handmade pictures, art work and hand-made cards from them with their thanks! We hope we have made some difference to a brother and sister and their future!

When the Church and the Sunday School Departments began to use the *Whole People of God* curriculum, the Bible Study Group felt they would like to use the Adult Pack each week. Study sheets for each section and individual Member Study Packets are given out at the beginning of each term. Each study helps prepare us for Frank's or Catherine's Sunday sermon. For our last study session of the term, we enjoy hospitality at someone's home with, sometimes, a special treat of music.

Piercey would say, "We are here Thursday mornings at First-St. Andrew's - come as often as you can!!" Please consider joining us in the Fireside Room as often as you can.

Tidings

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Four issues yearly. News deadline for next issue: January 17, 1995.

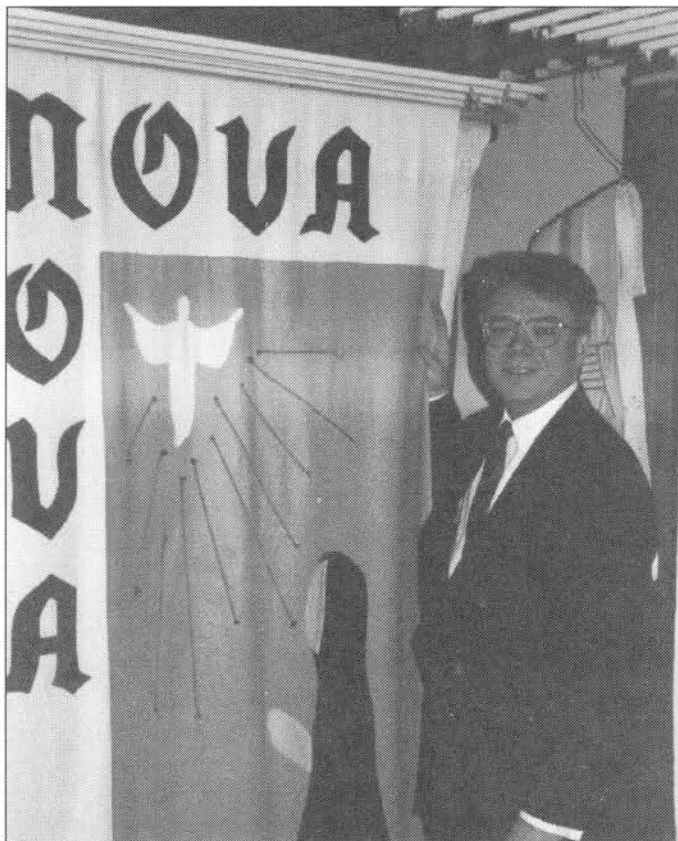
Submissions are accepted only from members of the First-St. Andrew's family. Obtain information from Group and Committee Secretaries or members of the Tidings Team. The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors, not necessarily those of First-St. Andrew's Church.

SHARING GRACES

This is another in the series of graces given by Bob Vosper to Tidings for sharing with PSA family members.

*For fellowship that warms our hearts
For new ideas that stretch our minds
For humour that makes us laugh
For food that nourishes our bodies
We thank you God.*

Amen.



Kerry Stover, banners coordinator, with Christmas banner.

80th ANNIVERSARY MARIAN KEITH CLUB

unique, on-site mystery, still flowering among us
Part Four (of four): **The Marian Keith Books**

By Louise Wyatt

Some people who knew her only as Mrs. D. C. MacGregor might be surprised at her place in Canadian writing as Marian Keith. She has many works to her credit, one source says 14, one 17. Somebody might count.



Louise Wyatt

It's my considered opinion that she followed the Socratic advice: "Know thyself", that she had no "ideas of grandeur" whatsoever and that she was much more interested in validity than in applause. She did not live to see what the standard reference volumes of the mid and late 1960's said of them. "She enjoyed great popularity as the author of light fiction and of evangelical romances full of local colour." Were they in great demand in your father's store, Herb?

Ralph Connor and Ernest Thompson Seton preceded her by about ten years. She was of my mother's time, a close contemporary, in publication with L. M. Montgomery and Nellie McClung, a burgeoning Canadian writing period, in which "she sketched an authentic and charming picture of rural Ontario, in the late nineteenth century ... humorous anecdotal material ...unexaggerated, typical ... an able chronicler of life." (Nancy McNee mentioned that the novels were first published in the *Globe* - I should have guessed as much in the light of her organization around key incidents and their carefully separated chapters, numbered, titled, with gently unified beginnings and endings.)

The negative critical comments say: "Little sense of structure, often thin characterization", conventional Victorian narrative action-lines. Their key value is not literary or stylistic. So do not look for the wrong thing. What to expect?

The Bells of St. Stephens (1927) is professionally described as being a "criticism of the apathy of the urban laity" - St. Stephens is red-brick and located near Orillia - "whose comforts and many opportunities for recreation made them indifferent to the work of the church and to the slums that were growing up around the factories." I went right down and got it, and a copy of *Little Miss Melody* (1921), out of the public library's good collection. (And if you don't know these books, I recommend that you do the same, as a sampling.)

The books are full of flowering gardens, "Canadian fiction of the time" noted one critic, for the most part presenting a Springtime view of the world. There is also a noticeable abundance and variety of literary lyrical quotations, especially in the *Bells* book as communications of love, with poems on trees, as in *As You Like It*. and also, as I've been told, in the MacGregors' own romance.

concluded over...

Info-Line

STEWARDSHIP IS CELEBRATION

Appreciation to the whole congregation for an enthusiastic response to the Fall Visitation. Thanks to all who welcomed a visitor and to all who visited. Together we "SHARE THE VISION" for First-St. Andrew's.

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 5.

CHALLENGE TO WRITERS

An updated story of First-St. Andrew's is needed. If you have a love of our church, of research and an urge to write, please call Emily (679-8182) to say you'll help.

UCW OCTOBER RUMMAGE SALE

\$1900 was added to the UCW treasury in support of its projects. Thanks to the contributors, workers and patrons in this recycling project. Your next opportunity will come in April.

Taken in bulk, Marian Keith's sentences can, if the truth be told, become pretty monotonous, and even the conversations don't always get off the paper. Now and again there is a slight Mariposa flavour - (*Sunshine Sketches* dates from 1912) and there are homely bits of personal observation and interaction. The Marian Keith gentleness is not bland, as witness the sentence which follows a quoted piece of recognizable doggerel being sung by the Sabbath scholars shouting joyfully like robins in celebration of "our an-ni-vers-sa-rie". The song had been written especially for the occasion by Jimmie Gibson's Allen, who was something of a poet, and again in undisturbed narration - "Peter was fifteen and had been tired for two years" and rather grimly of the imperceptive, smugly, self-admiring, unteachable, hopelessly holding forth and running on a Sunday school teacher who we learn "was not young and never had been."

But there is also the insightful, plain, matter-of-fact goodness, unforced and uncloying, refreshing, maybe even at times and as in Shakespeare's Cordelia, not all easy to present persuasively, with the symbol of the "inner song". It persists, and we can still recognize it, though the books' time-frame is not that of 1994. They come from a very different world, before organized psychology, before anthropological savvy was expected in the writing of a novel, before we first named our leaders, before congregations like ours, embraced and kissed each other, before our high speeds, our pressuring and garish mass media, let alone nuclear capability or genetic engineering. (Fermi was only four when Marian Keith's first book was published in 1905). So the books are inevitably period pieces to us, now.

Some are collector's items - quoted in Toronto ten years ago as in the \$40-\$45 range; early this year - non-Toronto - perhaps \$20-\$25 with variants for title and condition. By the time you read this, it is likely that a greatly enlarged collection of Marian Keith books will have been added to and made easily accessible, by our Church library. What with this welcome renewal and the public library collection - someone might check Weldon at UWO, our access to Marian Keith books will be near-at-hand and generous. They'll be back home in what was for twenty years, the MacGregors' home congregation - affording us another chance to explore what they offer - a sensitive, deeply rooted, goodness and humanity not to be sneezed at as *passé*. They persist on their own terms, even when times and surface modes change.

Marian Keith called one of her books *As a Watered Garden*, whose waters satisfy; and if you look up the references (in Isaiah 58:11 and Jeremiah 31:12) you will appreciate the beauty of the treasured image, the sense of ways and words, divine, other than our own, which was constantly at her centre, an uncontrived area flowing in joy instead of sorrow, and without fail. Sometimes the books imply, rather than exemplify such qualities, not exposing them to lower languages rushing in with inevitable inadequacy.

In the course of this four-fold project, I came across a quotation from Bliss Carman, about "a subtle heartening fragrance". He was writing about a peony - but to me it suits the memory of Esther Miller MacGregor and her life and works - especially the "heartening".

As for the whole overview of The Marian Keith Club and its originator director, you've heard of History and Herstory - well this is Ourstory. Its flavour, like that of a good garden, lasts.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AT WORK

By Gary Mount

"That is a wonderful idea! Where is the money going to come from? What about the deficit?" It seems like these three sentences summarize many of the activities of the Finance Committee. We are the watchdogs of the church treasury, the Scrooges of FSA, the people that cry "Wolf" in the night. It isn't fun keeping our foot firmly on the brake pedal. We would much rather say, "Yes! There is plenty of money for all of the projects our church wants to undertake." Lately we have been taking a more positive tack since we do not want to discourage enthusiasm for new projects. Hopefully after the **STEWARDSHIP IS CELEBRATION** campaign, we can be even more optimistic.

The Finance Committee is very capably led by the church treasurer, Paul Huston. He is unbelievably hard working and he cares deeply about the financial condition of the church. (That sounds like a campaign speech but it's true!) He does so much that when the committee meets, there isn't much left for the rest of the committee to do. Paul has one year left in his tenure as church treasurer. Before his term ends, he (and the rest of the Finance Committee) would like to see a much closer working relationship between the Finance Committee and church Trustees. Together we can address the financial needs of the people of First-St. Andrew's.

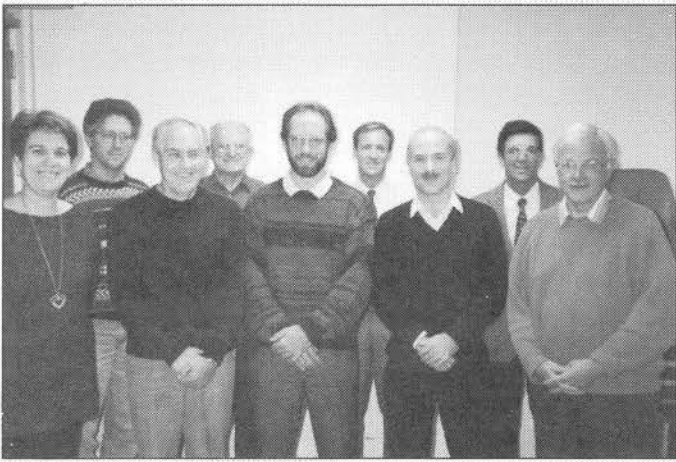


Stuart Robb in chapel with antependium in memory of his wife Edna. A familiar face at the 9:15 service and all church events, Stuart has moved to North York. We will all miss him. Godspeed Stuart.

ENVIRONMENTAL TIPS

From the Earth Stewardship Committee

Each week, Canadians bring home 55,000,000 plastic bags from grocery stores. Recycle them: return them to a store or bring them to rummage sales or bazaars.



FSA Finance Committee. L to R: Susan Brown, Gary Mount, Paul Wilde, John Jones, Paul Huston, Scott Snelgrove, Al Galbraith, Russ Knight, Gerry Shaw. Missing: Kelly Swanson.

Paul works closely with the church's business manager, Susan Brown, who is also part of the finance committee. Together they are responsible for all of First-St. Andrew's money transactions. Susan has been working hard on the Stewardship campaign and deserves a special note of thanks for her efforts in making it a success.

Russ Knight has agreed to be Vice Chair of finance and in 1995 will be the new church treasurer. Next year the committee would like to open up the budget process so that the congregation can have input into the decision making process. On **Monday evening, January 16, 1995**, we will be holding a special budgetary workshop open to every member of the congregation. This will be an opportunity to discuss the budgetary options open to the committees of FSA. Mark it on your calendars and hope to see you there!

Changes...

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

BAPTISMS

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

Rachel Erin Ballantyne
 Jacob Daniel Jackson Belanger
 Samuel Chayton Jackson Belanger
 Alexandra Illoana Smith Blair
 Andrew Steven Smith Blair
 Jeffrey Steven Gonsalves
 Mackenzie Shay Harrison
 Aiden Ian Hilborn
 Lucas Michael Howard
 Brandon Gregory Trask
 Samantha Fraleigh Warren
 Meghan Nicole Wolfenden

Next baptism: January 8, 1995.

DEATHS

"Well done, good and faithful servant."

Edna Caroline Carlton	July 21
Jean Anona Fraleigh	September 15
Mary Elizabeth (Betty) Lewis	October 22
Kathleen Erin (Kay) MacDonald	October 17
Kim Suzanne Pickell	July 26
Thomas Sanderson	July 16
Lillian Kathleen (Kay) Snider	August 25
Leila Jean Barnes Vaughan	August 18

MARRIAGES

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

August 20	Michelle Lynn Tucker Lloyd Joshua Martin Phillip
August 27	Jane Elizabeth Girvin Richard Brent Harrison
September 10	Sarah Margaret McLarty Gary James Kirkham
September 16	Laura Jane Cousins Donald John Alastair McLean
October 6	Elizabeth Ann Ashford David Michael Zdriluk
October 15	Kimberley Anne Coster Scott William Snelgrove

of all sizes. These will be distributed to young people through ELUCOC and Women's Community House.

WHITE GIFT SUNDAY

December 4. Social Action invites the young people of the Church School and Gone Fishing to bring unwrapped gifts of non-perishable food, non-violent toys, and clothes (used are fine as long as they are suitable for use as gifts). There will be baskets in the Narthex on Dec. 4th for collection.

GROUPS FOR FRIENDSHIP AND LEARNING

TWENTYSOMETHING

If you are between the ages of 18 and 29 (or feel like it!), this is a group for you. This fall, we have prepared food for the Mission Festival celebrations, played football with the Youth Group and had a spaghetti supper. On December 13th we'll meet at the church at 6:30 p.m. to go carolling and return for hot chocolate and chat. Join us! Contact persons: Rob Lindsay (657-7007) or Bruce Dawson (641-2286).

THIRTYSOMETHING

Are you, or have you ever been, thirtysomething? Do you enjoy an informal, fun-loving atmosphere? Do you need to unwind on a Friday evening or perhaps find an outlet for your creative energies? Do you enjoy variety in recreational activities and, in particular, do you enjoy festive meals? If so, it sounds like thirtysomething is the group for you! Contact Kevin (457-7324) or Arm (645-8867), for the details of our next gathering.

KUMJINUS

Kumjinius is for folks who are somewhere between thirtysomething and Bifocals, single or coupled. This group meets about five times a year in a social setting to enjoy the company of old and new friends. Coordinators for this year are Donna & Ed Ellis (641-6673) and Ted & Shelley Kosteci (657-9522).

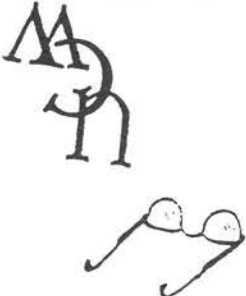
BIFOCALS

Come and enjoy good food, warm fellowship and varied programs on Tuesdays, November 22 and January 24 at 6:30 p.m. in the Lower Hall. Interested? Phone Stan or Muriel Harts, (473-2453).

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

First-St. Andrew's has three units meeting monthly as follows: the first Thursday, at 7:30 p.m., in the Church Parlor; the second Wednesday, at 9:30 a.m., at 1 Grosvenor Gate; the third Tuesday, at 7:30 p.m., in the Church Parlor.

New members are always welcome. Contact the U.C.W. president, Gertrude Bergey (675-1207), for more details.



DIAL-A-PRAYER

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



COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Every Sunday, following our 11:00 a.m. worship, the congregation is invited to remain after service for refreshment and the deepening of friendship. This is an opportunity for each person to make contact and share his/her journey as a valued individual within our community of faith. Volunteers are needed to make and serve coffee, and to clean up.



Co-ordinator: Deanne Pederson (432-1583), Donna Fraleigh (672-6116)

SOCIAL ACTION

SOCIAL ACTION IS INVOLVED IN... preparing baby layettes, organizing food collection for the Youth Action Centre and St. Paul's Daily Bread Food Bank, maintaining a furniture cupboard in Farquhar House for the use of refugees and the impoverished, actively supports ELUCOC in special projects and occupies a chair on their board, sends two members to the Lift Council meetings and more...

BENEVOLENT FUND DONATIONS

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

FOOD BANK CONTRIBUTIONS

Please keep in mind the Social Action Committee's food collection for St. Paul's DAILY BREAD Food Bank. Baskets are provided to collect food every Sunday. Baby food is also a special need and may be left at any time. Baskets are placed at front entrances of the chapel and sanctuary on Sunday mornings. There is a permanent box in the Lower Hall under *The Christ of the Breadline* mural in the Lower Hall. Financial contributions are also welcome. Thank you for helping others!



FURNITURE DONATIONS

People with excess furniture are invited to call Tom Magee, (432-6719), to arrange for pick up. This furniture will be distributed to needy families such as refugees.

MITTEN TREE

Once again we will set up a Christmas Tree in front of the Chapel to be decorated with offerings of mittens, scarves, toques,

PASTORAL CARE AND OUTREACH

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

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

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



is effective support programmes for children and adults who have experienced death, divorce, separation, or abandonment.

When a change takes place in the family - whether it is death, divorce, separation, or abandonment - it has a profound effect on the whole family. Children as well as adults grieve over the loss of a loved one who was once a part of their everyday lives.

Today, many school age children live in single-parent family homes. In addition, many children live in stepfamilies and have serious difficulties adjusting to their new family situations.

Rainbows is peer support for pre-school through grade eight young adults in high school.

Prism is a programme for single parents and stepparents that can help adults get in touch with their own feelings about what has taken place in their family and help rebuild the family unit.

First-St. Andrew's began an adult Prism group in October 1994. If you know or have children who would benefit from a Rainbows or Spectrum group, please contact Catherine as soon as possible.

OUR SENIORS AND THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Rev. Herb Wontor visits our seniors and others on a regular basis. There are approximately 90 people with whom Herb keeps in touch.

RIDES FOR SENIORS



Al and Grace MacIntosh have the responsibility of arranging rides to church for seniors who would otherwise not be able to join us on Sunday morning. Call them at 472-2408 if you are a senior or know a senior in need of Sunday transportation, or if you would be prepared to drive.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Preparation for marriage is important because marriage is important - to the persons involved, to society in general, and to God. First-St. Andrew's works in co-operation with Westminster College to offer classes. The next marriage preparation sessions will be held **February 24-25 and April 28-29, 1995** (Friday night and Saturday) at Westminster College. Call the church office or speak to one of the ministers for details.



BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

A Baptismal preparation session is held prior to every Baptism (usually the Thursday evening) to further prepare the parents who are bringing their children for Baptism. We explore the meaning of Baptism, and prepare for the Sunday service. The Sacrament of Baptism will be celebrated January 8. Call the church office if interested.



HAVA/JAVA & JUICE

An informal group for parents and preschoolers offering networking and support. Tuesday mornings 9:30-11:00. Contact Liz Galbraith (471-3439), Nancy Stanlick (451-9491), or Marion Johnson Denny (433-0319).

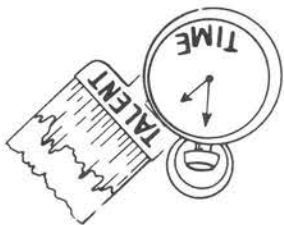
COUNSELLING TEAM

Under the direction of the Ministerial Staff who provide individual spiritual direction to those seeking help where requested, the Counselling Service is staffed voluntarily by three members of the congregation whose professional training and daily work experience is in the counselling context.

Mr. Kerry Hill, a management consultant and career counsellor, provides personal counselling and detailed vocational assessment by appointment when mutually convenient. Mrs. Ardath Fimboogason-Hill, a nurse-educator with considerable experience in personal counselling, and Dr. 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.

The team is inactive until January 1st, 1995.

Referrals may be made through Ardath Hill at 657-3116 or 657-3000. Please feel free to contact the Ministerial staff for further details or speak to any of the counsellors directly.

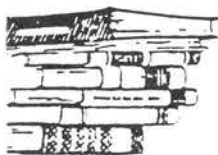


The Volunteer Management Committee was put into place to encourage each of us to discover, develop and offer our gifts and talents, and to match our gifts with the needs of our church. We thank all of you who found the time to read and the respond to the *OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO SERVE* in the updated yellow Fall volunteer booklet last spring and in the updated yellow Fall Visitation booklet. Calling on volunteer computer input people, the information is entered into the church computer to help groups and committees looking for our gifts and service in God's work. Your gifts of time, ability and energy are truly appreciated.

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

The gifts of all for the needs of all

First-St. Andrew's United Church has one of the finest church libraries! Located beside the Chapel. Books and tapes are available for all ages and areas of interest, for serious reading or for pleasure. The Library Team invites you to come in and browse and borrow and read! Check out our new books and the new Children's Centre. An OPEN HOUSE will be held after the Access entrance opens.



LIBRARY

VISION TV is our television network. The United Church is one of the faith groups who shares in this network committed to seeing the world through the eyes of faith. SPIRIT CONNECTION is the specifically United Church magazine program seen Mondays at 7:30 p.m.



VISION TV - SPIRIT CONNECTION

Registration fee is \$15; payable to First-St. Andrew's Church by November 30. This event is sponsored by the First-St. Andrew's Committee for the Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women.

Facilitator: Bernice Santor
Martha, the Woman at the well and Anna
women of the Bible - Mary Magdalene, Hulda, Sarah, Eve,
using feminist methodology to inquire into the lives of some
For participants who attended Part I, this is a follow up workshop

THEIR STORIES - OUR LIVES - PART II

Saturday, January 21

your name on the list. And let us know which evenings suit you best.

Offers a thematic approach to the Bible, giving a "whole-bible" grasp of the book we generally read and study in bits and pieces. Ten themes involve the interaction of God and people in both Old and New Testaments. This opportunity will be offered **beginning in January**. The evening is still indefinite. The group will decide the frequency of gathering. Call the Church Office or talk to Marion Jackson Tyler or JoAnn Silcox to get

KERYGMA IN DEPTH

1. 9:15 in the Kerygma Room. A systematic walk through a piece of Scripture. Currently working on Luke-Acts.
2. 9:15 in the Parlour. Input and discussion to grapple with issues of faith and lifestyle. Watch weekly announcements for current topic.



Two opportunities

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Sounds pretty formal but we're really a friendly, caring group who would be delighted to have you join us on any Thursday morning. We begin with coffee and refreshments, then get into the scriptures which will be the basis of the Sunday sermon. Of course we learn a lot, but what really helps is the reflection on life in the world around us. Why not give us a try!



9:15 a.m. in the Fireside Room.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

ADULT DEVELOPMENT

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

Leaders and the Church Office. Registration forms and more information available from Youth The Christmas Conference is their biggest event of the year. leadership development in an alcohol and drug free environment. Human Achievement and enhances



TOC ALPHA CHRISTMAS CONFERENCE

Dec. 27-30, 1994, Holiday Inn, Toronto Airport. Bus service available. Cost: \$210.00 plus transportation. Toc Alpha is an organization for young people ages 14 to 24. Toc Alpha means *Taking On Concerns About Life, People and Human Achievement* and enhances leadership development in an alcohol and drug free environment. The Christmas Conference is their biggest event of the year. Registration forms and more information available from Youth Leaders and the Church Office.

Registration Deadline: January 29. Cost, probably \$40.00. Sunday Youth Leaders and the Church Office.

Registration forms will be available from and free time! Will there be lots of snow this year? Registration forms will be available from morning watch, vespers, worship indoor/outdoor activities, games, music, food, theme topic and discussion, Christian Centre, Fingal, Ontario. The weekend includes a Friday, Feb. 3 - Sunday, Feb. 5, 1995 at Pearce Williams



WINTER RETREAT FOR ALL TEENS

The Year's Favourite Big Event! Tuesday, February 28, 1995, 6:00 p.m. Plan now to celebrate Pancake Supper at the church, sponsored by our young people. Adults \$4.00; Children \$3.00.



PANCAKE SUPPER

Leaders: Bartie Evans, Shelley Kosteki. This group will meet on Sunday December 4 after church for Chinese Lunch and a "Pedestal" experience! How could you resist? In November and again in the winter, Senior Highs will usher at *Jean's and Classics* at Centennial Hall. All Senior Highs welcome.



SENIOR HIGH GROUP

Ages 16 and up. During Worship on December 4, the teens will be presented with a new Bible - a Christian's most valuable resource. Following worship, the teens, their parents and their sponsors will be invited for lunch to share information about the program.



CONFIRMATION CLASS

This year's class has begun to explore what it means to be a Christian and to be a member of this church. All members of the staff, parents and sponsors will share this learning experience with the group. From time to time, members of the Pastoral Care Team and others will be involved so that the preparation for membership can be concrete and participatory.



CANADIAN GIRLS IN TRAINING

Leaders: Joan Beavers, Heather Carter, Helen Mahabir. season. traditional way to celebrate the Christmas in the Chapel on Sunday, December 11. A Candlelighting Service at the 9:15 a.m. service will lead in their special Annual Calendars are for sale, available from the group and the church office. \$5.00. The girls for GIRLS ages 12-17. United Church



returns to normal with Choir at 9 a.m., then SNACK and TALK at 9:30 a.m. (\$1.00). Get yourselves up to the Upper Room, our own space. Play table tennis and music. Visit! Talk about Teen stuff! Leaders: Pamela Commodore, Lionel Morise

SUNDAY MORNING GROUP

Congratulations to the Teens for the successful performances of *Uniquely Yours*. A big thank you to Directors Greg Bereznick and George Jolink, Producer Paul Pergau, and to all who participated and attended.



YOUTH MINISTRY

Co-ordinators: Virginia & Bob Rogan, Sharon & Dennis Lunau, Janice & Jim Elliott

June 16 Barbeque
May 12 Mini golf
April 7 Games Night
February 10 (probable date) A sporting event at UWO
January 13 Skating at Victoria Park
December 9 Caroling
meets once a month on Fridays.
A group for Grades 5 and 6 to just have fun and make friends! Usually meet once a month on Fridays.



POP 'N' POPCORN

The Winter Term begins Wednesday, January 11 and goes until April 26 (excluding March Break).

Participating families are asked to assist in the preparation of supper twice during the term -- once as organizer, once as helper. The cost of the program covers only the cost of the meal.

1 child	\$31.00
2 children	29.50 each
3 children	28.00 each



GONE FISHING

A unique program of Christian Development and Music for children Grades 1-6. The children are welcomed at 4 p.m. with a snack and gametime, choir and programmes (music and Christian development) Then, all gather in the Lower Hall for shared supper. We close each evening with worship in the Chapel, led by the children.

THE HANDBELL CHOIRS

All of our handbell choirs will play during services in Christmastide. In addition, the Laudamus Handbell Choir will perform the first of our Advent Noon Recitals on December 2.



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

CONCERT SERIES

Through the generous support of "Friends of Music", First-St. Andrew's sponsors an excellent Concert Series which presents a wide variety of musical programs as an outreach to the 1995 season and plan to attend as many concerts as possible. Please refer to the enclosed brochure for the 1994-1995 season and plan to attend as many concerts as possible.

FRIDAY ADVENT NOON RECITALS

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

December 2 The Laudamus Handbell Choir
Barbara Plante, Director

December 9 The Amabile Boys Choirs
Carol Beynon, Conductor
Bevan Keating, Conductor

December 16 Lori Gemmill, Harp

THE ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET

Saturday, January 14, 1995, 7:30 p.m. (\$10, \$8, \$5)

We are thrilled to welcome back this world-renowned chamber ensemble after last May's exciting concert here. This will be the Quartet's only London concert this season, so you won't want to miss it.

WITH VOICE, PIPE AND STRING

Sunday, February 19, 1995, 3:00 p.m. (\$8, \$6)

This concert, featuring the soloists of First-St. Andrew's, will give you an opportunity to hear music for voice and various instruments, such as violins and oboe. There will be a wide variety of music performed and this combination of singers and instrumentalists should add up to a delightful afternoon of music.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CRADLE ROLL

Each new baby in the congregation is welcomed into the church family with our *Growing in God's Love* mailing. Several messages up to age three celebrate important events in baby's life. Be sure to let the church know when your new baby arrives! We have welcomed seventeen babies so far this year. Since the last mailing we have greeted Lucas Howard, Rachel Ballantyne, Mackenzie Hartson, Andrea Holstein, Brandon Trask, Samantha Warren, Andrew Bow, and Teddy Harvey.

Coordinator: Nancy Stanlick

CHURCH SCHOOL AND NURSERIES

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

Unit III **Fulfillment and Promise**, Christmas takes us through Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, from November 27 to January 15, 1995.

Christmas **Holiday Sundays**, December 25 and January 1, will be Multigenerational Services with a seasonal celebration of these special days, for the whole church family. Nurseries available as usual.

Called
to
Be
an
Epiphany



Unit IV **Called to be an Epiphany**, continues with the Season of Epiphany, ending with Shrove Tuesday and the Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 28, at 6:00 p.m.

The Unit III and IV **At Home Paks** are included in this mailing for all families with children. There are wonderful ideas for families.

The children's offering is now brought forward with the offering at the 11 a.m. service. The children are taking turns offering their gifts.

Secret Pals About twenty pairs of Secret Pals, adults teamed up with children, are corresponding monthly in secret through the Secret Pal Mailbox. What a wonderful way for people in our congregation to get to know each other! The secrets will be disclosed next May. Co-ordinator: Bev Lindsay.



A WARM AND COMMITTED STAFF WELCOMES ALL CHILDREN!



GROWING
IN GOD'S LOVE

January 22/95 9:15 & 11 a.m.
 Third Sunday after Epiphany
 The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
 Preacher - The Rev. Peter Wall
 Bishop Cronyn Memorial Anglican Church

January 29/95 9:15 & 11 a.m.
 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
 Preacher - The Rev. Frank Meadows.

February 5/95 8:30 a.m. 9:15 & 11 a.m.
 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
 Communion in the chapel
 Preacher - The Rev. Frank Meadows.

February 12/95 9:15 & 11 a.m.
 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
 Preacher - The Rev. Frank Meadows.

February 19/95 9:15 & 11 a.m.
 Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
 Ten Days for World Development
 Preacher - The Rev. Catherine Moore.

February 26/95 9:15 & 11 a.m.
 Last Sunday after Epiphany
 The Sunday of the Transfiguration.
 Preacher - The Rev. Frank Meadows.

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.

THE SENIOR CHOIR

The choir looks forward to the music of this season more than any other and will have ample opportunity to sing carols and other music at the annual Advent Lessons and Carols service on November 27 and the Christmas Eve Candlelight service. On Sunday, December 18, we will sing Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* and will be joined by a brass quartet for other seasonal music.

THE YOUTH CHOIR

As I write this I can hear the Youth Choir working very hard on their musical *Uniquely Yours* for presentation on November 12 & 13. I hope they will have 'recovered' enough from this event to sing at the annual C.G.I.T. Candlelighting Service on December 11 at 9:15 a.m.!

THE GONE FISHING CHOIR

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

WORSHIP

"Let every heart prepare him room" is a familiar line from a much loved Christmas carol. An important element of that preparation is to worship every chance you get. We invite you to join us as we worship at First-St. Andrew's. The happy, busy days of Advent will help us celebrate his coming into the world. We will rejoice in the shining of that light the world cannot put out. Our regular times of worship are 9:15 a.m. in the chapel and 11:00 a.m. in the main sanctuary. Once a month we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion at 8:30 a.m. in the chapel. Please join us for worship, and invite others to come with you.

Worship Schedule:

November 27/94 9:15 & 11 a.m.
 First Sunday in Advent
 Lessons and Carols.

December 4/94 8:30 a.m. 9:15 & 11 a.m.
 Second Sunday of Advent
 Communion in the chapel
 Offering of White Gifts
 Preacher - The Rev. Frank Meadows.

December 11/94 9:15 a.m. 11:00 a.m.
 Third Sunday in Advent
 C.G.I.T. service
 Preacher - The Rev. Frank Meadows.

December 18/94 9:15 a.m. 11:00 a.m.
 Fourth Sunday in Advent
 Preacher - The Rev. Catherine Moore.
 Senior Choir

December 24/94 7:00 p.m. 10:00 p.m.
 Christmas Eve
 Family Service
 Candlelight Communion, broadcast on
 GFPL-AM.
 Preacher - The Rev. Frank Meadows.

December 25/94 11:00 a.m.
 Christmas Day
 A service for the whole family with carol
 singing and a Christmas story.
 Storyteller - The Rev. Frank Meadows.

January 1/95 11:00 a.m.
 New Year's Day
 A special multigenerational service to
 welcome the New Year.
 The Rev. Catherine Moore.

January 8/95

8:30 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 11:00 a.m.
 The Baptism of Jesus
 Communion in the chapel
 Worship in the chapel
 The Sacrament of Baptism
 Preacher - The Rev. Frank Meadows.

January 15/95

9:15 & 11 a.m.
 Second Sunday after Epiphany
 Communion
 Preacher - The Rev. Catherine Moore.

FSA Program Guide

Advent, Christmas and Epiphany 1994/95



Dear Friends,

Hope is the thing with feathers

That perches in the soul

And sings the tune without the words

And never stops at all.

Emily Dickinson

But even if hope is as constant as Emily Dickinson suggests, it does seem to have special times and seasons. Within our Christian tradition, Advent is the season of hope par excellence. The wreath, the hymns, the familiar Biblical stories all invite us to allow hope to grow within our souls. "Behold, the days are coming... Prepare the way... A light shines in the darkness... Watchmen on the walls, get ready!"

Besides this you know what the hour is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is gone, the day is at hand. Romans 13

In short, there is in this season a mood of waking from sleep, of expectancy, the hope of new and exciting events about to burst on the scene. Just when the year reaches its lowest ebb and we dread the arrival of its coldest and darkest hours, our thoughts leap forward to the holiday season, and we begin to plan and craft, to compile and concoct good times for the gloomy days ahead.

As we enter these exciting seasons in the church year let us turn our attention once again to that essential Christian virtue of hope. We shall hope that out of the turmoil of the busy days ahead, peace will emerge. We shall hope that in the darkness of gloomy winter days [and gloomy winter souls!], a light will shine. We shall hope that the miracle we remember and celebrate will happen in us, and he will find room in our hearts.

May the days and weeks to come be a time of hope, of hope fulfilled, for all of us.
The Peace of Christ be with you all.

Emily Catherine Morrison
Thank You
Paul

