

Tidings



First-St. Andrew's United Church

VOLUME 8 ● NUMBER 2

PENTECOST 1998

THE SCORGIES - A FAMILY ON THE GO

By Elaine Wilton



Russ, Craig, Sue and Blair Scorgie

Sue and Russ Scorgie met one summer as teenagers working at The Banff Springs Hotel. He was a dishwasher and lifeguard; she worked on the front desk. Much has happened in the intervening years, but today they are

once again working for the same company -- this time, Russ's architectural firm on Queens Avenue.

Sue and Russ both attended McGill University. After their marriage they remained in Quebec where Sue taught high school and Russ worked as an architect in Montreal.

Because of the political atmosphere in Quebec in 1976, they decided to return to their home province of Ontario and settle in London. Sue taught for eight years with the Elgin County school board while Russ completed his one year architectural indenture before launching his own firm.

Upon joining First-St. Andrew's, Sue and Russ became active members, participating in a variety of ways. Sue served as a member of the Community Outreach Committee and later as its chair, and was also an elder for a number of years. She presently teaches Sunday school and is a board member and past chair of Proudfoot House. Although the provincial government closed Proudfoot House and the property was recently sold, the board is still in existence and holds funds which could be used if the government were ever to reconsider its decision.

Russ too was an elder and also served on the long-range planning committee before taking on the huge task of directing the Access project. In the course of discussions within the long-range planning committee, the subject of accessibility became a major focus. Other church committees were consulted, and when the Access Project evolved, Russ's firm was asked to undertake its design and construction.

One of the biggest challenges, according to Russ, was preserving the traditional character of the building, yet dealing with such technical matters as the fire code, weight-bearing structures, and

natural light availability. He also had to determine which of the eighteen different levels of the church were the most used, and then work out a plan to make them accessible to everyone.

Designing the Access Addition took approximately one year, and the actual construction, another year. It was officially opened and dedicated on January 8, 1995. Testament to the success of the project was the Urban Design Award presented by London City Council to FSA for its Access Addition.

Russ is now a member of the FSA Property Committee which recently completed renovations to Farquhar House. Although repairs have been done to the church, some major renovations are necessary to both the inside and outside of the building. Russ need not worry about a shortage of new projects.

In fact, it may be that Russ and Sue's two sons will be called on to help out with church tasks. As part of the FSA spring clean-up team, Blair, 14, enjoyed the experience, including riding the lawnmower tractor. He hopes to do similar work in the summer. He is involved with the Teens in Transit program in addition to his snowboarding/skiing, baseball, karate and music activities.

In December, Craig, 9, played the role of Benjamin in the Christmas Eve play at church. Like his brother, he is an avid snowboarder and skier, but also enjoys floor hockey, baseball and Cubs.

They share their love of the outdoors with their parents, and spend many winter weekends skiing in New York state. This summer they are planning a hiking and canoeing holiday in Killarney Park. In the meantime, they will continue their much-appreciated contributions to the life of this church.



Elaine Wilton

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Info-Line

Don Sangster

has joined the Youth Challenge International in Costa Rica for a ten-week summer field project. Thanks to the Congregation and the Teen Group 24-hour Famine Fund Raiser for helping Don.

Our U.C.W. will hold its General Meeting

Luncheon at Westminster College, Thursday, May 28 at 11:30 a.m. Tickets available. Call Louise McLarty (451-8067).

FSA Sunday and Music Events Information

now available by phone - Wed. to Sat. after office hours - 679-8182.

Special Communion and Afternoon Tea

Wednesday May 20 - 2 p.m. Homebound members are invited to come with their pastoral care visitors.

G&S for M&S II - Choir Cabaret - \$5

Choir Cabaret - Thursday, June 4 - 7:30 p.m. Music, Dessert, Coffee - all for \$5 for Mission & Service Fund

UCW Westminster Weekend

May 29-31. Call Louise McLarty (451-8067) for information.

Rainbows Garage Sale- Saturday May 30.

Contributions: Call Mary Vernon (657-7568). Proceeds to Rainbows London to train Russian Leader

From Out of the Cold

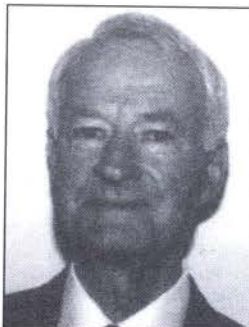
Thanks to our community partners for their ongoing generous support. Delta London Armouries Hotel, Great Canadian Bagel Company (Wellington/Commissioners), Grosvenor Club, Kohns Meats, Loblaws (Wharncliffe/Commissioners), Tim Horton's (Wonderland/Southdale).

Fill a Bag of Books for the Summer

Our well stocked church library, next to the Chapel, offers many treasures for pleasure, meditation or learning. Books Videos and Magazines - Return them in September

CONTINUING ON THE ROAD TO HIGH-TECH!

By Howard Capes



Howard Capes

About six years ago, a computer study committee was appointed to evaluate the office systems at our church. The members of the committee developed a needs assessment based on information gathered from the staff. They visited other centres to determine what software programs were available and to evaluate their suitability for our office.

Based on the recommendations in the committee's report, new computers were purchased with the following appropriate software: a Church Management Program

for church roll database, Accounting software to process revenue and expenses, a spreadsheet program to prepare financial reports, and an upgraded wordprocessing program.

Another innovative step was to join with other churches to outline Sunday service notices in the Saturday Free Press when the cost became prohibitive. Linked with that cooperative approach, the London Free Press invited churches to participate in the new Pressto-Line. Each week there were many calls by members of the congregation and others to inquire about Sunday service and other church activities. Unfortunately, the Free Press terminated the Pressto-Line last summer.

An opportunity to become involved on the World-Wide-Web was provided by Alex Horkay. He had some extra space available with Information London. You have probably noticed the small print at the bottom of our Sunday service announcements. The internet address is "www.info.london.on.ca/~alex/fsa.html" if you wish to receive information. The internet provides another opportunity to share our activities at First-St. Andrew's with former members and other interested people from as far away as British Columbia and Moscow!

A committee, including Paul Pergau and Alex Horkay, has been meeting regularly to plan and launch our own web page. With such a facility, Frank Meadows sees a future page unfolding that would accommodate weekly sermons, a current copy of Tidings, and all sorts of committee and volunteer interaction on the internet. Postal and telephone costs are dramatically reduced when messages are sent via e-mail.

Our latest venture into the world of high-tech involves the telephone system. The last update was in 1978. There has been an increased demand for more convenient and more efficient telecommunication services. Also, the ongoing repairs that plague an outdated system became a concern.

The response to the exciting new telephone system has been very positive. Although there are a variety of automatic functions, you will always be greeted by a pleasant "live" person (usually Pat) when you call during the day. You will be referred promptly to the person you seek or given the information you request.

The automated system is activated at lunch hour and when the office closes for the day. If you call the office after hours (679-8182), you will be invited to leave a message which will be forwarded to the appropriate person. From Wednesday to Saturday you will also be able to hear details of the Sunday service and upcoming music programs.

It is obvious that as First-St. Andrew's goes high-tech, it has not abandoned the personal touch!

Tidings

Chairperson	Bob Slater
Editor	Elaine Wilton
Layout Artist	Don Jones
Photographers	Spencer Inch, Ralph King, David Wake
Staff Representative	Paul Merritt
Stewardship	Howard Capes
Team Members	Ann Denny, Bruce Hillman, Margaret Wonfor
Typist	Pat Sole
Distribution	Mary & John Jones & Team, Alton Ross & Team
Publisher	The Education Committee of Stewardship First-St. Andrew's United Church 350 Queens Avenue, London, Ontario N6B 1X6 Tel:(519) 679-8182 Fax:(519) 439-6838

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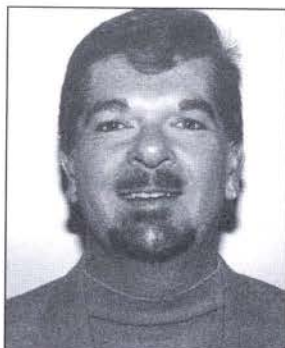
Series: God's Stewards

GERTRUDE BERGEY

By Kevin Johnston



Gertrude Bergey



Kevin Johnston

Service to others has been a way of life for Gertrude Bergey ever since she began teaching at Wortley Road Public School in 1939. In that year she joined the Women Teachers' Federation, and eventually rose to become president of the organization.

After fourteen years teaching elementary school, Gertrude accepted an invitation to join the staff of London Teachers' College where she was granted tenure the following year.

As well as having a very successful teaching record, Gertrude also became a published author, having collaborated with two other women teachers on a series of readers for Kindergarten to Grade 3. These were published by Reinhart & Winston and used in Ontario schools, and quite possibly elsewhere in Canada.

Following cancer surgery in December 1975 (at which time her doctor promised her one year to live), Gertrude retired from teaching, and looked for something meaningful to do for a year. Mission Services asked her to help out as secretary, and she was soon "hooked." Working her way through the ranks, she became president and then a member of the Board of Directors. Under her leadership and guidance, Mission Services was built up to its original status. But Gertrude was also very involved in the front lines - working in the Thrift Store, helping with social support groups for young down-and-out women, and being involved on the Committee for Community Connections. During the next twenty years, Gertrude would become an integral part of Mission Services, particularly amongst the young women and teen girls. Many of them who had nowhere else to go would be invited to her home for Christmas.

At age 75, Gertrude decided that there were other interests she wanted to explore, and so retired from her second career. But just when she thought she was finished, she was asked to bring her expertise to the steering committee overseeing the amalgamation of the three branches of Mission Services. Her mandate was eventually completed, and Gertrude could finally retire.

In addition to her community involvement, Gertrude has enriched the life of FSA. The UCW, the choir, Membership & Nurture and Archives Committees have all benefitted from her active participation.

Recently, she received the Governor General's Caring Canadians Award in honour of her many years of work with Mission Services London. A "lady" in the most classic sense, Gertrude Bergey is certainly one of FSA's rare jewels! Thank you, Gertrude, for sharing your most remarkable self with us.

ALTERNATIVE WORSHIP: A PROMISING START

By Barry Moore

Facts:

- * Services began Sunday February 22
- * around 40 people of all ages (3-70 plus) attend
- * around half of these usually attend Sunday morning as well
- * most come for potluck supper at 6 pm, others arrive at 6:45



Barry Moore



Alternative Worship begins with a shared meal

Format:

- * from 6:45-7:00 there is singing (mainly new hymns from *Voices United*), welcoming and much genial bantering
- * at 7:00 pm people divide themselves into three groups: 1. Bible study with JoAnn Silcox; 2. Praise (lots of singing, reading of scripture and use of paints and clay) with Kevin Johnston, and 3. Contemplation/silence/prayer with Susan Shelstad
- * at 7:45 the whole group meets for dessert and coffee and then disbands at 8:00 p.m.

Some words used by participants to describe their experience:

- * peaceful ... welcoming ... the singing is cool ... a refreshing way to worship ... the worship is very challenging and very non-threatening ... my only totally quiet time in the whole week ... uplifting ... fun ... good fellowship ... (my favourite of all the comments) fattening

What's Next?

The services will continue until May 3. Newcomers are encouraged to come and try things out. You will be made very welcome. Alternative Worship will begin again in early September.

I believe that Susan Shelstad and the others providing leadership must be commended for their work in helping us to develop additional ways in which God can be truly worshipped. I, for one, have and always will love the "holy sounds" in our sanctuary of a Sunday morning. I can now say I also love the "holy silences" in that same sanctuary of a Sunday evening.

COUNCIL REPORTS TO YOU

By Annabelle Logan

Chair of Council (471-2518)

The Annual Congregational Meeting of the Church was held on Sunday, Feb. 8, 1998. Doug McGregor reviewed the Policy & Procedures Manual Update and Scott Snelgrove presented the new budget for '98. The only change was a motion to fund-raise \$15,000 extra for Mission & Service Fund. The new council was elected and there was an acknowledgement of the wonderful contribution by the staff, both clergy and lay people.

The new Council met on February 10 and were duly installed on February 22.

At the April 14 meeting, Stan Hill gave us an update on the Vision Fund logo and pamphlet. (See the enclosed flyer) The updated Policy & Procedures will be ready in June.

The trustees and property committees made a presentation regarding repairs to the exterior of the building. The Council unanimously endorsed the proposal and it was brought to the congregation at a meeting held on April 19. After several questions, all answered to everyone's satisfaction, the motion read: *That the congregation accept the recommendation of the trustees to use*

capital funds to proceed with Phase I of a facility restoration program, to be carried out in 1998 at an estimated cost of \$140,000. The vote carried unanimously.

Earth Stewardship Sunday was April 26. We were asked to bring a branch or flower from the garden to place on a cross that lay on its side at the front of the church. This is called the Service of Greening the Cross. After church, a luncheon was held by the Community Outreach Committee to raise funds for two refugee families. Following the luncheon, Frank Meadows showed slides of his trip to Israel.

The finances of the church are holding steady with approximately \$150,000 in contributions to the middle of April. Please do not forget your envelope contributions during the summer months so that the church can maintain an adequate cash flow.

It is with regret that the Ministry & Personnel Committee accepted a letter of resignation from Susan Brown, our Office Manager. Susan is leaving August 31 to pursue a degree in Social Work. We have appreciated Susan's contributions to the life and work of First-St. Andrew's, and will miss her pleasant and helpful personality around the church. The long advance notice is very much appreciated in order to consider the office structure as we approach the 21st century.

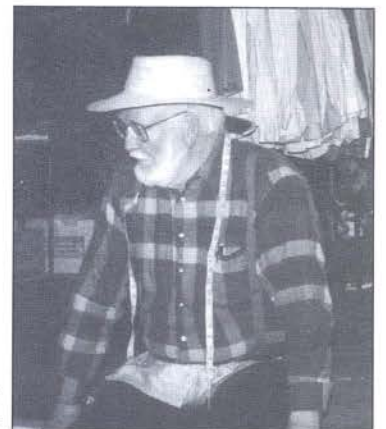


FSA COUNCIL 1998

Back row: Louise McLarty, Joanne Girvan, Ron Logan, Frank Meadows, Robin Procinier, Paul Merritt, Barrie Evans, John Whitehead, Don Jones, David Knoppert,
Front row: Eileen Pyper, Karen Wilson-Procinier, Lesley Pergau, Heather Vosper, Annabelle Logan, Catherine Moore, Susan Shelstad, Bev Lindsay, Barb Williamson
Not pictured: Brian Cram, Doug McGregor, Shirley Peel, Scott Snelgrove, Kerry Stover, Bill Watson

DID YOU KNOW?

- Beth Bailey will receive the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award
- Lee & Russ Gonder celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in April
- Grace & Larry Kinch celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in April
- Earl Orser was named to the Order of Canada in February
- Elaine & Gary Russell's daughter, Shannon, graduated in English from Oxford University
- Louise Wyatt was a platform guest at the February national launching of a new stamp picturing John Robarts whom she taught at Central Secondary School



Bob Swartman volunteering at the Rummage Sale

THE UNITED CHURCH WOMEN OF FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S

By Gertrude Bergey



Standing: Jean Comfort, Mary McLarty, Jessie Vosper, Margaret Wonfor, Laura Swartman, Gerry Meacham, Eva Archibald, Jean Cameron, Barbara Lloyd

Seated: Lu McLean, Shirley Peel, Louise McLarty, Laurel Kenney, Lorna Kilb

Not pictured: Millie Bates, Gertrude Bergey, Fran Eberhard, Peggy Williams

The UCW was the child of a marriage between the traditional "Women's Missionary Society" and the "Women's Association." It is a unique fellowship, meant to embrace every woman in our congregation.

Our UCW has developed a pattern of activities geared to raise funds to support a strong Outreach Programme. Our direct sources of money include our Green Envelopes, talent money, bequests, etc., as well as the Holly Bazaar, the Spring and Fall Rummage Sales, Advent and Lenten luncheions and the Phantom Tea. We trust we may continue to call upon you for participation in these events.

Small groups meet to bake apple pies, to create and preserve gourmet goodies for the Bazaar, to sew in the Sewing Group, to arrange flowers at Christmas and Easter, etc. All of these activities and more provide opportunities to meet new friends and find soul-mates!

We have made significant donations to the Access Fund, covered the basic costs of the new Mail Boxes, and completely refurbished the Church Parlour in the last five years. We contribute yearly to improve the church landscaping. We try to maintain the kitchens and pay for cleaning the choir gowns, etc.

The bulk of our budget is ear-marked for the Mission and Service Fund nationally, and local outreach to chaplaincy groups and other community agencies working with the disadvantaged.

If any of our projects appeal to you, please call our President, Louise McLarty, or speak to any member. We would love to have you share our satisfaction as we try to do Christ's bidding.

PICTURE GALLERY - FSA IN ACTION



Rob Lindsay, Muriel Parsons, and Lillian Reid using the new mailboxes

Thanks to the UCW, everyone in the FSA family has a mailbox located beside the elevator just inside the Access Lobby door. Good news - collection bins are located below the mailboxes for used stamps, unneeded eyeglasses, crafts materials, floral materials, rummage, lost & found, Daily Bread Food Bank. **Please check your mailbox every time you are in the church.** Consider picking up a neighbour's mail for them.



The New Communion Banner Created by Nancy Hutchinson



Preparing the Pancake Supper

Guess who's having fun now at First-St. Andrew's United Church



Donna Ellis



How did you do with these?



Emily Woods

Now can you guess who is pictured here--->



__ H __

__ C __ M

Reach Out! Idea

Help the Staff serve others by sharing information with them. Use the back of the new pew card for this purpose.



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."

Hannah Chelsea Patterson
Jessica Taylor Patterson

Next Baptism: September 27, 1998

MARRIAGES

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

March 14 - Barbara Ethel May Hale & Jeffery Robert Piotrowski

DEATHS

"Well done good and faithful servant."

John N. Given	January 23
Elsie Mae Kearney	February 9
J. Walter McKibbon	March 6
Wayne Yokum Qually	March 10
Dorothy Christina Dilworth	April 20

GOODBYE & GODSPEED

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

Brenda Gummesson & Gary Mount
Susan & Charles Hughson
Bill Johnston
Betty Ann & Doug Macaulay
Kelly-Lynn Musico
Jill Skipper
Rita & Mark Stewardson

NEW ELDERS (elected at the congregational Meeting February 8, 1998)

Eva Archibald
Anne Cunningham
Barb Dalrymple
Barrie Evans
Jack Fowler
Kathleen Grealis
Roger Gustafson
Kerry Hill
Stan Hill

Scott Kirkpatrick
Carol Leenders
Helen Mahabir
Tom McLarty
Barry Moore
Shirley Peel
Don Reid
Illoana Smith
Allan Stinson

Kerry Stover
Ross Strickland
Elaine Travis
Pat Tripp
Paul Wenn
John Whitehead
Peggy Williams
Herb Wonfor
Jean Wright



Paul Merritt directs the Gone Fishing Choir in the musical *GO AND TELL*



Three dancers in the *Gone Fishing* musical

ENVIRONMENTAL TIPS

From the Earth Stewardship Committee

Buy long-storable products in bulk and store in recycled jars
that you have saved

FSA DRAMA GROUP AUDITIONS FOR FALL MUSICAL.

Come on Sunday May 24

ALSO - BACK STAGE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - CALL

Glenda Pennington (672-4231) or George Jolink (673-5639)

First-St. Andrew's Ministry

All of the people including
 The Rev. Dr. Frank Meadows
 The Rev. Catherine Moore
 The Rev Susan Shelstad
 The Rev. Herb Wontor
 Paul Merritt
 Susan Brown Pat Sole Jim Gagnon



of our baptism

September 13 The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
 9:15 & 11 am A service of gathering and re-affirming the covenant



10:30 am
 Labour Day weekend
 Preacher - Frank Meadows

September 6 The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
 conducted at 10:30 am by Catherine Moore.

10:30 am
 For the month of August, the services will be

August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
 Sunday in July, Dr. Barry Moore will be the preacher.

10:30 am
 For the month of July, the services will be conducted

July 5, 12, 19, 26
 10:30 am
 Preacher - Frank Meadows

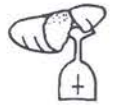
June 28 The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
 10:30 am
 Preacher - Catherine Moore

June 21 The Third Sunday after Pentecost
 10:30 am
 First Nations Day of Prayer

June 14 The Second Sunday after Pentecost
 10:30 am
 Preacher - Frank Meadows

June 7 We begin the season of Pentecost with outdoor
 worship at Pearce Williams Retreat Centre near Iona
 Station. Dorothy Bowman will join us again this year
 to share her special storytelling gifts. We shall also
 celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. There
 will be a 9:15 communion service in the chapel for
 those who are unable to join us at Pearce Williams.

10:30 am
 The Second Sunday after Pentecost



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 The Second Sunday after Pentecost

WORSHIP

MUSIC

On Thursday, **June 4** at 7:30 p.m., our Senior Choir will present **G&S for M&S II** Come and enjoy favourite choruses and solos from the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas, followed by delicious desserts, with all proceeds going to the Mission and Service Fund. During July and August, our Senior Choir will have a well-deserved break from its busy rehearsal schedule. This will give us an opportunity to hear our soloists as they provide vocal music to enrich our worship. Stephanie Burgoyne, a former Wilson Music Apprentice, will play the organ for our July services and David Lee, our most recent apprentice, will play for the August 2 service.

Regular Church School classes end on **May 31st**. The outdoor service for all ages is at Pearce-Williams Centre on **June 7**. From **June 14** to **Sept. 6**, worship will be at 10:30 a.m. and after the children's story each week, there will be a joint class in the Fireside Room. Nursery will be available to the end of June.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Teen retreat at Pearce-Williams Centre, Friday, **June 5** to Sunday, **June 7**.

PASTORAL CARE

RAINBOWS
 Rainbows, a peer support group for those suffering losses, is forming groups - kindergarten age to adult - for the fall. Call Mary Vernon (657-7568) with your questions or interest.

DIAL-A-PRAYER

For a moment of meditation in a busy or quiet day, call our Dial-a-Prayer (439-6838).



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

OUT OF THE COLD (OOC)
 Monday Hospitality Suppers continue - 5:30-6:30 p.m. with summer teams helping.



FOOD BANK CONTRIBUTIONS
 Food collection for St. Paul's DAILY BREAD continues. Baby food is a special need. Donation baskets by church entrances.

GROUPS FOR FRIENDSHIP & LEARNING

Singles and marrieds who enjoy fun are invited to join. Children welcome. Information: Pat (432-7497) or Ann (645-8867)

- Sat. **May 23** - 7 pm Nature Walk
- Sat. **Jun 22** - TBA Nature Walk and BBQ
- Sat. **July 25** - TBA Port Stanley Beach Excursion
- Fri - Sun - **Aug 14 - 16** TBA Camping

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CHURCH FAMILY EVENT

- Outdoor Worship and Picnic
- Sunday June 7, 10:30 am
- Pearce Williams Centre
- Need Transportation?
- Call Church Office (679-8182)

CHURCH FAMILY EVENT

- G&S for M&S II
- Thursday, June 4, 7:30 pm
- Lower Hall
- Program, Dessert and Coffee \$5
- Proceeds to
- Mission & Service Fund

Mr. & Mrs. James Hutchinson
 362 Hazel Avenue
 London, Ontario
 N6H 3R6

Head Catherine Paul Senior Drank

renewing the face of the church. and a sense of mission and purpose. In Pentecost, we acknowledge that the Holy Spirit is constantly on the Day of Pentecost, continues to burn as the ongoing, life-giving fuel for the church. It gives us direction opened up the doors of the household of faith to include "all flesh." This power, unleashed upon the world which arrived with wind and fire, not only filled the vacuum left by the absence of Christ, but reordered the Day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2 is about the coming of the Spirit in Jerusalem among positive action believers who were paralyzed by the loss of Christ's guidance. The storm of God's presence, time and money and energy into the bricks and mortar unless our hearts and souls are also open to renewal. Let's not forget our corporate and individual renewal at the same time. There is no sense putting so much proceed one step at a time until this grand old building can face the millennium with confidence. cracks. There is more to come - eventually renewal of the sanctuary as well - but we will pace ourselves and sheetmetal, repairing windows and insulation, sandblasting, structural repairs, scraping, sanding, repairing and The cost of the scaffolding required to do the painting! This project will involve restoring woodwork and Andrew's into the next century! The budget for this project shows that the cost of the paint required for this job is about the same amount as address the situation as soon as possible. Clearly this is an important project for the stewarding of First-St. meeting, called to consider the matter, voted unanimously to spend \$140,000 over the next few months to find ourselves wanting to wear fresh, new clothes and paint the fence and plant an outrageous number of riotously coloured flowers. Even at the church, the minds of the Property Committee The natural world is so brilliant that other things look drab in comparison. We find ourselves wanting to know what has happened in the world since we last saw it. they take our breath away. The colours of the flowers poking up in our gardens are so brilliant that at first sight hibernation, curious to know what has happened in the world since we last saw it. Spring is really here at last and how welcome it is! All of a sudden the world around us is like an old black and white Hollywood film in which the original colour has been restored. We blink at the brightness like bears coming out of Dear Friends,



FSA Program Guide
Pentecost 1998

