

Tidings



First-St. Andrew's United Church

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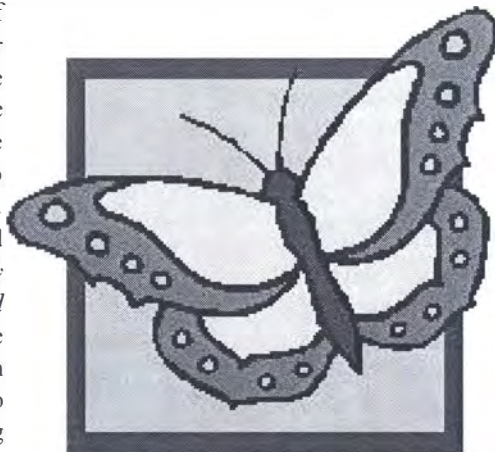
LENT, HOLY WEEK, EASTER 2005

EASTER

by Rev. Dr. David McKane

It is February and the city is blanketed in one of the heaviest snowfalls of the year. The birdbath at the bottom of the garden has a snow cone covering eighteen inches deep. The branches of the Red pine bend low laden, as they are with snow. From the eaves-trough over the front steps long fingers of ice reach for every passing toque. I am sitting in the living room writing of Easter. A fire burns in the fireplace and the sweet smell of cottonwood and pine perfumes the air. On the coffee table by my elbow a pot of daffodils reminds me that, while the garden is blanketed with snow, sleeping in the soil beneath, daffodil, tulip and crocus bulbs await to proclaim the end of winter and herald the spring. Drawn, while it is yet dark, by the sun's light.

I think of death and resurrection. I think of my mother's death and the scattering of her ashes. I think of all the funerals that I have conducted in my 35 years of ministry, of the finality of death, the pain of it, the terrible aching for the "third day", for the stone to be rolled aside and the loved one rise again. I think of R.D. Laing, British psychiatrist and his cryptic comment that "life is a sexually transmitted disease with a one hundred percent mortality rate." I think of all the literature and research into near-death experiences that speak of light, of those who describe the end of life as a process of moving towards an incredible light.



Isaiah speaks:

"Arise, shine, for your light is come. . . . The sun shall be no more thy light by day, neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto you; but the Lord shall be unto you an everlasting light, and your God your glory."

I think of the resurrection of Jesus, of Mary's encounter in the garden and the witness of the scriptures. I think of the variety of resurrection experiences, of all the various schools of thought, of the differing "explanations," of the bottom line. Something quite extraordinary happened here. Not the resuscitation of a corpse but the transformation or transfiguring into an entirely new mode of being, a sign and seal of the new age to come.

Tom Harpur's book, *Life after Death* lies on top of a pile of books beside my chair. I pick it up and open it. Harpur writes;

"It is because of the kind of God revealed by the teachings of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, that I am persuaded of the truth of spiritual planes beneath, through and beyond this world of space, sense and time. It is for this reason that I believe God has a destiny for each of us that transcends the grave. We will live in a dimension of being where all life's promises will be fulfilled, not because of our inner merit or innate immortality, but because of God's faithfulness and love." (334)

Theology, they say, is *fides rationem quaerens*, faith seeking a rational basis and mode of expression. The fire crackles. Outside the snow lies thick and still. Deep in the soil beneath bulbs lie buried waiting for the "third day." Our faith, when all else is said and done, is ultimately rooted in the nature and grace of God, the One who is Light and Life and Life everlasting. Deep in the marrow of my being a song, like daffodil bulbs, begins to stir,

"My Lord, what a morning, my Lord what a morning, my Lord, what a morning when the stars begin to fall, when the stars begin to fall"

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A LESSON IN PREVENTION

How do you carry your purse? There is a right way if you don't want some thief to rip it from your grasp.

Const. Byron MacNeil, a Crime Prevention Officer with London Police, was a guest at a council meeting earlier this year. Using Barb Plante as his subject, he showed council members how important it was to be alert to thieves. He said that snatching the purse from the shoulder will not only result in the loss of the purse, but the action itself can throw a person to the ground with a chance of injury.



London Police Const. Byron MacNeil demonstrates how a thief would try to snatch a purse from Barb Plante.

taking precautions while out and about and around the home.

He also talked about the need to be vigilant around the church where leaving a purse in the open for a few moments could provide an opportunity for theft.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL

by Susan Fullerton



I am writing my first note for Tidings as the new Chair of Council. Although slightly overwhelmed at following in Doug Jones' footsteps, I know he and many other people will be there to provide support to me as I begin this journey.

In looking forward, I think this is an exciting time to be involved in the life and worship at FSA. Two things I want to specifically mention are the upcoming 175th anniversary, for which many plans are in the works, as well as the beginning of discussions with Centennial United Church. At this point, we are beginning a dialogue with the members of the council at Centennial, who are exploring all their options. We will continue to keep you, our congregation, informed when there is further news to report. I would encourage you to speak to me, other members of Council, or staff, if you have any questions or comments as we enter into this process.



Outgoing Chair of FSA Council, Doug Jones, addresses the Annual General Meeting Feb. 13.

Info-Line

RUMMAGE SALE APRIL 23

The UCW is accepting items for sale at the annual event. Just bring your clothing, household articles, toys, shoes, jewellery and books in and leave by the mail-boxes at the Atrium entrance.

GERANIUM SALE MAY 11

Marg Leonard's annual sale of geraniums and hanging pots will take place on the west lawn of FSA.

MAY-TIME COMMUNION SERVICE MAY 18

This is an annual UCW sponsored event for shut-ins. For more information, please call Jean Comfort, 461-0017.

RESOURCE CENTRE IS THIRTY

The Middlesex Presbytery Resource Centre celebrates 30 years of service with an Open House April 23rd from 10am-noon. Join the staff and volunteers for cake, refreshments and a stroll down memory lane.

THE UNITED CHURCH IS 80 YEARS OLD

This year, the Church marks 80 years of mission and ministry with celebrations across the the country on June 5.

Tidings

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WOMAN OF DISTINCTION: JEAN COMFORT

By Laurel Kenney

Over two years ago at a Middlesex Presbyterial executive meeting, Lois Peters captured our imagination. She asked us to select women in our lives who are special and deserved recognition. The result was that two years ago at our annual meeting we recognized Carol Langford with her work in ELUCCO as our 2003 UCW Woman of Distinction.

The executive this past year decided we would continue this award and at our last executive, named Jean Comfort our UCW Woman of Distinction 2005.

Jean is remarkable; the 3rd of a family of 9 with 7 brothers. She and her husband raised a family of 5. Jean worked her way through university the hard way, teaching and coaching Phys. Ed. and she finally received her teacher's degree OCE in Toronto. She taught, Phys. Ed at Danforth Tech 1941 - 1946, married in '46 and returned to London.

By the way, she met her husband in FSA choir during college. Since '49 she has resided on a farm, now in the city of London. Her life has centred around her family, her church and UCW and music. She has sung in choirs since age 9 and still sings in FSA Senior choir and is choir librarian. "And if you are a chorister - don't dare misplace your music".



Laurel Kenney (left), out-going Chair of Middlesex Presbyterial UCW, Jean Comfort, recipient of the Woman of Distinction Award.

Jean has been church school leader with teen aged girls, Explorers & CGIT - she was a member of Delta Rho evening W.M.S. - young mother's group; a member of Wed morning UCW in '62 with various responsibilities, and still is President of General UCW FSA in the 70's; president of Middlesex Presbyterial 74-'75, served on various committees of Middlesex Presbytery and London Conference; presently is President of FSA UCW; has served on many committees in her church and was Clerk of Session in the '80's.

Many women know Jean as she continues to volunteer at the Middlesex Resource Centre - a great source of knowledge about resource material and what books are in to borrow or buy.

Jean is a birder, knowledgeable about wild flowers and many of you have gone on Nature Walks at Camp Kee Mo Kee on Camp Day in June under her leadership.

All through her life raising a family and always involved in her many church and UCW work, don't ever think Jean zapped meals in a microwave or made cakes and pies from mixes. The Comforts boasted huge and productive fruit and vegetable gardens - everything was preserved. The aroma of apple pies baking in the church kitchen oven during the UCW Holly bazaar is part of FSA history. She continues to bake and preserve jams, jellies, pickles, relishes and mincemeat for the bazaar and each month brings the above to her unit for sale to be put in UCW coffers.

Jean said she has been privileged to be part of congregations where ministerial and music leadership have encouraged, inspired and nurtured her through the years - where women are N.B.

Jean - you encourage, inspire and nurture us as you continue your life of service to Jesus Christ. You are truly a remarkable woman, though you would have us believe otherwise!

THE MEN'S BROWN BAG LUNCH

by David Flynn

"Let me tell you about my dream last night..."

"Did you ever hear the one about the travelling preacher?"

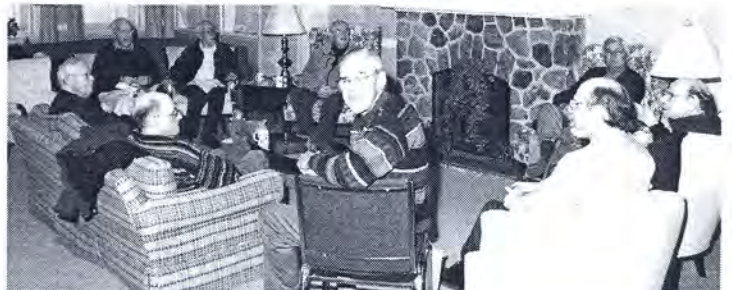
"What can I do if I want to die when I'm too sick to go on?"

"Is the story of Jesus just a story?"

These quotes are just a sampling of what we talk about at the Men's Brown Bag Lunch every Wednesday in the Parlour from 12 until 1. Although I only started attending last fall, the group started more than two years ago, soon after David arrived. While there have been other men's groups at FSA, this particular version has developed its own character—and characters.

I'm not saying that each of us reacts the same way to every discussion—I'm not even saying we each tell the same stories—well, not often. But we've learned to expect that some people will be more sceptical, some are more likely to say, "That reminds me of the time...", and some will listen quietly, until, unexpectedly, they comment in a way which makes the rest of us nod in agreement.

The coffee and tea Ted prepares make us more sociable, I'm sure, as does David's low key facilitating. At the most, he may bring a newspaper clipping for our comments, or make sure we don't ignore someone trying to speak, but, for the most part, we somehow spontaneously go from topic to topic, some profound, some hilarious. As the lunch ends, some conversations go on, others of us make promises to exchange books or music. Overall, there is a sense that this is a space where men can talk about anything and expect sympathetic—if occasionally joking—reactions. For me, it expresses the fellowship and the faith—along with the laughter—of FSA at its best.



BEADS OF HOPE CAMPAIGN

By Barbara Dalrymple



Just over two years ago the United Church of Canada launched The Beads of Hope Campaign as a two-year emergency response appeal to the HIV/AIDS world pandemic. That campaign ended officially December 1, 2004.

When I brought this appeal to our committee it was received with enthusiasm. David Knoppert readily agreed to spearhead our campaign at First St. Andrew's.

We began by selling Beads of Hope pins, beaded in red and white with the HIV/AIDS symbol by women in two African countries. The congregation supported us by purchasing lots of pins and wearing them! 45,000 pins were sold across Canada.

One of our committee's strong points is that we make good sandwiches. So we planned two lunches which were held after the church service and featured two different speakers who had experienced the devastation of HIV/AIDS in African countries. Many people attended the lunches and were generous in their freewill offering.

One of our Overseas Relief offerings was designated for Beads of Hope. Once again our congregation responded generously.

Liz Galbraith initiated a penny drive that raised over **\$750**. Liz, her family, and other helpers, counted and rolled over 27,615 coins, 25,900 of which were pennies. One individual donated 7,000 pennies.

Our contributions totaled **\$12,559.31**

In addition to our congregational total, June McKay raised **\$1070** selling her CD's. **Well done, First St. Andrew's, Liz Galbraith and June McKay.**

As of the end of January, **\$2,044,909** has been raised across Canada. To date 39 global partner programs in Latin America, Africa and Asia have received support. Allocations will continue to be made until December 1, 2006.

We also encouraged you to sign the Signatures of Hope petition. FSA members were some of the 40,000 people across the United Church who did so. This petition had an impact on the federal government. Action was taken on four of our petition points.

1. The Canadian government continues to cancel debts of Heavily Indebted Poor Countries.

2. Canada has increased its contribution to Global HIV/AIDS initiatives to \$70 million for 2005 up from \$35 million the four previous years.

3. Bill C9: Canada is the first country to allow generic manufacturers to export lower-cost medicines to low-income countries without sufficient pharmaceutical capacity.

4. In May, funding was doubled for Canadian HIV/AIDS work.

While the Beads Of Hope Campaign is ending, Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations staff will continue to look for opportunities to advance Canadian government action in the area of HIV/AIDS.

For more information go to www.united-church.ca and click on Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations.

SURPRISED

By Enid Merritt

Life is full of surprises. That's how I felt when first I observed the Decorative Art on two of the Committee Information Boards in the Lower Hall. These boards are placed there so that the congregation can be kept up-to-date on current information supplied by various Committees. How beautiful they are and who painted them I asked?

"Why, Helen Cockshutt", I was told, who had moved to London from Chicago in 1974 with her husband Bill and four children.

So, after being asked to write an article about her, I was invited to tea in their beautiful home filled with many art pieces, which mirror this very creative woman.

Helen began taking decorative art painting classes in Chicago in the early 1970s and was enthusiastic about this new art form and anxious to bring it back to Canada when they returned. She opened a Decorative Art shop in London, but it was not long lived, because, Helen believes, it was 10 years ahead of its time.

Undaunted, she began "travel teaching" from Newfoundland to Victoria, and gradually decorative painting became more prevalent in Canada. She was a founding board member when the Canadian Decorative Artists Network (CDAN) was formed in 1992 for the representation, preservation and promotion of Decorative Art in Canada. She has chaired committees on education, heritage and is now Ontario Ambassador of Good Will and Resources along with being a volunteer painter, to raise funds for such groups as "Hopes Garden", an eating disorder organization.

We also chatted about making the Committee Information Boards more relevant to the congregation. If given permission, I would arrange to rotate ONE weekly in the Atrium so that members and visitors to our Church could read them.

Congratulations and thanks to Helen Cockshutt for sharing her talents with many others and us.

For more information on Decorative Art visit www.cdan.com



Helen Cockshutt and Bill Cockshutt stand in front of one of the bulletin boards she's recently decorated

Changes...

MARRIAGES

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

December 18, 2004 Erin Hurley and Michael Bryans

December 31, 2004 Julie Kennedy and Drew McFeetors

BAPTISMS

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

December 19, 2004 Ashleigh Karen Prevost, daughter of Karen and Mark Prevost

January 2, 2005 Alexander David Bylsma, son of Wendy and Michael Bylsma

January 9, 2005 Taylor Danielle Baer, daughter of Debbie and Scott Baer

January 9, 2005 Owen Jeffrey Gray, son of Laura and Glen Gray

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

DEATHS

"Well done good and faithful servant."

December 3, 2004 William Herbert Wickett

December 8, 2004 Lorna Pearl Kilb

December 26, 2004 Earl Herbert Orser

January 15, 2005 Arlene Isobel Cram

January 29, 2005 Fern Isabel Ferguson

THANKS (IN ADVANCE) FOR YOUR MEMORIES

By Jim Hutchinson



Fifty years ago, our congregation erected this monument (picture on right). Do you know WHERE and WHY? I'll tell you in a moment.

This photo is among hundreds in our Archives File which is now being sorted and sifted for information that will eventually lead to a book recounting the history of First-St. Andrew's. We celebrate our 175th anniversary in 2007.

The Archives Committee has been interviewing many of our longtime members to gather their memories of special times at First-St. Andrew's. We hope to include many of these in a new history of this church. Obviously, it is impossible to schedule a personal time with everyone, but we do want all to have an opportunity to respond.

Think about your time here and give us your input. You might consider such things as: What brought you to First-St. Andrew's? What has kept you here? What special occasions or individuals stand out in your memory? What do you tell others about your church? Take a minute to jot some notes and leave them at the church office, or better yet, e-mail your response to the church. Please help to make our publication representative of everyone!

Now for the history and answer to the question about the picture.

During the 1800's, St. Andrew's Cemetary was located on the site here at Waterloo and Queens Ave., then North Street).

When the current church was built in 1869, the cemetary was moved, at the city's request, to the end of St. James Street east of Adelaide and used until 1918.

In 1954, the city's Health Department encouraged the Church to move the cemetary. The Trustees purchased a small triangle of land at Woodland Cemetary, moved the remains and put up a stone to mark the location.

Fifty years ago this year, the Monument to the church pioneers of the 1800's was erected. One more story for the book.



**YOUR MEMORIES ARE NEEDED FOR OUR BOOK TO COMMEMORATE 175 YEARS OF
OUR CONGREGATION.**

**WHY DID YOU COME HERE? WHAT KEEPS YOU?
WHAT SPECIAL MEMORIES CAN YOU SHARE?
TELL US YOUR STORY**

FRIENDS OF MUSIC

By Bruce Richardson



The Music Committee at First-St. Andrew's is very fortunate to have a group of supporters, the *Friends of Music*, that allows us and our director, Paul Merritt, to present an annual concert series called, *Music at First-St. Andrew's*, both to the FSA family and to the London and area community. The series features outstanding talent ranging from the London locality to those of international

renown. Although it is part of the church's outreach program, *Friends of Music* is completely self-supporting through donations made specifically to this fund. As such it underwrites most of the production costs which allows the ticket prices to be affordable by all.

Led by our music director, Paul Merritt, this year's program includes a wide array of styles to stimulate all tastes. For 2003-04 the series featured such remarkable performances as the celebrated St. Lawrence String Quartet and concluded with the stunning concert by the Polokwane Choral Society from South Africa on their North American tour. This year we have heard a grasping lecture series on the Baroque Organ by Paul, the annual UWO Choral Series, our own Sonja Gustafson in a jazz mode, the London Concert Band directed by choir member Bob Kennedy, the Advent and Lent Recital Series, 'A Taste of Burns' with David McKane as The Bard, the Fifteenth Amabile Festival, the Pittsburgh Trio with Londoner Jennifer Orchard, and concluding with a Concert Celebration by our own senior choir on the event of John Rutter's 60th Birthday. Surely, an uplifting and stimulating group of concerts for everyone.

It is the intent of the series organizers to end each year by expending most or all of the funds. Thus, donations from those who support the *Friends of Music* are an ongoing necessity to keep the series healthy and growing, and we are most grateful to those contributors of the past and present. Donations can be made on your own behalf or in the name of another (a memorial perhaps) through a cheque to "Friends of Music" and left at or mailed to the church office. Your donation will be acknowledged with a tax-deductible receipt plus the satisfaction that you are part of an indispensable group. Your or another's name will join the many who support *Friends of Music* at First-St. Andrew's and will appear (or as 'Anonymous' should you wish) on the programmes and the Concert Series flyer in recognition of your generosity. We encourage everyone to take full advantage of this outstanding and varied concert series.



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

A TASTE OF BURNS



(Above) Bruce Richardson pipes while Tara Gonder dances



Bill Watson (centre) addresses the haggis while "Robert Burns", David McKane (left) and Robin Sutherland (right), the Haggis Bearer, watch.



"Haggis Stew" performs under the direction of Sharon Jones, but the showstopper was two-year old Claire Fright.

THE PANCAKE SUPPER



THE HOLLY BAZAAR

By *Trudy Valentine, Bazaar committee co-chair*

The Holly Bazaar at First-St. Andrew's has a long history. For too many years to count this event has been a mainstay on our November calendar. It has been the prime fundraiser for our UCW. The women of all units have been the principal organizers, producers, decorators and sellers of this popular Bazaar. Now, in the 21st Century, we need additional help. The UCW membership is dwindling, with very little new blood available to carry on.

The Bazaar in November 2004 was a most successful event, which was enjoyed by all who took part or attended. With a profit of \$ 12,100 this is a worthwhile effort. PLEASE HELP. Call the church office to volunteer.

THINGS TO CONSIDER FOR HOLLY BAZAAR 2005

1. We need a new Convener and Co-Convener.
2. Cafe Noel needs a new Convener(s).
3. A Bazaar seems to be the best way to raise \$ 10,000 - \$12,000. Should it be every year or every second year?
4. The Bazaar should stay as a UCW fundraiser, but a total church-family event. Church members must come forward and volunteer their expertise.
5. Look into inviting a few craftspeople to rent a table and sell, with a percentage coming to us.
6. How about an antique shop in the Chapel or 3-year-old nursery? Small pieces of furniture - tables, chairs, stools etc. plus other things. Do we know someone with expertise about antique prices?
7. Provide a pick-up service for baking or other items for people who have difficulty getting to the church.
8. Put out a challenge to groups within the Church, to produce something special for the Bazaar. Could be done as a group party or workshop(s) EG: Choirs, Circle of Friends, Teens, Men's group, etc.
9. Provide a gift-wrapping table — free or with a charge. Possibly in the children's area.
10. Workshops with someone to organize: could be in church or home: horseradish, meat pies, craft item (s).

We have one of the better bazaars in London. It would be wonderful to keep up our reputation.

If we want a Bazaar in 2005, people must come forward by early spring - February / March.

WRITE-A-THON FOR AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

By *Jan Elliott*

It was the best of times. It was the worst of times. Many said that Dec 10 was the worst time being so close to Christmas but many said it was the best time to create a gift fit for the King, and so sixty volunteers gathered in the fireside room of First-St Andrews. With them they took paper, pens, cringle, apple cider and the true spirit of the season. Thoughtfully and carefully they wrote to presidents, generals and politicians in the spirit of peace, and asked them for Justice.

December 10 is the day chosen by Amnesty International for its Write for Rights write-a-thon, as it is the anniversary of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. Sixty people took part here at FSA and produced 165 appeal letters. Most writers were from our congregation but a few were young people from the local chapter of Amnesty International.

Many expressed their feeling of satisfaction at being able to help others who are powerless to help themselves against government condoned torture, rape and false imprisonment. The power of the pen is the strength of Amnesty International and we enthusiastically used this mighty tool at Christmas on behalf of our fellow men and women.

The Mission and Outreach Committee, as a result of this project, not only plans to offer other opportunities for people to take part in letter writing events such as this at FSA, but has also invited the local Amnesty Group to use FSA as their meeting place.



(Above) Participants in Write for Rights Day at FSA.

A SNOW ANGEL AT WORK



(Left) Truly God's Steward: Winnie Wake grabbed a shovel on that cold, snowy day in January and helped clear the path between the church lot and the parking lot next door.

(Right) Paul Mansell, Courtney McCann, Amnesty International London, Jan Elliott tally up the letter-writing totals.



FSA Program Guide

Lent, Holy Week, Easter 2005

WORSHIP

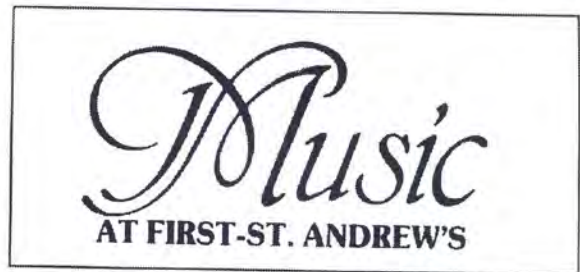
- February 27 3rd in Lent
9am and 10:30am
Rev. Dr. David McKane
- March 6 4th in Lent
9am and 10:30am
Rev. Dr. David McKane
- March 13 5th in Lent
9am and 10:30am
Rev. Dr. David McKane
- March 20 Palm/Passion Sunday
9am and 10:30am
Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad
- March 25 Good Friday with Metropolitan UC at FSA - 11am
Rev. Dr. David McKane preaching
- March 27 Easter
9am and 10:30am
Rev. Dr. David McKane
- April 3 2nd after Easter
9am and 10:30AM
Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad
- April 10 3rd after Easter
9AM and 10:30am
Imagine God - a musical by the Joyful Singers
- April 17 4th after Easter
9am and 10:30am
Rev. Dr. David McKane
- April 24 5th after Easter
9am and 10:30am
Rev. Dr. David McKane
- May 1 Confirmation/New Members
9am and 10:30am
Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad
- May 8 Christian Family Sunday - Baptisms
9am and 10:30am
Rev. Dr. David McKane
- May 15 Pentecost Communion
9am and 10:30am
Rev. Dr. David McKane

MUSIC

SALUTE TO MUSIC, TO YOUTH SUNDAY APRIL 3 AT 2:30PM

A special recital to celebrate the musical talents of FSA's children and youth.

All young instrumentalists, singers, dancers, etc. etc. are invited to participate in this recital. Please contact Paul Merritt, 679-8182 or Bruce Richardson, 473-1023 to reserve a place on the program.



Fifteenth Annual Amabile Festival
Sunday, February 20, 2005 at 2:30 and 7:30 pm
Amabile Youth Singers, Junior Amabile Singers and Amabile Boys Choir

Friday Lenten Noon Recitals
12:00 - 12:30 - luncheon served following

February 25 Paul Merritt, organ
March 4 Willis Bote, tenor
March 11 Anne Cunningham, flute
Paul Merritt, piano

The Pittsburgh Trio
Sunday, March 20, 2005 at 7:30 pm
Jennifer Orchard, violin
Mikhail Istomin, cello
Igor Kraevsky, piano

Happy Birthday John Rutter
Saturday, April 16, at 7:30pm
A Concert Honouring John Rutter's 60th year
The Choir of First-St. Andrews United Church with Brass
Paul Merritt, Conductor
Program will include Rutter's Gloria and Fancies

SPECIAL SERVICE MUSIC

Upcoming services to take particular note of include:

Sunday, March 27 at 10:30 Easter Sunday with

Brass and FSA Strings & Senior Choir performing portions of Handel's Messiah.

Sunday, April 10 at 10:30

The Joyful Singers will present the musical IMAGINE GOD during this service and will "take it on the road" to Kevin Johnston's church in Fingal at 3:00 pm the same day.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CRADLE ROLL

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

Coordinator: Martha Bere (641-6947)

NURSERY

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

Coordinator: Judy Cull

CHURCH SCHOOL

Check out the Children's Library off the Fireside Room!

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



(Left and Above) The children and youth of FSA performed "Night of the Stars" as their Christmas Pageant in December. The production was directed by Liz Galbraith.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

TEENS IN TRANSIT (TNT)

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

Leader: Nancy Howard (289-0540)

TEEN CONFIRMATION CLASS

A class of nine young people began meeting in the fall. Confirmation will take place on Sunday, May 1st.

YOUTH COUNCIL

The Youth Council meets every second Wednesday from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the Upper Room. Keep an eye on the Sunday church bulletin for other special events.

Advisors: Erin Linforth & Jordan Berard (657-0515).

YOUTH GROUP

By Martha Elliot

Our Youth Group here at F.S.A. is made up of a great group of teens in grade 7 and over from our church, and their friends. We meet every second Wednesday night in the Upper Room at the church. We plan many fun activities, for example, bowling, skating, and watching movies at the church. We also plan activities to help others. We had a 24 hour fast in October, and raised over \$400.00 for the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada. We all slept over night at the church. Our group leader, Erin Linforth, organized a lot of games and activities for us. A few of the activities we did were: a scavenger hunt, going up the steeple, playing Bible and hymn book Pictionary, and a "Community Building" game to learn about the gap between Rich and Poor.

We have also taken part in carol singing at a nursing home, and "Write for Rights" letter writing for Amnesty International. We are also working hard on some more projects, such as planning and leading a church service on May 29th.

We are a great group that has fun and helps others. I really enjoy coming out to youth group, and encourage anyone in grade 7 and up to come on out. We've got lots of room for more new members!



(Left and Below). The Youth Group held a 24-hour fast to raise money for the M&S Fund



ADULT DEVELOPMENT

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

All members of the congregation, regardless of previous Bible study exposure, are invited to take part in an hour long study on Sunday mornings, from 9 – 10 a.m., in an informal setting, with a very friendly group of persons, over coffee. We are currently exploring the Gospel of Matthew, this year's lectionary Gospel focus, with a view to understanding how one early church community struggled to frame their experience of God in the light of Jesus of Nazareth — as a prelude to our own efforts to find new meaning in our present time.

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

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

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

Facilitator: Susan Shelstad (679-8182)



DREAM GROUP

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

SPIRITUALITY ON TAP

— An informal evening of a movie and discussion about faith in a pub-like setting. Watch the announcement insert for dates, movies and times.

NEW THIS SEASON:

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

Wed. Feb. 16, 23, Mar. 2, 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

OTHER LIBRARY

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

CD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Donations to this fund are used to help children, young people and adults attend programs and events such as youth retreats, camp, and Conference events. The fund is currently depleted after sending several children to camps this summer. Your help is appreciated.

PASTORAL CARE

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

CARE FOR THE CAREGIVER

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

CONGREGATIONAL VISITING TEAM

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

PRAYER CHAIN

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

COUNSELLING TEAM

There is a counselling service available to FSA members staffed voluntarily by the following: Kerry Hill, a management consultant and career counsellor, Ardath Finnbogason-Hill, a nurse-educator with considerable experience in personal counselling, and Jo Ann Silcox, a psychiatrist, work as a team to provide initial assessment and follow-through counselling for individuals, couples, families or groups facing personal transitional crises. Referrals may be made through Ardath Hill at 657-3000.

RIDES FOR SENIORS

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

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Every Sunday, following our 9 am and 10:30 am worship services, the congregation is invited to remain for refreshment and the deepening of friendship. This is an opportunity for each person to make contact and share his/her journey as a valued individual within our community of faith. Volunteers are needed to make and serve coffee and to clean up.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

A Baptismal preparation session is held prior to every Baptism (usually the Thursday evening) to prepare the parents who are bringing their children for Baptism. We explore the meaning of Baptism, and prepare for the Sunday service. Our next baptism is May 8. Call the church office if interested. (679-8182).

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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

HOSPITALITY MEALS

This program runs year round on Mondays, 5:30 p.m. providing hospitality meals for more than 100 persons. One hundred or more volunteers have been involved, many of them from other churches. For information, contact Tom and Shirly Wynne at 474-4768, or the church office, 679-8182

FOOD BANK CONTRIBUTIONS

Please keep in mind the Committee's food collection for St. Paul's DAILY BREAD. Baby food is also a special need and may be left at any time. Baskets are placed at the entrance of the Chapel, and Narthex and Atrium entrances of the Sanctuary where you may leave your donations. Financial contributions are also welcome. Thank you for helping others!.

GROW-A-ROW PROJECT

Over the past five years, money has been provided for the Canadian Food Grains Program through the efforts of St. Marys United Church and FSA. Donations are matched 4:1 by CIDA. This summer, the project used a farm outside London owned by Tom McLarty. The amount raised by FSA members this year was just over \$4,000. During the past several years, members of FSA and St. Marys United have donated more than \$84,000 to the Grow-A-Row project and when matched by the government, that means \$420,000 worth of food was shipped to countries where the need is high.

FRIENDSHIP & LEARNING GROUPS

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

All persons twenty and over who enjoy fun are invited to join with the Circle of Friends. Look for information in the weekly bulletin. Contact Ann MacPhail for more information at 645-8867.

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

The purpose of the UCW is to unite women of the congregation for the total mission of the church and to provide a medium through which we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service. First-St. Andrew's has three units meeting monthly as follows:

The first Thursday at 1:30 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.

BRIDGE GROUP

The Marathon Bridge Group has started its season under the coordination of Jim and Jean Young.

FSA SUPPER CLUB (FORMERLY BIFOCALS)

The newly renamed Supper Club meets for Pot Luck and Entertainment, fellowship and varied programs. January 25 will feature Guests Deanne and David Peterson on "It's All About Relationships". On February 25, it's "Cards and Games Night" with court whist, bridge, euchre or your choice of games. March 23rd will feature "The True North Strong and Free" an armchair trip across Canada presented by Gib Cole. The season concludes on April 26th with "Let There Be Light-The Canadian Light Source" with Dr. Mike Bancroft. New members and guests are always welcome. Call Shirley Wynne, 474-4788, or June McKay, 471-5668, for information.

(Below) "The Supper Club" prepares for a sing-song under the direction of Paul Merritt.



A FINAL WORD

Lent, Holy Week, Easter 2005



TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY

How, when and why did Tidings, our information bulletin, come to pass? I think it beyond peradventure that the initiating and driving force was Bob Slater. This is what headmasters are for, and he accomplished the task, with help of course, in the year 1991.

At that time, FSA did have an information bulletin, but a few individuals felt strongly that FSA deserved something more comprehensive that would combine information, commentary and opinion. In Tidings this is what they got.

In one way or another, as writers, photographers, editors, printers, commentators, etc, at least 30 people have been involved at the core level of production, and certainly many more, at least a hundred, doing what in the publication world is known as "Scut work".

The first issue was in the Fall of 1991, and it has been produced quarterly ever since. From time to time more frequent publication has been contemplated, but the present frequency is ideal taking into account the factors of cost, content, care and commitment.

From the beginning the following policies were agreed on:

1. There would be no advertising.
2. It would be free
3. Unsolicited material would be considered for inclusion, subject to editorial judgement. To date, Tidings has incorporated material from over one hundred contributors.
4. The worst thing that has happened to it in 15 years of publication was that is was once a week late!

What gave Bob Slater the incentive to promote the introduction of Tidings! His recollection is: "There was a notion abroad about this sort of thing, and David de Weert who was secretary of the Board in 1990, and who had purchased a profession journal, was very keen on the idea." More than that, the Stewardship Committee was very supportive of the idea, and one of its members, Spencer Inch, became the first photographer. During its 15 years of publication over one hundred people have been involved in one capacity or another – as writers, photographers, editors, computer gurus and representatives of the various committees of Council. Well done all you Bearers, Writers, Producers and Promoters of Glad Tidings.

By Bill Watson



First-St. Andrew's Ministry

Rev. Dr. David McKane: Minister of Worship and Administration
The Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad: Minister of Christian Development

Paul Merritt: Director of Music

Ted Kostecki: Community Development Coordinator

Susan Scorie: Church Administrator

Maureen Scarborough: Secretary/Receptionist

Rusty Robertson: Custodian