

Tidings



First-St. Andrew's United Church

VOLUME 13 ● NUMBER 1

LENT, HOLY WEEK, EASTER 2003

SISTERHOOD IS POWERFUL

By Debbie Maund



Two ladies who really know the meaning of this statement are Liz Mignotte and Barb Williamson. Growing up, their family home was in farming country near Exeter, and for the past 20 years, they've shared their home here in London. Their experiences over the years have been many and varied.

Barb trained at the then "London Normal School" and became a teacher. Her career started in a one-room country schoolhouse teaching grades 1-8 before moving in to a position in London. She also did a 2 year stint of teaching at a private school in London (UK). During the last several years of her career, she worked as a teacher librarian.

Liz trained in nursing at the Victoria Hospital in London. During her career, she experienced many aspects of the profession. This included 6 years in California working on a surgical unit, studying public health at University of Ottawa, psychiatric nursing, and a return "home" to be closer to family and to complete her BScN as a "mature" student. She taught nursing in Stratford for the last 19 years of her career, retiring shortly after Mike Harris proclaimed nursing had gone the way of the hula-hoop!



Today, these two ladies try to get the most fun out of life possible. When asked what they're passionate about, it quickly became clear that Barb and Liz are passionate for life and all that it has to offer! They love theatre, books, music, dancing, cooking, traveling, entertaining, and their family. Barb's son has a 16-month-old daughter, and this young lady is a great source of joy! They confided that throwing parties and entertaining allows them to experiment and try new recipes. They are particularly fond of Mexican!

Although Liz and Barb have traveled the world extensively, their hearts, they tell me, are actually in Goderich at the cottage they've owned for more than 2 decades. They spend all their time there between May and the end of October. It is primarily for this reason that they describe themselves as "FOUL WEATHER CHRISTIANS" when it comes to FSA, because during the foul weather, you'll see them at FSA (where they've been for 18 years) involved in and volunteering for just about anything. This includes Bifocals, the bazaar, rummage sale, and many committees. In addition, they've arranged bus tours to Stratford for the last 4 years. This year, the trip to see the King & I sold out in 1.5 hours !!

Barb & Liz tell me that they are looking forward to more travel and adventure in the years to come. But one thing is certain – when the weather's nice, you're sure to find them at their cottage, where, Liz says, "If ever your faith should falter, you just need to walk the beach..."

AN IN-SPIRE-ING PROJECT!

Look way up!

As the old nursery rhyme tells us: "This is the Church and this is The Steeple... "



The FSA steeple, the tallest spire in London, will be getting a new copper coat. Work on the venerable structure has begun and hopefully be completed in April at a cost of \$225,000.

The steeple, erected in 1898, is part of the proud heritage of this congregation.

"...open it up and here are the people."

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HYMN

Like a congregation's caring
for the wounded and the displaced,
so the shepherd God comes seeking
everyone in need of grace.

As we care for one another,
as we heal the wounded soul,
so we tend a world that's broken
making God's creation whole.

In our picketing and praying,
in our search for what is right,
as disciples we will follow
in the steps of One who's Light.

So, most gracious Shepherd, lead us
to a wide and growing place
where with sheep of other pastures
we may graze upon your grace.

(Editor's note: David McKane submitted this hymn to a competition sponsored by the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Church in America. The church is the fifth largest in the US. The church was seeking a new hymn which would be used during a musical symposium of the church later this year.)

Tidings

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FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S LIVE/SILENT AUCTION

Cater a dinner, knit a sweater, paint a fence. Sculpt a sculpture.

, Babysit for an hour (or night, or week-end), provide a ride in a car, a plant or on a horse.

Provide a math lesson, a music lesson, a tennis lesson. Host a round of golf or evening or entertainment. Or a weekend, or a week, at a cottage.

Do someone's taxes or write a will. Deliver a meal or play for a special event.

Whew! Those are just some of the talents, services and skills we're looking for as auction items.

After a hiatus of four or five years, the First-St Andrew's Auction is returning.

This one is set for Sunday afternoon May 4th.

We'll get things underway with a light lunch and then the auction itself.

There will be two components: a silent auction and a live auction.

So.. how much am I bid? Ten dollars, fifteen dollars.. Going once. Going twice.

Sold



Info-Line

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

March 4 at 5:30 pm in the Lower Hall. A freewill offering will be collected

RUMMAGE SALE

March 22 9am-noon.

THE BEST OF IRELAND TOUR

May 15 for 16 days. Escorted by Rev. David McKane. Observer Tours. See David for information.

LABRYNTH WALK

March 7, 7pm in the Lower Hall

MAYTIME COMMUNION

May 7 2pm. for shut-ins.

GERANIUM SALE

May 14 Marg Leonard's popular sale of geraniums in the First-St. Andrew's Parking Lot

LENTEN RECITALS

March 28: Paul Merritt, organ; April 4: Susan Carscadden-Mifsud, Handbell Soloist; April 11: Piano Stylings of Paul Merritt joined by friends.. Program followed by a luncheon.

RECITAL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

This was a very popular event last year. The final date hasn't been set. All children are welcome. Call Nikki Attwell at 473-0760 for information.

GOD'S STEWARD - AUGIE MEACHAM

by Elspeth Watson



While Augie stands head and shoulders above most of us, he is down-to-earth in his faith and witness, believing with Thomas Chatterton that 'We are God's stewards all, nought of our own we bear.'

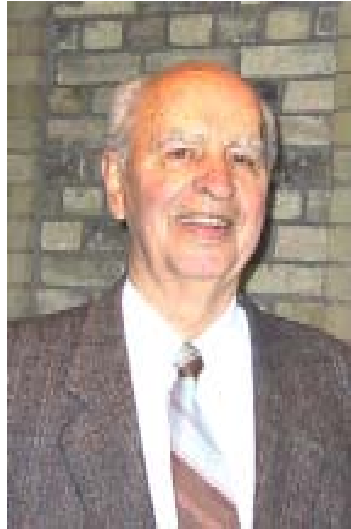
As a child he owned very little.

Born and raised on a small farm in Princeton, Ontario, he was the second of four children. The living was not easy. Sugar-bag shirts were the norm; skates were only a dream. Church was somewhere to walk to, to meet other kids.

It was not until 1942 when he joined the Canadian army, serving in Italy and later on the Western Front, that he had his first encounter with God. "If I survive this, I'll do something useful", he prayed, as the bullets sliced the air overhead. And that meant only one thing: "I'll have to be a minister."

Though he was not fully aware of it, military service was the very best preparation for future ministry. Living on the edge, with people who were scared, he found every emotion was heightened - when you had come under fire, and lived to see another day, life became more precious, every soldier was your brother and deep bonds were formed. He felt compassion as never before.

Decorated for bravery, he was demobbed in 1946, and met his wife-to-be at the welcome-home party in Princeton. He was offered three choices by the Dept. of Veterans Affairs: a piece of land; a house; or six years of college.



He chose the third, and, with a Grade eight education, entered Victoria College U. of T. While Gerry faithfully did her P.H.T. (Putting Hubby Through), Augie completed a B.A. and an M.Th. Wawa was their first pastoral charge - a small mining town where Augie felt one with the people. Then followed six years at Thamesford and eleven at Blenheim before he was appointed the first Personnel Officer in London Conference. He liked his role as encourager and counsellor to other ministers, but *disliked* being sued!

Fifteen years in this position more than prepared him for chairing the Ministry & Personnel Committee at FSA when he retired. He is still a highly valued member.

Augie's Christian stewardship covers the whole of life. The term "encourager" describes him best. He is a gentle, persuasive encourager to his family and seven grandchildren. He encourages the folk at the Thursday Bible Study. And he encourages members of the Dream Group, which he enjoys attending regularly.

Of all the facets of his ministry, Augie has felt most comfortable leading small groups, a skill he developed in the Wawa days when visual learning was in vogue. Many of us treasure memories of Augie standing beside a blackboard, chalk in hand, creating diagrams to illustrate our relationship with God.

I asked him what informed his stewardship, what made him tick? He spoke reverently of his own spiritual experience: "Stewardship is my response to God's grace, and comes from a thankful heart." Then I asked him what prayer meant in his life, and he replied, "Letting God take over. That may be what Paul intended by 'Pray without ceasing.' It's all *God's* world."

'Nought of our own we bear.' This could be Augie's dictum.

A UNIQUE TREASURE

by Liz Galbraith



I have always been attracted to bargain bins, garage and rummage sales. I marvel at those people at the Antique Road Show who have their items assessed at values hundreds or thousands of times higher than they originally paid. Always on the lookout for that hidden treasure I venture off twice a year to work at our church rummage sale. I found that treasure this time, but not how I had expected.

It was near the end of the October sale. I was given the dubious honour of working the 'Men's Table'! Near the end of the sale the selection was down to a few odds and sods and an old microwave. A customer began to enquire about various objects. With three hours of bartering and dickering behind me, I was prepared to make a deal. This guy was going to be a challenge, but I was ready. Not only was he good at negotiating, but he seemed to want to buy everything! He didn't even know, nor did I for that matter, what some of the stuff was, yet he was interested in buying it.

I began to wonder what his motivation was, until I finally had the nerve to ask him. Then he explained that he had only been a short time in Canada when our church had helped him and other

with furniture and other necessities of life, and now he wanted to help us with our sale.

Among other things he bought the microwave, but it was heavy and he was some distance from home. I offered to give him a ride.

As we walked to the car I found the key to the long lost treasure, long lost but suddenly found. My new friend was from Iraq. I recalled an Arabic phrase my Palestinian neighbour had taught me. I wasn't sure of its meaning but I remembered it was a way of saying 'Hello'. When I spoke these words, "Asalam Aleikom", a sparkle, perhaps even a tear of joy, came to this stranger's eyes. He told me that this was the nicest thing I could ever have said to him. He said, "It means to be in Peace with you".

Everything we do in life has a purpose, and I suddenly understood why I had my neighbour teach me that phrase 25 years ago, and why I had remembered it. The look of happiness and joy that these words had produced is difficult to describe.

No longer strangers we have exchanged phone calls and met for coffee. I know there is a reason why our paths have crossed. And I also know, with deep conviction, that this rummage sale treasure is more valuable than anything that money can buy..

COUNCIL MUSINGS

Doug Jones, Council chair



Greetings all. Since my last message in Tidings, we're well into the cold days of the last throes of winter. In celebration – and for some relief – the Youth Council held a VERY successful “Mid-Winter Madness” with a fun-filled cast including renditions from Elvis, Little Richard and, no not Vaughn Williams, the other famous Williams, Hank Williams. We even had a visit from Sonny and Cher – and what an event that was. We also learned the best place to “slop your dripper”, and overheard Ralph King comment to Paul Merritt, who was the piano accompanist for the violin of young Josh Baldwin at the time: “Stay with it Paul, you’ll learn”. In addition to a cornucopia of instrumentalists on piano, flute, violin, cello, and double bass, we were all treated to a most delightful evening throughout, with young voices like Megan, Martha, Calvin, Natasha, Sue-Ellen and the fashion show “rainbow” from the Youth Council. All a great deal of fun and food to raise funds for the Mission and Service fund. Thank you to the leaders too. We look forward to their possible repeat a year from now of Fun, Food, Friendship and Fellowship.

February 16th at 1 P.M. was the Annual Congregational Meeting, where we recognized the accomplishments of the past year, the contribution of so many members of the Congregation and the financial challenges as well as opportunities for the upcoming year. We were delighted to see that the projected deficit for the 2002 calendar year was considerably lower than budgeted. Thus, we will not have an accumulative debt to take into the current fiscal year. There is an ongoing commitment to the Building campaign of Mission Services London. We have pledged \$2,000 per year for the 5 years of the campaign. We also acknowledged the need for additional effort and novel ideas, from us all, to meet the needs of the Church and reduce this year’s projected deficit of \$39,773. Thank you to the 21 people who have joined and strengthened the Committees of the Church. A thank you was also extended to the

outgoing Chairs of three Committees: Ken Wright from Finance, Don Spencer from Music, and Muriel Parsons from Volunteer Management.



This year was the end of the 9th year since the Council system was adopted at FSA. This brought a new set of recognitions for those who had completed the normal maximum term of their appointment on Committees – i. e. an initial 3 year appointment, renewed twice for a total of 9 years – which was set when the Council system was adopted a decade ago. A heart-felt thank you for their commitment to the FSA family, together with a pin, custom designed for the occasion, was extended to: Judy Cull; Stan Harris; Nancy Howard; Carol Shaw; Gerry Shaw; Enid Merritt and Katherine Wonfor. “Well done, good and faithful servants.”

A brief update was presented of the ongoing work of the ad-hoc Committee on Parish Nursing, who are actively pursuing the “Health Council” concept as well as a “Pastoral Care Team”. We are also looking forward to the report of the Physical Plant ad-hoc committee later this spring. A final item is the invitation to everyone to share your thoughts or feelings on the opportunities for the expression of worship. We will be exploring avenues to facilitate worship experiences. One or more “town-hall” meetings are being planned to allow open discussion of our hopes and ideas. There was discussion on potential dates, one being Tuesday evening March 11th at 8 PM, another being after church on a Sunday in March. If you have a preference for the date, please let Pat Sole in the office know as soon as possible to allow planning.

We are looking forward with renewed commitment to a very interesting year. The Council meets at 7:30 P.M., the 2nd Tuesday of every month from September to June. Council meetings are open meetings. Everyone is welcome at any meeting.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

At the Annual General Meeting on Sunday Feb. 16, the following were elected:

Christian Development Joan Bancroft, Charlotte Ann Bell, Chris Silcox, Monique Silcox

Finance: Ross Strickland, Barrie Evans

Membership and Nurture: Barbara Williamson, Marion Wilson

Ministry and Personnel: Lesley Mounteer

Stewardship Mission Outreach: Shirley Albutt, Elaine Wilton, John Jardine

Music: Ivana Klouda, Wendy Ewert

Property: Wes Sole

Volunteer Management: Sarah Aziz, Matt Aziz, Katherine Wonfor

CONGRATULATIONS (1)

To Michael Bancroft, who was named an Officer of the Order of Canada.

To Fred Pattison, who received the Minister's Award for Exceptional Volunteer Service. for his work at the Ellgin Middlesex Detention Centre

WHO IS IT?

We once again dig into our files to show you a childhood picture of somebody well known to FSA members. The answer is on page 7.

No peeking!



CONGRATULATIONS (2)

to Karen Blachford and members of her rink which won the Wheelchair Curling World Cup in Scotland in January. Last year, the rink won a silver medal in the Championships in Switzerland.



FRIENDS OF MUSIC

by *Barrie Evans*



The *Friends of Music* of First-St. Andrew's support the musical outreach activities of the church by making donations to this specific fund. The fund exists outside the church's operating budget and enables the concert series to be entirely self-supporting. The cost of the ticket price to attend many musical events is often below the actual cost of mounting the performance. This is done in order to make the concerts

as accessible as possible to all.

The musical offerings in this year's calendar were as varied as ever from the Mozart Requiem to a Night at the Opera, the St. Lawrence String Quartet, vocal and choral workshops, a Celebration of Advent and "The Christmas Season in Word and Song" with the Rev. Dr. David McKane. In addition to these evening concerts were the Advent and Lenten noon recital series featuring our own Laudamus Bells, and Paul Merritt on our wonderful Casavant Organ. A recent very special event was the "Celebration of Robbie Burns", again featuring our own David McKane as the immortal bard. Still to come is the 2003 Amabile Festival, the Pergolesi Stabat Mater and a concert of Psalms and Sonnets which is a stroke of creative programming genius of our intrepid leader, Paul Merritt.

Thank you to all who have donated in support of the *Friends of Music*, either in your own name or in memory of a loved one. If you would like to make a donation and haven't done so before, you can simply enclose a cheque in an envelope marked *Friends of Music* and place it on the offering plate or you can mail it in to the church office. Contributions in any amount will be gratefully received and they are tax-deductible. Your name, or the name of a person you identify, will appear with the other *Friends of Music*

KYOTO - WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

by Winifred and Dave Wake



Now that the government of Canada has ratified the Kyoto protocol, Canadians are asking, "What does this mean for me?"

Canada has agreed that, by 2012, it will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 6% below 1990 levels. Since our greenhouse gas emissions increased by more than 10%

between 1990 and 1996, the reduction from today's levels is likely to be in the order of 20%.

In order to meet our targets, Canada will have to make reductions in key areas such as transportation, electricity generation, and industry.

In the transportation sector, use of public transit must increase. Development of cars that consume clean fuels and emit much less greenhouse gas will be important. Raising the proportion of ethanol in vehicle fuel significantly decreases greenhouse gas emissions.

Switching away from coal as a source of electricity reduces greenhouse gases and other pollutants. Electricity production from wind, solar, and other renewable energy sources is being pursued with increasing interest.

In our homes and offices, any action that reduces energy consumption will reduce the production of greenhouse gases. At home, proper insulation, windows, and energy-efficient appliances will reduce energy costs and reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from our own furnaces and from electricity plants.

For the Kyoto protocol to be effective, government and industry must provide strong leadership, but individual Canadians must also be committed to change. Identify ways in which you can reduce your own energy consumption: use public transit; consider a more efficient vehicle; reduce energy waste at home; encourage governments to take actions consistent with Kyoto commitments.

THE ROBERT BURNS SUPPER

That was some celebration of Robbie Burns' works, spirit and life. And how fortuitous that it fell on January 25, the birthday of the Bard. Borrowing from a Burns officianado who said: "It had everything: a wonderful place to gather (atmosphere courtesy of Enid Merritt), plenty of haggis and neeps, friendly celbrants (you

and me), a master of ceremonies (David) and a good Scotch drink to keep you warm" So, I exaggerate. It was tea and coffee.

As the accompanying pictures show, the dinner had all the traditional elements.



(above) Bruce Richardson pipes in the Haggis carried by Stan Hill



(Below) David McKane and Paul Merritt



(above) Bill Watson addresses the Haggis as David and Stan look on

30 YEARS AND COUNTING

by Susan Knutson, Proud Member of Laudamus Bells

While preparing to write this article, I asked Barb Plante if she ever imagined that she would still be directing the First-St. Andrew's Bell Choir after 30 years. "Never," she replied, "— and I don't feel that much older either!"

I first contacted Barb in the summer of 1999 to ask if she might have room for a new ringer. After questioning me about my musical background, I was informed that the choir played at an advanced level, but I was welcome to come and give it a try. I was much relieved when I was eventually told to go for a uniform fitting.

FSA obtained their first three octaves of bells as a memorial gift in 1970. Merrie Young was the original director but after approximately two and a half years Barbara was asked to take over. At the time she knew nothing about ringing handbells, but was assured that knowing music was the crucial requirement. In the early years she attended courses in ringing and directing. While in England from 1977-1978, she attended workshops and festivals.

One of the highlights she recalled was in 1985 when she invited ringers from all over Ontario to attend the first province-wide Festival of Ringers. At that Festival the Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers was formed. Close to 300 ringers attended and the church was full to the rafters.

The Laudamus Bells have travelled twice to distant places - Vancouver and Birmingham, England - to participate in worldwide festivals. Many of you will recall the making and selling of chicken pies and hot cross buns as part of fund raising efforts.

Barbara and the choir recognize that the strong support of the congregation, the music directors and the clergy have made it possible for us to take part in events beyond the church.

Over the years the Laudamus Bells has seen many changes, of uniforms, location in church and the beautiful oak cabinets. Barbara's husband Bob has always been an essential part of the life of the Bell choir, not only by being supportive, but in tangible ways. It is Bob who keeps the bells adjusted, repaired and in good ringing order. He also makes each of the female ringers a pair of bell earrings!

As if all her work for the handbell choir was not enough, Barbara has played an active role in the church family at FSA. She sang in the choir for 26 years, was active in the Social Action Committee that sponsored a Vietnamese family, and she and Bill Watson were instrumental in starting "Out of the Cold" at FSA. She is Chair of the Ministry and Personnel Committee, and has spent four years on the board of ELUCOC.

Barbara has been interested in mission work from an early age. She currently works for the London Conference of the United Church as a Mission and Service Consultant. This entails visiting churches and speaking about the mission work funded by the United Church.

On Sunday April 27, 2003, Barbara Plante will be recognized for her contributions to FSA at the 11:00 a.m. service. Since it is Volunteer Appreciation Day, what could be more appropriate?

Mark that day on your calendar to thank her, and the many other volunteers in our congregation, who make FSA the vibrant community that it is.



THE YOUTH TALENT SHOW

What a Grand Night. What great talent we have among us. And a lot of it was on display in early February. FSA's Youth Council provided the smooth organization and found some outstanding talent. With the pot-luck, you could say participants sang (and played and recited) for their own supper



Changes...

BAPTISMS

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

JONES-FRIGHT, Claire

ROBERTSON, Ray Glen (Rusty)

ROBERTSON, Scott Ronald Glen

AZIZ, Hannah Gail

GRAY, Rachel Flynn

PARFITT, Benjamin Andrew MacLean

PARFITT, Sadie Ellen MacLean

PATTERSON, Bridget Rachel

GOODBYE & GODSPEED

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

Margaret Bates (transferred)

Heather & Allan Bedford (transferred)

Norris and Shirley MacMillan (transferred)

THE DIRECTORY

Final proof-reading of the Church Directory has been completed and it is in the hands of the printer. We hope to be able to hand out the completed directory in the first week of April. Thanks to everyone who helped organize the project: the committee comprising Annabelle Logan, Muriel Parsons, Ed and Donna Ellis; all those who helped the registrations; Bev Lindsay who helped proof-read and Pat Sole who handled the office busi-



WHO WAS THAT ON PAGE 4?

Bev Lindsay, long-time member of the Laudamus Bells and the Choir.



**First-St. Andrew's United Church:
a Christian Family encouraging spir-
itual growth through worship, friend-
ship, learning and action**

DEATHS

"Well done good and faithful servant."

Nov 27 - Herbert Bates

Dec. 14 - Douglas Martin Cram

Dec. 16 - Donald Gordon Silverwood

Dec. 18 - Phyllis Egerton

Dec. 29 - Else Marie Farrow

Dec. 31 - Mary Elinor Rose Dunlop

Jan. 2 - Lenore Irene Schoales

Jan. 22 - Faye Lillian Bass

UCW HIGHLIGHTS

by Margaret Wonfor

Laurel Kenney, past president of First-St. Andrew's UCW, was installed as president of the Middlesex Presbyterial UCW at its annual meeting on February 13 at Empress United Church. We extend our best wishes to Laurel as she undertakes this new responsibility, and we thank her for the leadership she has given to our group during her term on the executive. We invite members of the congregation to support Laurel with your prayers.



First-St. Andrew's will be the host church for the London Conference UCW annual meeting on April 25-26. It is an honour to welcome delegates from Algoma in the north to Essex in the south. Hostesses from FSA will be required. If you would like to offer warm FSA hospitality to our guests, please contact Laurel Kenney (439-9300) or Margaret Wonfor (645-1884). Visitors are welcome to share in the programme. Watch the bulletin for speakers and times.

Circle MARCH 22 on your calendar. This is the date of the Spring Rummage Sale. Items you no longer use can be treasure to another family and at the same time assist the UCW in carrying on its outreach projects. Help is much appreciated too!

OUTREACH

Outreach: Donna Travis, Kay Hillier, Bill and Jean Knowles were among a group from FSA that helped pack the Christmas Gifts for St. Paul's Daily Bread



**SILENT/LIVE
AUCTION
SUNDAY AFTERNOON
MAY 4**

FSA Program Guide

Lent, Holy Week, Easter 2003

WORSHIP

Mar. 2 - Lenten Communion

9:15 & 11:00 am

Rev. Dr. David McKane

Mar. 4 - Shrove Tuesday

Pancake Supper, 5:30 pm

Mar. 5 - Ash Wednesday

Service at, 7:45 pm

Mar. 7 - Labyrinth Walk 7:00 pm

Mar. 9 - First Sunday in Lent

David Hallman, United Church of Canada
Environmentalist

Talk-back after the service

Mar. 16 - Second Sunday in Lent

Rev. Dr. David McKane

Mar. 23 - Third Sunday in Lent

Beads of Hope Service

Rev. Dr. David McKane

Talk-back after the service with Jean Wright
and Gloria Aybroyd..

Mar. 30 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

Rev. Dr. David McKane

Apr. 6 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad

Apr. 13 - Passion/Palm Sunday

A service of readings and reflections led by the
Youth

Apr. 18 - Good Friday

11:00 am

We will be joined by our neighbours from
Metropolitan U. C.

Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad

Apr. 20 - Easter Communion

9:15 & 11:00 am

Rev. Dr. David McKane

April 27 - 2nd of Easter

9:15 & 11:00 am

Rev. Dr. David McKane

Greening of the Cross/Volunteer Sunday

May 4 - 3rd of Easter

9:15 and 11:00 am

Confirmation/New Members

Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad

May 7 - Maytime Communion

2 pm for shut-ins

May 11 - 4th of Easter

9:15 and 11:00 am

Baptism

Christian Family Sunday/Mother's Day

Rev. David McKane

May 18 - 5th of Easter

9:15 and 11:00 am

Rev. Susan Shelstad

May 25 - 6th of Easter

9:15 and 11:00 am

Guest Preacher

June 1 - Wesley Service

9:00 and 11:00am

Celebrate the 300th birthday of John Wesley,
the founder of Methodism.

June 8- The Day of Pentecost

9:15 and 11:00 am

Communion

Rev. David McKane

June 15 - 1st after Pentecost

10:30 a.m. in the Lower Hall (and for the rest
of the summer)

MUSIC

On Sunday, March 23, the Senior Choir will sing an anthem, based on an American Folk Hymn, entirely accompanied by handbells. This joint venture with The Laudamus Bells is an exciting addition to our repertoire.

On Good Friday, April 18, and Easter Sunday, April 20, the choir will join with The FSA Strings to present portions of Handel's *Messiah* appropriate to those two holy days.



CONCERT SERIES

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL AMABILE FESTIVAL

Sunday, March 2, 2:30 & 7:30 pm

Stephen Hatfield, Guest Composer

Amabile Youth Singers, Junior Amabile Singers, and Amabile
Boys Choir

Admission \$15.00, \$12.00 and \$8.00

THE PERGOLESI STABAT MATER

Sunday, March 16, 2003, 2:30 pm

Gabrielle McLaughlin, Soprano

Andrew Pickett, Counter-Tenor

with Baroque Instruments

Including Baroque Selections for Lent

Admission \$15.00 and \$10.00

FRIDAY LENTEN NOON RECITALS

12:00-12:30 - Luncheon served following

March 28 PAUL MERRITT, Organ

April 4 Susan Carscadden-Mifsud, Solo Handbells

April 11 PAUL MERRITT and FRIENDS, Piano Stylings

PSALMS AND SONNETS

Saturday, April 5, 2003 at 7:30 pm

The Choir of First-St. Andrew's with orchestra

Paul Merritt, Conductor

Lorne Saxberg, Narrator

Program will include Chichester Psalms by Leonard Bernstein,

Shakespeare Songs & Sonnets arranged by George Shearing

Admission \$15.00

Reception following

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

TEENS IN TRANSIT (TNT)

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

Leader: Nancy Howard (289-0540)

TEEN CONFIRMATION CLASS

This year's confirmation class of four young people is meeting monthly in preparation for the confirmation service on May 4th.

YOUTH COUNCIL

The Youth Council is run by the young people of the congregation under the supervision of Debbie Maund and Erin Linforth, and supported by the Christian Development Committee. They decide on programs, activities, and worship that is relevant to them, meeting usually on Sunday evenings at 6:30 pm. They will be leading the worship service on Palm Sunday.

Advisors: Debbie Maund (679-0716) & Erin Linforth (435-

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CRADLE ROLL

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

Coordinator: Nancy Stanlick (451-9491)

NURSERY

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

Coordinator: Judy Cull

CHURCH SCHOOL

Church School classes are now offered only at the 11 o'clock service. The children go to their classes following the children's story in church. This year we are using a new curriculum called Seasons of the Spirit, which is lectionary based so that the scriptures we are reading in church are the scriptures the children are studying in their classes. We can always use more teachers, so if you can help please call!

Church School Coordinators: Chris and Monique Silcox (438-3404)

CHRIS & MONIQUE SILCOX AT FSA CHURCH SCHOOL

by Monique & Chris



By now, many of the children in the church have had a chance to meet us and share their enthusiasm with us on Sundays in the Fireside Room, but we would like to introduce ourselves. Our names are Monique and Christopher Silcox, and we are pleased to be serving as Church School Coordinators as of the beginning of January, 2003.

We were married in August of 2002 and are both fascinated by young people. Monique is a third year teacher and Chris is seeking admission into the Faculty of Education this fall. We are witnesses to the musical, artistic, compassionate, energetic, and faithful gifts the children of the Church School bring to this congregation. This church is also blessed with a devoted, patient, creative and flexible group of teachers who communicate and enrich the message and community in God's service.

We will endeavour to be open to creative ideas for, and your participation in, the Church School, and we encourage you to share your thoughts with us at any time. Our objective is to concisely deliver God's purpose for us in weekly portions. We will do this by impressing upon the children their responsibility to shine their light and build community in living out that purpose.

Thank you for placing your faith in us



MISSION AND SERVICE FUND

Last year, the United Church M&S Fund supported projects in the London Conference to the tune of \$137,782 dollars.

ADULT DEVELOPMENT

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

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

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

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

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

Leader: Susan Shelstad (679-8182)

DREAM GROUP

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

LABYRINTH WALK



Our next labyrinth walk will take place



PASTORAL CARE

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

COUNSELLING TEAM

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

PRAYER CHAIN

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

CONGREGATIONAL VISITING TEAM

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

CARE FOR THE CAREGIVER

This group is for those who find themselves in the role of caregiver, and who are feeling a bit overwhelmed. Please contact Heather Bedford (685-1714) or JoAnn Silcox (642-2152) for further details.

RIDES FOR SENIORS

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

DIAL-A-PRAYER 439-6838

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

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Every Sunday, following our 9:15 am and 11:00 am worship services, the congregation is invited to remain 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. The Sacrament of Baptism will be administered again in late September. Call the church office if interested. (679-8182).

STEWARDSHIP MISSION OUT-REACH

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

HOSPITALITY MEALS

This program runs year round on Mondays, 5:30 p.m. providing hospitality meals for about 100 persons. One hundred or more volunteers have been involved, many of them from other churches. We are now looking for a limited number of volunteers for the summer. Could you help out for a 4 month period? Contact Donna Travis, 672-6116, or the church office, 679-8182.

GROW-A-ROW PROJECT

Over the past five years, money has been provided for the Canadian Food Grains Program through the efforts of St. Marys United Church and FSA. The donations are matched 4:1 by CIDA. This summer, the group will be using a farm near St. Marys. There will be "blessing of the crops" at the farm and a Corn Roast at First-St. Andrew's in the second week of August. The proceeds toward the program last year were more than \$9,400. Over the last four years, the congregations of FSA and St. Marys United have donated about \$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.

FOOD BANK CONTRIBUTIONS

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



The Circle of Friends: Christmas Carolling

FRIENDSHIP & LEARNING GROUPS

BIFOCALS

This is an opportunity to come and enjoy good food, warm fellowship, a sing song and varied programs. Watch the weekly announcements for upcoming events this fall. New members and guests are always welcome. Our final meeting of the season, Talent Night, is scheduled for May 27. This is always a fun evening. Come and entertain or be be entertained. Call Shirley Wynne, 474-4788 or June McKay, 471-5668 for information. Bifocals resumes in the fall, so get ready for another season of Fun, Fellowship and Food..

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

All persons twenty and over who enjoy fun are invited to join with the Circle of Friends. Look for information in the weekly bulletin.

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

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

The first Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlour

The second Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. at 1 Grosvenor Gate

The third Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the church parlour

New members are always welcome.

BRIDGE GROUP

Another season is nearly over under the direction of John and Mary Scott. The windup party is scheduled for June 4 in the Fireside Room. Look for information about next fall's activities in the bulletin this summer.

"THE GAME OF LIFE"

Somerset Maugham, the famous author, was also a keen bridge player. He wrote a delightfully scurrilous piece called "On Playing Bridge", in which he humorously categorised every stubborn, bold, rash, iconoclastic and dim-witted player he had partnered. However, in conclusion, he writes: "As I look now at what I have written, it seems to me that the essentials for playing a good game of bridge are to be truthful, clearheaded and considerate, prudent but not averse to taking a risk, and not to cry over spilt milk. And incidentally, those are perhaps also the essentials for playing the more important game of life."

Amen.

(Editor's note: He didn't actually write 'Amen', but I thought it was OK to add it.)



A FINAL

Lent, Holy Week, Easter 2003

I saw a stranger yestre'en:
 I put food in the eating place,
 Drink in the drinking place,
 Music in the listening place:
 And in the sacred name of the Triune
 He blessed myself and my house,
 my cattle and my dear ones.
 And the lark said in her song
 Often, often, often
 Goes the Christ in the stranger's guise.
 Often, often, often
 Goes the Christ in the stranger's guise.

The above is the Gaelic Rune of Hospitality. It is one of the privileges of Christian ministry and it is one of the strengths of FSA. As we journey through Lent to Easter, I want to invite you to consider the ways in which you have received hospitality. Is there a time when you felt that you met Christ in the guise of a stranger? What are the most important ingredients of hospitality? What kinds of hospitality do we offer?

Among the books I am currently reading is Soul Feast by Marjorie Thompson. It is an invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life and it has some interesting things to say about hospitality. It was the hallmark for ancient Jews and Christians. It is rooted in our Judeo-Christian scriptures. It opens us to the other and thus to the wholly or holy Other, God. God's hospitality to us is seen in creation and is often called grace. The earth is our dwelling place, a garden of delight filled with every conceivable provision: food, shelter, beauty, companionship, peace. All is gift. All is grace. Thompson says that hospitality begins at home, that family relationships are the first place to put the art of Christian hospitality into practice. We do this by being present to one another, by listening and affirming, by honouring differences of opinions and differences of life choices, by sharing laughter and love, by experiencing forgiveness and reconciliation. Thompson then goes on to speak about such hospitality in the work place, in the neighbourhood, in our larger community as we develop civility and civic caring, and in our churches.

Another book that has become a kind of mantra for me these past two years is Tom Long's Beyond The Worship Wars: Building vital and faithful worship. Long outlines the nine characteristics of a vital and faithful congregation and number 2 is hospitality. Long is very clear about this. It is far more complex than being a "friendly church." To be sure people need friendliness. But more than that people need to be welcomed into God's house. They want to know that this is a place where they can encounter the divine, a place where they can offer their own giftedness and participate in the offering of the gathered community to the wider community, receive gifts of time and talents and service and that the "passing the plate" is not just to receive money but also we truly believe that all are one in Christ.

As we journey through these Lenten days may we remember that our hospitality is rooted and grounded in God's hospitality to us in Christ. As we learn to receive it and to share it we will be transformed, or as St. Paul often put it "We shall put on Christ."

Grace and Peace.
 David McKane



Rusty Robertson: Custodian
First-St. Andrew's Ministry
 The Rev. 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
 Sue Scorgie: Office Coordinator
 Pat Sole: Secretary/Receptionist



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