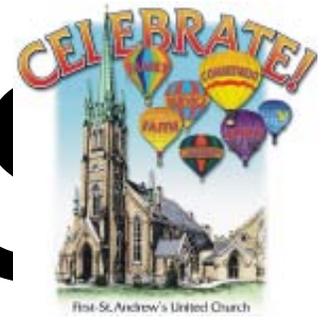


Tidings



First-St. Andrew's United Church

VOLUME 12 ● NUMBER 4

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, EPIPHANY 2002-2003



First-St. Andrew's Celebrates

Sunday November 17, 2002, was a day to remember at First-St. Andrew's. This year's Stewardship Campaign was titled CELEBRATION SUNDAY.

We had a lot to celebrate. You will find a report and photographs from this event further on in Tidings.

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GUEST PREACHER: DR. PAUL SCOTT WILSON

This year's anniversary speaker, Dr. Paul Scott Wilson, is a professor



of Homiletics at Emmanuel College at U of T and the Toronto School of Theology.

Dr. Wilson graduated from U of T and did his doctorate at King's College, University of London. He lectures and preaches widely in the United States and Canada.

He is an ordained minister of the United Church of Canada and has served several churches in full-time and interim capacities.

He is also past president of the Academy of Homiletics and is the author of several books, the latest being *God Sense: Reading the Bible for Preaching*; *The four Pages of the Sermon: A Guide to Biblical Preaching* and *The Practice of Preaching*.

He has written many articles for and is the co-editor of *Preaching: Word and Witness*.

He also serves on the ministry team with his wife Deanna at St. Stephens-on-the Hill United Church in Toronto, where his responsibilities include the Adult Church School, the Youth Group and helping in Worship. He and Deanna have three children.

This year, we celebrate the 170th anniversary of the founding of the congregation which became First Presbyterian Church, then First United Church.. In 1938, First United joined with St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church to form First-St. Andrew's United.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

by Bill Watson

This committee will be meeting soon to prepare its report for the upcoming Congregational Annual General Meeting. If you have any names to suggest - including your own - for any of the congregational committees, either give them to me or hand them in to the Church Office in the near future. If you have already served on a particular committee for a period and would like a change, let me know that too. Our committees are the workhorses of this very involved and active congregation.

TIDINGS TITLE TATTLE

550 copies of Tidings are printed for each quarterly issue. At \$650 per issue, this represents an annual cost of \$2,600. 450 of the printings are placed in the congregational mail slots and, on average, 100 of these are never retrieved, more or less from the same slots. What does this represent? Non-church-attendance, non-interest in Tidings, or, could it be, non-awareness of the existence of the said mail-slots?

Whatever the reason, and as a matter of good stewardship of money and paper, it is proposed that the print order be reduced to 500 copies per issue, which still makes 50 copies available for ad hoc distribution.

Some copies are taken from slots by friends or neighbours for delivery to members who may be ill or otherwise unable to pick up their own copy. The ministerial visiting team distributes some copies. But, if perchance there are still folk who, for whatever reason are not receiving copies and would like to, let us know.

And, if you have any other suggestions for additions to the content or improvements in the format of Tidings, let us know that too.

Editor

Tidings

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

Info-Line

IRELAND TRIP-MAY 2003

David will lead a tour of Ireland in May 2003 under the auspices of Observer Tours (Craig Travel). The exact dates at time of printing are not available, but it will be the last two weeks of May(15 to 30). If interested, please speak

SPONG FANS

There's a possibility that Bishop Spong will visit in 2004. David has been in contact with Bishop Spong and also with the Rev. John Buttan of Guelph and 5 Oaks. They are hoping to share the wisdom and the costs of having Bishop Spong visit Southern Ontario in November 2004. Watch future Tidings for updates.

THE PENNINGTONS

by Bill Watson

The Penningtons. It almost sounds like the title of a Trollope novel! Let's consider Glenda first.

She was born Glenda Robinson in North Bay, came with her family to London, and studied her way through Ryerson, Western with an Honours B.A., and Althouse, to teaching at Beal.

From age 5 she was interested in, no, captivated by,

the world of theatre. Like many budding actresses, she lied about her age so that when only five she could enrol in the Grand Theatre children's program for which the entry level was eight! Her acting debut was a scene between acts, called 'Dolly's Doctor'. At elementary school it was 'Cinderella', and at high school she played in musicals like 'Salad Days'.

The next stage was her involvement with George Jolink in theatre projects in the community and at schools, all leading up to her major enterprise, the London International Children's Festival. But perhaps her most memorable production, if one can call it that, was A Remembrance Day Service, which she produced with George Jolink, and the idea for which came from Al MacIntosh.

She arrived with her family at FSA when she was eight, and in due course became a stalwart admirer of Angus MacQueen, who was minister at that time.

She doesn't like badly run meetings, nor does she like it when people "aren't nice to each other." Her general view of life and its opportunities is that, "Things happen, and doors open." She is currently a Vice-President of The Grand Theatre's Board of Directors.

Now Paul.

Why did he become a physician? It was a thought that had been lurking at the back of his mind, but did not sharpen until one day during his final year at high school in Windsor, his father asked him if he had considered going into medicine. That immediately struck a chord, and that was it, though he had tentative notions of the ministry, and even more tentative ones of becoming a professional athlete.

Now, as a family physician, he knows he made the right decision. He finds great satisfaction in listening to people and knowing he can make a difference for the better, and not only in exclusively clinical matters. He also treasures the relationship he has with his medical partner. If there is a downside, it is form-filling and paper work. "But what a wonderful life it has been."

Paul was a member of the Lutheran community in London until one day he attended First-St. Andrew's, was immediately impressed and has been here ever since. He is an outdoor man, plays a good game of tennis, enjoys skiing and has had some adventurous canoe trips in the Algonquin.

Sunday Worship is the pivotal experience of his week, and his preferred mode of engagement is in activities with people who work closely in small groups as in Bible studies and committees. One of his chief concerns is that the children of his first marriage were 'church children', but none of them currently shares his faith commitment. "It is sad that the church is failing to draw young people back into its fellowship."

Glenda and Paul. Thoughtful, involved and caring people - The Penningtons.



NEW MEMBERS

The following people joined First-St. Andrew's November 17:

Top Row: Rusty Roberson, Debbie Featherstone, Willis Buckingham, Margo Christodoulou

Middle Row: Joeli Robertson, Sarah Aziz

Front Row: David Gray, Marian Buckingham, Margaret Hosie

Absent: Cathy Davies, Nancy Somerville

THE BANNER COMMITTEE

by Elaine Wilton



The Banner Committee is a small but highly skilled group of women whose work graces the sanctuary of FSA. Eight committee members, selected for their skill in needlecraft and their eye for design, are responsible for the seasonal banners at the front of the church as well as for the antependia, the small banners that hang from the pulpit and lectern.

Approximately eight years ago when the United Church was changing the Advent colour from purple to blue, Carol Shaw was asked to create new banners to reflect that change. She teamed up with Mary McLarty, whose background in printmaking and fabric design was the perfect complement to Carol's skill in construction techniques. Needing more assistance, they recruited Mary Grace Bell, Fryke Oostenbrug, Thelma Smitham, Trudy Valentine, Jan Hendry and Lorraine MacDonald. Some of the group prefers the hand stitching, others the machine work, and some do both.

Unlike many groups, the Banner committee does not hold regular meetings, but may work several days in a row just prior to a deadline. All decisions are made by consensus after a project has been chosen. Members discuss the message they hope to convey, and then brainstorm for ideas on how to present it. Their goal is to tell a story in picture form, but not to say too much. Something must be left for the viewer to interpret. As a result, no lettering appears on the banners. Often the committee members find that this design exercise forces them to think about spiritual matters at a deeper level than they otherwise might.



While the most difficult part of the process is deciding what to say and how to say it, the selection of materials is also a great challenge. Suitable fabric must be found in colours that are compatible with the surroundings and yet appropriate for the theme of the banner. With all the work that goes into a banner, the artists insist upon working with only quality fabrics that will best repay their efforts. So far the committee has created six banners, four clergy stoles and one set of antependia. Currently plans are underway for a second Easter banner, a companion piece to the Shirley Peel memorial banner.

Carol's dream is to have a pair of banners for each season of the church year. That means that after the second Easter banner is finished, there are still two Epiphany banners to plan for and create. For the congregation, that means the pleasure of looking forward to more finely crafted, artistic expressions of faith in the years to come.

BAZAAR 2002

Thanks to the hard work of members of the UCW and many volunteers, this year's bazaar was once again a success.

Here are just a few of the many people who helped bring it about.



CANDIDATE'S REPORT

By Kevin Johnston



Having just completed my first year at Emmanuel College (U. Toronto) in the L.Th. [Licentiate in Theology] (similar to the M.Div. [Master of Divinity]) programme, I look back on the past year with much awe and wonder. I have met some amazing people, and have begun building lifelong friendships. As well, my faith has been shaken, challenged, stretched, and has grown in ways beyond anything I could have imagined in the courses undertaken thus far.

Opportunities have been made available to share my leadership and musical gifts during worship services, including facilitating Morning Prayer throughout the year.

Hopefully, I will have attained ten credits successfully, a third of graduation requirements. Two more years of full-time study, with an eight-month internship between my second and third years will complete requirements for ordination in the United Church of Canada. Idealistically, I expect to be in a full-time ministry position in three years.

But who knows? With God, life's an adventure – never knowing exactly what surprise or challenge waits behind every twist and turn along the way. However, I know that I am not alone. With the prayers and support from the people of First-St. Andrews, the support and encouragement of family and friends, and the presence of a God who “will never leave you or forsake you”, I am confident that this step of my journey will be completed, paving the way for new, challenging, and exciting roads ahead!

FSA FIRE AND EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN

The Property committee has been working on an updated "Fire and Emergency Evacuation Plan" which is designed to include all areas of the church and the groups which use our facilities. Educational packages using the floor plan of each level of the church show the designated escape routes for each area and each route is indicated by an arrow.

The locations of exits and fire extinguishers are indicated by colour-coded symbols. These handouts will be made available to our committees and members who meet here, as well as community groups who utilize the church.

Copies will be available at all times in the Narthex and the Atrium. In the warmer weather, we will be reviewing the plan with the congregation and a fire drill will be held with the assistance of the London Fire Department.

The review will include a demonstration of a safe manner of evacuating elderly persons and those with disabilities.

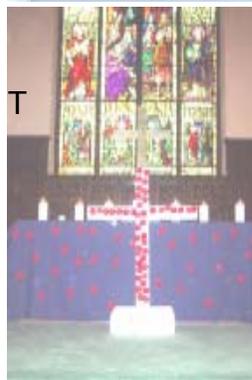
Any questions can be forwarded to the Property Committee.

Karen Blachford and Rob VanderHeyden, FSA Property Committee.

FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S PHOTO ALBUM



Our Remembrance Day Service was organized by Al MacIntosh . (above) Our veterans on parade (left) The Cross of Poppies commemorating those who gave their lives for our freedom



(above) David McKane helps a worker at the newest Habitat for Humanity home.



(left) David with Jean and Bill Knowles, who coordinated the food for the volunteer on site. Habitat for Humanity is one of the many outreach projects supported by the Stewardship Mission Outreach Committee



More than a dozen helpers showed up the the annual Fallcleanup.

(left above) Russ Knight leans into his rake (right above) "The Cleanup Crew" load the leaf truck



(Right) Ardath Hill took a paper nask created by Horta van Hoyer to make a beautiful display in the atrium

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

By Kevin Johnston

Kent Sullivan, a 6th-grade student at White Oaks Public School in London, has recently been awarded the Grade 6 Citizenship Award from the Ontario Federation of Home & School Associations. Kent took the local honor "hands down", and was awarded the prize from amongst 8 contending students representing various regions across Ontario. There is one recipient in Ontario for each school year, from grade 5 through OAC.

Kent and his brother Paul are valued members of our FSA Church School. Son of Linda and Tom Sullivan, Kent's grandparents, Shirley and Doug McKenzie, are also members of FSA, as were Doug's parents.

"Just a few" of Kent's school activities and accomplishments include being a member of his school's Safety Patrol (where he earned "Patroller of the Month"); assisting primary children in learning to use computers; and year-book photographer. He has won Science Project awards, and belongs to the school's Games and Computer club, the Chess club, and has sung in their school choir.



Within the larger community, Kent is a graduate of Beavers (where he assisted as leader for the 104th Beaver Colony) and Cubs, and is currently a Scout. These venues have provided opportunity for tree planting and environmental clean-up projects, and he has also helped with the Fanshawe Yacht Club annual "work party cleanup". Kent has also assisted his grandmother in her volunteer activities with the London Regional Cancer Clinic, and is both a swimmer and a skater.

Kent's enthusiasm and pleasant, sincere, cooperative personality has been a joy to watch grow and develop within our CS programme, and we are very proud to recognize him in this achievement few can boast of!

Congratulations Kent! You are an awesome guy!

UCW CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

by Laurel Kenny, UCW Rep on Council)

July 4, Winnipeg: United Church Women stood "Side by Side" to celebrate 40 years of service to their risen Lord. Not only did we celebrate 40 years of keeping faith alive in our respective churches, but we were challenged to "see with new eyes into the future with faith and hope."

Some of the leaders in worship and side sessions were blessed to be working *Side by Side* with their mothers who were on the planning committee for this inspiring National Gathering.

In FSA, a large number of women shared their time, talents and love when they created a beautiful banner which depicts how the women of our church serve Jesus Christ.

Middlesex Presbyterial, on Oct. 16, 2002, at White Oaks United Church, continued the spirit of celebration with Bev Robinson from Five Oaks as our guest speaker, with red balloons, birthday cake, presents and dance, with Ina Cavers as a joyful participant.

The role and life style of women has changed radically in the past few years, and the future of the UCW will continue to change - that is certain. We acknowledge the outstanding work of FSA women, both professionally and in volunteer work throughout our city. But the women who are presently serving as leaders of our United Church Women want to walk *Side by Side* with other women in FSA who perhaps have never experienced this opportunity.

The scripture chosen for the National Gathering in Winnipeg was "If one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it." Let us honour those who have served and are serving, with your presence, energy and talent. Let us move forward with the red balloons and dance with Ina Cavers as our UCW prayerfully plans for 2003.

Can you walk with us as a leader either on the executive or in one of the units? Barbara Lloyd is our general president for November and December. She will be delighted to put you in touch with our nominating committee. Until then, we're waiting for partners to walk *Side by Side* with us.

BUILDING A CHURCH ADDITION?

No. It's just the staff of FSA checking out the construction site of a new apartment building at Dundas and Waterloo.

And wondering how many potential members will be living there.

The development of the downtown area brings with it the opportunity for new members. If you know someone who is moving back into the downtown area, be sure to tell them about First-St. Andrew's.

And better yet, bring them around to see us.



CONGRATULATIONS TO CAROLINE JOLES

11-year Carolyn Joles' voice has earned our praise during many a Sunday service. Now, she has captured the attention of the judges at the Ontario Conservatory of Music. Caroline has just won the top Ontario prize in her age group in the singing category. Her prize was a silver medal, the top award in Grade Three Voice.

WRITER IN REVERENCE

Steve Shelstad, Susan's husband, has won the Chapters-Indigo-Smith Books employees prize for fiction writing. His short story was titled Reverend Jinkerson. This was a nation wide competition sponsored by Chapters.

FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S CELEBRATES

We have a lot to celebrate at First-St. Andrew's: Family, Faith, Service, Spirit, Community and Commitment. And did we ever do a great job!

Sunday November 16 was CELEBRATIONI SUNDAY at FSA.

We started with worship led by David, Susan, and Judith and Warren Johnson. Their message was "A Celebration of Abundance".

Following the service, we headed to the Lamplighter Inn for a Luncheon and Celebration.

And what a sight! More than 400 people sitting together at the tables.

For the next four pages, we have a random selection of pictures from the event. We couldn't get everybody in, but try to find yourself in one of the picture. Don't worry about the small images. What counts is



A GREAT THANK YOU TO ALL

Celebration Sunday couldn't happen without the involvement of, and donation from, a lot of people. So thanks to all including:

Ron Logan and Bob Schram co-chaired the Stewardship Committee.

All the members of FSA who so strongly supported Celebration Sunday, attended meetings and made phone calls.

The Ministerial and Church Staff.

Warren and Judith Johnson

The strings, junior and senior edition, who provided such a warm musical welcome

Robin and Karen Procun'er and Andrew Douglas Clothiers

Sterling Marking Products

Mike Poulin and New Era Grafix

The Lamplighter Inn for the wonderful facilities, food and service.

We're still all basking in the afterglow of a wonderful day



CELEBRATION SUNDAY



CELEBRATION SUNDAY



Changes...

MARRIAGES

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

Sept. 14 Isabel Pato, Michael Irwin
Sept. 21 Jennifer Tuckwell, Kyle Muise
Sept. 28 Mary Jane Treitz, Herbert Mellet

BAPTISMS

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

Christiane Stirling Newcombe, child of Stephanie & Jonathon Newcombe

Cooper Jensen Watson, child of Karen & Peter Watson

DEATHS

"Well done good and faithful servant."

June Miller Sept. 28, 2002
Bernice Sharpe Oct. 28, 2002
Isa Drysdale Nov. 3, 2002

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

NEW MEMBERS

"We pray for God's Power to help you do all the good things that you hope to do and that your faith makes you want to do."

Nov 17, 2002

Sarah Aziz
Marian Buckingham
Willis Buckingham
Margo Christodoulou
Cathy Davies
Debbie Featherstone
David Gray
Margaret Hosie
Nancy Somerville
Joeli Robertson
Rusty Robertson

EARTH STEWARDSHIP - KYOTO DEBATE CONTINUES

by Winifred and Dave Wake

In an earlier edition of Tidings, we provided some background on the Kyoto climate treaty. In September, the Prime Minister of Canada announced that Parliament would be asked to pass legislation before the end of the year to ratify the Kyoto Protocol. This announcement triggered objections from many quarters, especially those most likely to be affected economically in the short term.

Consider these facts:

- the pollutants we pump into our atmosphere are changing its composition
- the northern hemisphere is warmer than at any point in the past 1000 years
- rising average temperatures may trigger many adverse effects, including floods, drought, and intense summer heat
- the adverse effects of climate change will be suffered disproportionately by the poorer nations and by future generations
- today's atmosphere contains 40% more carbon dioxide than at the start of the industrial era

- industry produces more than 35% of Canada's total greenhouse gases
- a small handful of industries produces most of these emissions
- clean renewable energy sources are available (solar and wind, for example)
- changing energy sources takes work - that means the creation of new jobs and new industries
- transportation is also an important contributor to climate change
- the automotive industry is developing new, non-polluting technologies (e.g. fuel cell vehicles)



For many years, the United Church of Canada has urged governments to take action on climate change. In September, the Moderator wrote to the Prime Minister, expressing the church's support for ratification. Individual members may wish to do the same.

RUN THE CHURCH FOR A DAY

Celebrate a special occasion, a birthday or anniversary, or just remember someone. Your donation can help defray the operating expenses of our beautiful church and its ministry.

Call the church officer for more information.

FSA Program Guide

Advent, Christmas and Epiphany 2002-2003

WORSHIP

Come and worship at First-St. Andrew's as we celebrate God's presence with us. Our regular times of worship are 9:15 in the Chapel and 11am in the main sanctuary. For up-to-date information about our services 24 hours a day, call 679-8182. You will also find updated material each week on our website at www.fsa.united.london.on.ca

- Dec. 1** **Service of Advent Lessons and Carols**
9:15 & 11 am
- Dec. 8** **White Gift Sunday; Holy Communion**
9:15 & 11 am
Rev. Dr. David McKane
- Dec. 11** **Service of Christmas Hope**
7:45 pm in the Chapel
- Dec. 15** **Third Sunday of Advent**
9:15 & 11 am
Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad
- Dec. 22** **Fourth Sunday of Advent**
9:15 & 11 am
Rev. Dr. David McKane
- Dec. 24** **7:00 pm Family Service**
10:00 pm Candlelight Communion
Rev. Dr. David McKane
- Dec. 29** **11 am service only**
Rev. Dr. David McKane
- Jan. 5** **Second Sunday after Christmas**
9:15 & 11 am
Rev. Dr. David McKane
- Jan. 12** **The Baptism of the Lord**
9:15 & 11 am
Sacrament of Baptism at 11 am
Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad
- Jan. 19** **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**
Sacrament of Holy Communion
9:15 & 11 am
Rev. Dr. David McKane
- Jan. 26** **Third Sunday after Epiphany**
9:15 & 11 am
Rev. Dr. David McKane
- Feb. 2** **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**
9:15 & 11 am
Rev. Dr. David McKane
- Feb. 9** **Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**
9:15 & 11 am

MUSIC

With choirs singing, bells ringing, strings serenading and organs pealing, our Advent and Christmas services will be filled with joyful seasonal sounds! So, too, will the concerts we offer as a community outreach. Besides our traditional Friday Advent Noon Recitals, two very special events will feature music and the spoken word. The Senior Choir's Christmas Concert will combine carols with poetry read by our own David McKane. David will entertain us again on January 25 during our Robbie Burns Celebration. This promises to be a very exciting evening, and as seating is limited, you'll want to get your tickets early, and maybe even give some as Christmas gifts! For specific details on these events, see below and refer to our *Music At First-St. Andrew's 2002-2003 Concert Brochure* for the complete season's listings.

SALVATION ARMY BAND'S GIFT TO LONDON CONCERT

Our Senior Choir has been invited again this year to participate in the Salvation Army Band's Gift to London Concert on MONDAY, DECEMBER 9 at 8:00 pm. The choir will sing some carols alone and help lead the massed singing as well.



ADVENT NOON RECITALS

- NOVEMBER 29** THE JOYFUL SINGERS
Paul Merritt, *Conductor*
- DECEMBER 6** THE LAUDAMUS BELLS
Barbara Plante, *Director*
- DECEMBER 13** ORGAN RECITAL
Paul Merritt, *Organ*

MAKE WE JOY!

An evening of seasonal poetry and music
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2002, 7:30 pm
The Choir of First-St. Andrew's United Church
Paul Merritt, *Conductor*
The Rev. Dr. David McKane, *Narrator*
Admission by donation.

A CELEBRATION OF ROBBIE BURNS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2003, 6:00 pm

With pipes, haggis, supper and entertainment

Four course supper catered by The Grosvenor Club

“Immortal Memory”

David McKane as Robbie Burns

Limited seating at \$25.00 per person



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 offered at both services. At 11am 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! The children of the church school will be preparing a dramatic presentation called “A Special Night” for the family service on Christmas Eve. Don't miss it!

Church School Coordinator: Kevin Johnston (672-5664)

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 has begun. They are meeting monthly in preparation for the confirmation service in the spring.

YOUTH COUNCIL

Last fall we began a new venture with our young people in the formation of a Youth Council. The Council is run by the young people of the congregation, supported by the Youth & Young Adult Committee. They decide on programs, activities, and worship that is relevant to them.

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

WATCH FOR IT!

CONGREGATIONAL VARIETY SHOW

The Youth Council is organizing a congregational pot-luck supper and all-ages variety show on Saturday, February 8th. Get your act together, and watch for details as we get closer to the date.

EDITOR'S NOTE

As far as the Scots are concerned, and your editor is one, there is nae sic a body as a 'Robbie' Burns. But there is a Rabbie Burns, and if there ever was to be a Scottish National Anthem it could well be 'The Star o' Rabbie Burns', written by James Thomson and James Booth, and sung at Burns Suppers the world over.



(Above) The Senior Choir poses for the Directory picture



Remembrance Day service, 2002:

(left) Bruce Richardson piped in the vets

(right) Ken Baldwin plays the trumpet

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 on Nov. 30th at 7pm as preparation for Advent, and as a culmination of our Celtic Spirituality series.



MEN'S BROWN BAG LUNCH

This popular noon-time discussion group begins again on Wednesday, January 15th.

Bring your lunch!

NEW THIS WINTER! THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE SIMPSONS

Who said Bible Study was boring? This series, based on the animated television series, "The Simpsons," takes Bible Study to a whole new level! Each week, we'll watch an episode of the show, and then explore and discuss the spiritual and biblical themes running through it. Four Wednesday nights, Jan. 22 and 29, Feb. 5 and 12, at 7:30 pm in the Parlour.

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 and young people attend programs and events such as youth retreats, camp, and Conference events. 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.

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 Stan Harris (473-2453).

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 in late September. Call the church office if interested. (679-8182).

STEWARDSHIP MISSION 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 about 100 persons. One hundred or more volunteers have been involved, many of them from other churches. 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, GROW-A-ROW organized a "blessing of the crops" at the Richardson farm on Hwy 7 and a Corn Roast at First-St. Andrew's. The proceeds toward the program were more than \$3,300.

Seven hundred bushels of soy beans were harvested from 17 acres, a yield of 41 bushels an acre. According to the Richardsons, that is a very good yield.

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!

DOORS OPEN A SUCCESS

FSA opened its doors Oct 5 and 6 as part of the City of London's Doors Open Program.

More than 400 toured our sanctuary and building.

(right) The Sunday "Doors Open Crew"



(below) Visitors were greeted at the Atrium Door

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. Meetings are scheduled for Nov 26, January 28 and February 25. Look for details in future Tidings.

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

Have fun and make friends this fall. Arrange games to fit your calendar. For more information, call John and Mary Scott (238-6013).



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



A FINAL WORD

Advent, Christmas and Epiphany 2002-2003

Liturgically, like a concerto, the Christmas season has three movements - Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. It begins with our waiting for the Messiah, moves to the celebration of the birth of Jesus, and ends with the beginning of his ministry. The movement, as in the entire Bible, is always from darkness to light, from ignorance to understanding, from old day to new day. It is a wonder-filled season of colour, anticipation, excitement, wonderful music and wonderful memories.

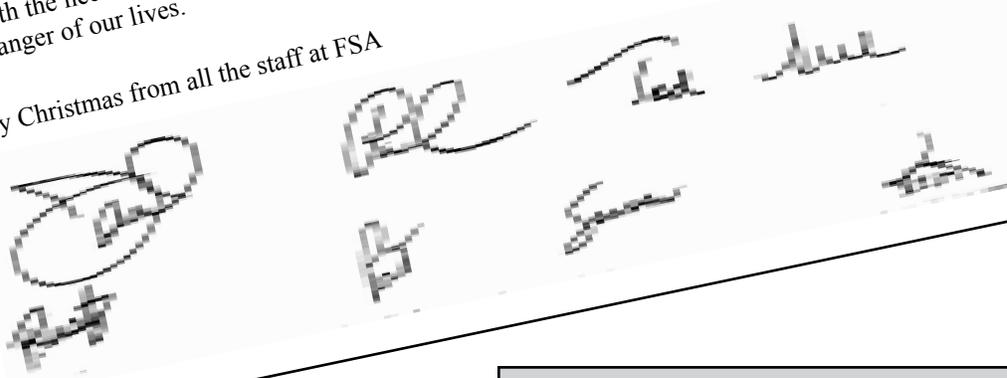
When I was a small boy, the church choir would carol sing throughout the village and surrounding farms the two weeks prior to Christmas. They sang and collected money for the Dr. Barnados Homes for Boys and Girls. For those two weeks the children in the choir were allowed to stay up late and would fall asleep wrapped round with the warmth of the community, the melody of the music, and the laughter of the choir. The money that people gave to Dr. Barnados Homes was to help children none of us knew or ever expected to meet.

Since coming to Canada I have met several of these children now grown tall. A friend, Kenneth Ba-jnell, has written a book about the Barnados Children in Canada. Christmas, for me, has always had to contain those four elements - community, music, laughter and giving.

T. S. Eliot says that Christmas is "a moment not out of time, but in time, in what we call history: in time but time was made through that moment: for without the meaning there is no time, and that moment of time gave the meaning."

So we begin again that wonder-filled journey from Bethlehem to the empty tomb, the journey from darkness to light, from self to God, wrapped up in the music of our lives and wrapped round in the communities of which we are a part; wrapped up with love and with laughter, wrapped round with the needs of others and of the Holy Other; wrapped round with swaddling bands and born in the manger of our lives.

Merry Christmas from all the staff at FSA



First-St. Andrew's Staff

The 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

Kevin Johnston: Church School Coordinator

Sue Scorgie: Office Coordinator

Pat Sole: Secretary/Receptionist

Rusty Robertson: Custodian