

Tidings



First-St. Andrew's United Church

VOLUME 13 ● NUMBER 3

FALL 2003

THE UNITED CHURCH: THE NEXT THREE YEARS

An overview of the 38th General Council

By Ted Kostecki, Commissioner to General Council



The good ship United Church of Canada has set its course for the next three years, sails full and only some small worries about the choppy waters on the high seas of public opinion. The "ship" received its directions and energy from the 38th General Council meeting at Acadia University in Wolfville,

Nova Scotia, in August.

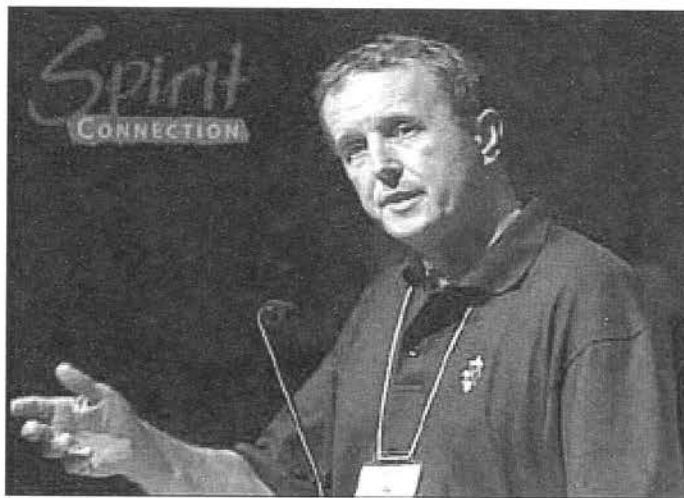
I was among the 400 elected Commissioners from across Canada who gathered for a combined love-in, strategic planning session and a complaints forum. This summer, the agenda dealt with faith, leadership and aboriginal issues, and the discussions and decisions set the direction of the United Church for the next three years.

Although the next three years will be marked by a consolidation of decisions already made, there were several bold headline-making decisions, several tentative steps in various areas of church work and an acknowledged feeling that it was time to put on hold, for at least three years, any consideration of church restructuring.

The highlight of the week was the election of a new moderator. Peter Short is a minister from Fredericton who has served the church in Yellowknife, Montreal, the Gaspé and now Fredericton. Short says one his challenges, as moderator, will be to help deepen the spirituality of church members. He noted that United Church people sometimes need to take their lumps and know why. Short says "most people have not been able to articulate in our gospel words why we are out there and getting involved in all this sometimes controversial stuff. We are following Jesus across the boundaries he was willing to cross. We are going where he has gone". Short says the United Church "needs to hold on to its tradition and that means staying open and inclusive. We are a people of our tradition. It makes us strong. It makes us wise."

Another important decision was the naming of Jim Sinclair from Northern Ontario to the top administrative position, General Secretary. In accepting the appointment, Sinclair said he hopes to finalize and hone the restructuring of the General Council Office. He also wants to help the church feel its strength within the larger community and enhance the relationship between between General Council and its regions. He noted this is quite important given the mistrust sometimes evident between the "head office" and the lower administrative levels.

The debate on gay marriage created the most stir, most publicity in the media and the most emotional and intense debate among commissioners, who voted to ask the government to recognize same-sex marriage in Federal law. Commissioners were told the issue is more than one of human rights: the church welcomes and embraces all people, and that our table is open for all. Commissioners were reminded that the final decision on who is married remains with the



Peter Short, Moderator United Church of Canada
(photo courtesy Spirit Connection)

local minister and congregation.

General Council also agreed on what was described as a "milestone" document regarding the church's relations with the Jewish Community. It acknowledges a history of anti-semitism within Christianity and encourages congregations to seek opportunities to meet with Jews and learn about modern Judaism. Commissioners were reminded that support for Israel is long-standing church policy, but the church also supports the right of Palestinians to their own state. (cont. on page 2)

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GENERAL COUNCIL OVERVIEW (CONT)

General Council also approved a draft report on Muslim-United Church dialogue. The study document and feedback received will form the basis of report to the 2006 General Council. The document affirms a vision of Muslim and Christian relationships no longer bound by past histories of ignorance, indifference and ill will.

Feedback to a preliminary report on residential schools will help a steering committee prepare a major report for a future meeting of the General Council executive. Commissioners also called on the United Church to work with ecumenical partners to develop strategies supporting the Government's new relationship with First Nations.

Commissioners spent time discussing a report on a new statement of faith being developed by the Committee on Faith and Theology. The Committee chair told commissioners that the United Church belongs to a tradition of "once reformed, always reforming." He said the founders of the church understood that "no creed or statement of faith can ever be perfect, complete or final" and must be periodically reviewed. The new Statement of Faith will not replace the church Basis of Union or the New Creed, but will be an educational tool and provide a way of identifying ourselves both to ourselves and to the world.

General Council voted against establishing a task force on a vision for mission. Despite much debate, commissioners accepted the idea that perhaps congregations be given time to develop their own sense of vision and mission

Commissioners made several other decisions, including a name change for Women's Groups. Details of those are found later in this edition of Tidings.



General Secretary Jim Sinclair and outgoing Moderator Marion Parly at a news conference during General Council meetings.

Info-Line

Church Office

The Office will be closed daily from 12:15pm to 1pm. Thank you for your cooperation.

A New Tenant

We welcome to First-St. Andrew's a new tenant for the upstairs music and kindergarten rooms. The Queen of All Saints Academy, a private non-profit Catholic School for grades 7-10, will occupy the space. The school wants to promote spiritual and academic formation in accordance with Roman Catholic traditions. It is under the direction of Nikki and Brian Cooke, who own the Bookstore in Birr.

Did you know?

The UCW has donated \$8,000 to assist ELUCOC, Mission Services Building Fund and the London Affordable Housing. The UCW has also contributed toward the installation of a new dishwasher in the kitchen in the Lower Hall. Outreach is a concern of the UCW.

175th anniversary

FSA's 175 anniversary occurs in 2007, but we are already getting ready to celebrate it. One group has begun work on a history of the Church. If you would like to be involved in writing or researching our history, or taking part in the organization of celebrations, please contact Ted Kostecki in the office or Jim Hutchinson.

Men's Bag Lunch

The popular Wednesday Bag Lunch sessions will resume Wednesday October 15 in the parlour. Bring your bag lunch, your interesting comments and your wisdom.

Tidings

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| Chairperson | Bill Watson |
| Editor | Bill Watson |
| Layout Artist | Ted Kostecki |
| Photographers | Paul Pergau, Ted Kostecki, Jean Knowles, |
| Staff Representatives | Ted Kostecki, Paul Merritt |
| Team Members | Nancy Howard, Pam Salmoni, Deb Maund Kate Pickering, Margaret Wonfor |
| Typist | Pat Sole |
| Distribution | Mary & John Jones & Team, Alton Ross & Team |
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GOD'S STEWARDS - THE MOFFATS

by Barbara Bain



You will know the saying, "The Salt of the Earth." Well, we have just such a couple at First-St. Andrew's in the persons of Howard and Isabel - affectionately called Izzie - Moffat, a self-effacing couple who go about volunteering for just about everything, with no fanfare whatsoever.

Howard was born in Windsor and grew up in Stratford. He graduated from UWO, and began a business career at London Life, where he met Isabel. She began work there after leaving Ailsa Craig, her home town. Their romance blossomed and they were married in Knox Presbyterian Church in Ailsa Craig. Along came two children, Carol and John, and Izzie became a stay-at-home mum throughout their schooldays.

Howard decided on a career change and left business for teaching. Izzie took a course offered by the then London Board of Education, and became a Teacher's Assistant in a classroom of disabled children.

You will encounter them in a variety of situations. Perhaps visiting the 94 year old Leila Moffat, who still keeps her own apartment in Stratford, or helping their neighbours put out their garbage, or chaffeurung them to hospital appointments, or the like.

But you are most likely to find them doing something, somewhere in FSA. Like organizing Sunday morning coffee for the months of January, February and March. Or sorting and selling at the church's rummage sales. Or serving our guests at the Monday night Out of the Cold program. Or arriving at the church at 7 am to get the coffee going for the Holly Bazaar. Howard is the guy in the jolly Santa hat who takes the tickets at the door, and Izzie is the overall coordinator.

Izzie has a specially friendly role visiting elderly shut-ins and delivering copies of Tidings. It is not surprising that, in her opinion, "FSA is such a friendly, family-oriented church, who wouldn't love it?"

Yes, this is the Moffats. And how do I know them so well? To tell the truth, Howard and I were in the same high-school classes many years ago and re-connected 25 years later in the staff room of a local secondary school. Izzie, Howard and I have been the best of friends ever since.

PLANNED GIFTS

By Ted Kostecki, Community Development Coordinator

Perhaps you've thought about including First-St. Andrew's in your will. If so, thank you. Your planned gift can help keep the ministry of this church vital and fresh for generations and ensure we'll be here for future generations..

Planned giving is simply planning now to make a future gift to the church.

Most often, the gift is a bequest: a stated sum of money or securities. Donating a percentage of your estate, rather than a strict dollar amount, keeps your gift in line with your assets as they change. (cont. next column at bottom)

FROM THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL



In my note in the last issue of Tidings, I mused that you might longingly be thinking of summer and a break. We on Council trust that you will have had that enjoyable and refreshing time with family and friends during the summer months. Recognizing that for some there was sadness and loss in this time, it is hoped that the summer provided an added opportunity for

those close to you to provide some additional comfort. During the summer, for those who stayed in London and attended the summer services, we all were treated to a cornucopia of musical talents, as Paul and the Choir(s) took a much deserved break, while several members of the congregational family and beyond provided support for the services and exhibited their multiple musical talents as well. Both David and Susan provided uplifting leadership as they alternated summer months of service and vacation. To all, including the ushers, greeters and providers of "lemonade-on-the-lawn", a heart-felt THANK YOU from your family at FSA.

Over the summer, Council delegated responsibility for most of its normal functioning to the Executive and took a break as well. Most of the ongoing activity was related to the physical plant: the needed repairs to the sanctuary entrance roof, the planning for the new commercial dishwasher for the lower hall to facilitate the programs including the "Out of the Cold" Monday evening meals. However, the full Council was called for one exciting new development with implications for our long-range goals. We agreed unanimously to a one year trial of allowing a family-sponsored high school for 10-15 students to use three of the upper rooms during the week for this coming academic year. They will use the chapel for a brief early morning service, and then move to the upper rooms (above the parlor) for weekdays, Monday to Friday noon. Three important aspects for FSA are: outreach into the London Community beyond the borders of FSA to enhance schooling opportunities for youth in the London area; extending the use of our facilities during week days (when they are usually in very low use); and also providing some revenue to address the projected deficit. This is a new venture for FSA, and much credit goes to Ted Kostecki for his initiative in bringing this to fruition. If this pilot project works well, there are additional possibilities in the future.

As we move into the fall, we are continuing with the 10:30 service time, allowing more time Sunday afternoons for the FSA family. In closing, we wish you a happy and healthy summer, and remind you that Council meetings are open to anyone in the Congregation.

Respectfully,

Doug Jones

Chair of Council

There are now many different ways to provide gifts to the church. Besides bequests, there are gift annuities, life insurance, endowments, gifts of residual interest and proceeds from Registered Retirement Savings Plans or Registered Retirement Income Funds. Each has different advantages. The best people to speak with are your professional advisor and lawyer.

But if you have any general questions, I will be glad to assist.

In the next issues of Tidings, we'll explore the various ways in which gift planning can serve your current needs and your estate planning wishes.

TED KOSTECKI - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

by Barbara Plante



At any hour of the day, or even of an evening, you are liable to find Ted working at the church. He might be attending a meeting of the Stewardship Mission Outreach Committee, or Volunteer Management. He might be working on the next issue of Tidings, or on an upcoming fundraiser, or the fall Stewardship Campaign. He might be drawing up a rental contract, attending a meeting of ELUCOC (East London United Church Outreach Committee), LIFT (London Inter Faith Team), or the Daily Bread food bank.

He does all of these things, and more. As Community Development Coordinator, he has the prime responsibility for outreach within our congregation and beyond. He also has the responsibility for marketing the programs, resources, and congregational services, in collaboration with the ministerial staff.

Ted is a skilled public relations person. His contacts within the community are extensive, and his ability to network within the community and the wider church is remarkable. He is a motivator and initiator. When David arrived, Ted already had in place a time-table to introduce him to everyone from neighbouring ministers to the Mayor. He has just facilitated the arrangements for a small school to rent some of the little-used space on the second floor and recently organised a group to begin work on a history of First-St. Andrew's for publication as part of our 175th Anniversary Celebration in 2007.

Outside the congregation, Ted attends Middlesex Presbytery, is on the Communications Committee and the Board of Middlesex Presbytery Resource Centre. He also chairs the London Conference Communications Committee. Through this work he unobtrusively raises the profile of FSA with the wider church.

There are few social action programs in London that Ted isn't either involved in or aware of. Susan Shelstad describes Ted as 'the eyes and ears of FSA in the community'.

An apt and fitting recognition of these many activities and achievements is Ted's election as a delegate to this summer's meeting of the General Council of the United Church in Wolfville, Nova Scotia.

Ted, we thank you and congratulate you.



MUSINGS AND MEMORIES

by Fryke Oostenbrug



We all have treasures that are reminders. I had to search for this one, and found it filed away among sentimental immigration papers. Its importance is not diminished. It is just as important as the landed immigration card we received on entering Canada. It says in Dutch, my native language, "Welkom in Canada. Verenigde Kerk Van Canada", which being translated says, "Welcome to Canada. The United Church of Canada."

Before we left the Netherlands, our minister told us that the United Church of Canada should be our future place of worship. On March 24, 1948, we landed in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and were greeted by the Church Port Worker from the Board of Home Missions. I am sure we were the happiest immigrants landing that day.

We were taken in a large shiny Nash to the farm of the Minister of Agriculture, specially chosen because of my husband's background in farming. I remember our intense excitement. I felt elated. What a beginning!

We soon became members of the United Church in a little church whose minister was the Rev. Charles Scott. His wife Mary, and their family, now in London, are still close and valued friends.

After three years we left the Maritimes. It had been three beautiful years, leaving us with rich memories and two precious little daughters. I will always cherish the bonds of friendship with the late Arthur McKenzie's family, and having lived on their farm.

Then followed Woodstock and nine years at the large "Hartholm" farm with its pure bred herd of Frisian dairy cattle.

By now an important choice had to be made. Would my husband become a veterinary surgeon, or buy a farm. "Glen Bank Farm," near Ingersoll, was the choice. A happy place for my trio of Hendrika, Joan and Eric, the latest arrival. We attended Trinity United Church under the marvelous leadership of the Rev. Ralph King and his late wife, Corinne. For the last 16 years, First-St. Andrew's has been my place of worship and support.

My life's tapestry has many bright colours craftfully woven into it and streaked here and there with darker hues.

Grateful I am that the splendour of this splendid land has touched me.

"Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)

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 office for more information.

THE RIVER BELL(E)



Susan Carscadden-Mifsud joins a group of Bell Ringers aboard a barge on the Avon River in front of the Stratford Theatre in July.

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

MARRIAGES

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

June 14 - Nicole Wills and Randy Martin

Aug. 2 - Tara Corstan and David Pollard

Aug. 2 - Kim Pellow and Sebastian Cimetto

GOODBYE & GODSPEED

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

Lori Wolfenden

DEATHS

"Well done good and faithful servant."

July 17 - Bernice Topping

July 22 - James Halliday

August 17 - Elizabeth Logan

August 26 - Nancy Flora McNee

August 29 - Madeline Muriel Middleton

DAVID'S SUMMER SNAPSHOTS



Left: David McKane in costume at the 9th annual Margaret Lawrence Literary Festival in Lakefield, Ontario, in July. David was the worship leader and preacher for the event.



Right: David McKane and Susan Shelstad lunch with Augie and Gerry Meacham and Doug and Helen Ross on the occasion of Augie's 50 years of service with the United Church



Left: The Thinker. During David's visit and tour to Ireland, he got a chance to visit with one of Ireland's many poets. This one was obviously "stoned".



Right: The Ireland trip included some members of First-St. Andrew's. Perhaps David was thinking of the passage "We are one in the Spirit" when he stepped behind the taps.

BIDDING BONUSES

By John and Mary Scott



It all started, when, at the Spring Auction, Barb Bain topped the bidding for the Bed & Breakfast at Grand Bend. It was decided that she would visit, along with Joni Pypka on July 19th. The Scott's were quite excited to learn that they were looking forward to playing bridge. With this opportunity to have

a lot of fun, the prize was extended from the evening of July 18th to Sunday morning, July 20th.

It was a most enjoyable weekend. We got to know each other by playing bridge (3 sessions), garage shopping, walking to Lake Huron to see a beautiful sunset and of course eating meals together.

We all had a wonderful time, because relationships are what life is all about.

Thank you First St. Andrews



Barb and Joni enjoy Bed and Breakfast at the Scott's home in Grand Bend

AND DINNER...



Linda Myers serves dinner to Ab and Lorna Kilb. Reg and Ruth Hill and Ken and Jean Wright were also there. Linda's dinner was one of ten dinners that were auctioned off at the FSA Live and Silent Auction in May.

SOME GENERAL COUNCIL DECISIONS

The 38th General council called for the church to continue its study on the controversial subject of genetically modified foods. The commissioners adopted four principles to guide the drafting of a policy: caution, transparency, social justice and protection of genetic heritage.

On another topic, government grants funded by the gaming industry, Commissioners defeated a petition asking the church to change its policy to allow church groups to apply for grants which would assist accessibility projects and church camps. The decision is in line with previous decisions opposing lotteries and gambling.

After a spirited debate, Commissioners turned down a chance for the United Church to determine the use of alcohol at church functions. That will remain a decision of the local church.

Commissioners also urged the federal government to make the elimination of poverty a first priority in all future government budgets.

TWO EVENTS FOR UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

by Jean Comfort



Every year on the third Monday in June, the Middlesex Presbyterian UCW provides an opportunity for women of the church to meet in a woodland setting at Camp Kee-Mo-Kee to relax, share ideas, and learn together. This year there were representatives from many area churches, approximately 70 of us, divided into three groups by special designation on our name tags. This made

possible participation in three different activities - crafts, music and Bible study - led by experienced leaders. As an entire group we gathered for a pot luck luncheon and closed our day with worship and communion. It was a beautiful day to be with friends, old and new - an event for all to enjoy. Watch for it in June 2004.

The second event takes place on the third Saturday in July at Siloam United Church in London. This occasion is made possible by the London Conference UCW executive and brings together women from eight presbyterials across Western and Northwestern Ontario for friendly exchange of ideas and inspirational leadership.

Two hundred of us gathered this year to learn and be entertained by two leaders, who by word spoken, sung or played on harp, showed how we could better fulfill the theme of our gathering "Speaking My Faith." We were truly inspired by the sincerity and skills of Gabrielle del Bianco, founder and president of Innerfit, and Edward Klassen, Paraguayan harpist.

There was also time to browse in the book room (books from the Resource Centre), join in song and worship and share thoughts and ideas with those who attended.

The enthusiasm of women who attend these events is contagious. The UCW as an organisation is alive and productive in London Conference and at First-St. Andrew's we are an example of that strength. Our three units meet once monthly for essential business, of course, but the main emphasis is to fulfill our purpose to express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian Witness, Study, Fellowship and Service.

If you are not already part of one of our groups, we urge you to join us. There are three groups: first Thursday at 7:30 pm at FSA in the Church Parlour, second Wednesday at 9:30 am at 1 Grosvenor St, and third Tuesday at 7:30 pm at FSA in the Church Parlour.

These are opportunities for fun, fellowship, growing, sharing, worship and work for all. Join us!

NAME CHANGE FOR WOMEN'S GROUPS

The name of the umbrella organization for all women's groups in the United Church, including the UCW, has been changed to Women's Ministry Network with the new acronym, WMN. The name was changed at General Council from the Women of the United Church of Canada (WUCC), a name adopted just three years ago. Delegates agreed the previous name change was rushed and the name was vague. Commissioners were also told the use of the word "ministry" in the name accurately reflects the nature of the new entity.

YOUTH REPORT

by Deb Maund



Are you a student in grades 8-12?

Do you like to have fun?

Are you looking to get more involved in FSA?

Well, have we got a deal for you! Why not check out the FSA Youth Council?! You may have seen us around in the past – we've got a great meeting space in the Upper Room that we've painted. We've led 2 church services and organized the Mid-Winter Madness Potluck and

Variety show. We've made and wrapped Christmas gifts for the food bank, participated in the 30-hour famine, and have even gone on a retreat to Pierce Williams.

This fall, we're looking for new members to join us with their enthusiasm and ideas. If this sounds like you, come on out to our first meeting on Sunday September 21st immediately after church. We'll meet in the Upper Room. If you've got any questions, don't hesitate to call Debbie (679-0716) or Erin & Jordan (657-0515). See you there!

POW

The Middle week in July was POW, the short form for PIPE ORGAN WEEK. And our Music Director Paul Merritt was one of several Organists in London who taught piano students from across Ontario and tried to foster an interest in the organ. The project is organized by the Royal Canadian College of Organists.



14 year old Allan Keith, Goderich, and 15 year old Joya Vandermeulen, Hamilton, play and listen attentively to their teacher, Paul Merritt.

GROW-A-ROW CORN ROAST

FSA's Stewardship Mission Outreach Committee played host to St. Mary's United Church members after the service August 17. They joined us in a Corn Roast to celebrate the Grow-A-Row Campaign.



Above: The lineup for corn



Above clockwise, the cornhuskers: Bill Knowles, Susan Wark, Shelley Kostecki, Donna Travis, David Knoppert



Left: Diane Knoppert, Donna Travis and Linda Badke trade a few "corny" jokes.

DOORS OPEN LONDON

On Saturday and Sunday October 4 and 5, Londoners will have a chance to explore some of the city's history, including FSA.

First-St. Andrew's United will take part in a "Doors Open London" weekend, part of a province-wide event. The local program is being organized by the City of London's Heritage and Museum Coordinating Committee.

We will need help with the open house, giving directions to visitors and perhaps tours of the building. If you are interested in helping with this project, please call Ted Kostecki or Pat Sole in the office at 679-8182

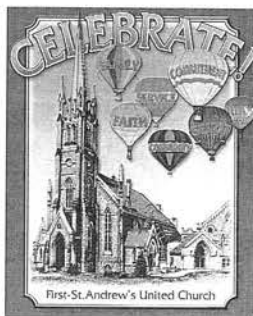
CELEBRATION SUNDAY

There will be another CELEBRATION SUNDAY for the congregation of First-St. Andrew's on November 16. Once again, we will celebrate our faith, our family, our community, our spirit, our commitment and our future.

We will once again celebrate with a worship service and a special FREE LUNCHEON.

And we will do it all in our sanctuary.

Please watch your mail for information about CELEBRATION SUNDAY and an invitation to lunch.



**THE MEN'S WEDNESDAY BAG LUNCH
RETURNS OCT 15 AT NOON
IN THE PARLOUR**

FSA Program Guide

Fall 2003

WORSHIP

Sept. 7 Recovenanting Service

9:00 and 10:30 am

Rev. Dr. David McKane

Sept. 14 14th after Pentecost

9:00 and 10:30 am

Rev. Dr. David McKane

Sept. 21 Sacrament of Baptism at 10:30 am

9:00 and 10:30 am

Rev. Dr. David McKane

Sept. 28 16th after Pentecost

9:00 and 10:30 am

Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad

Oct. 5 World-Wide Communion

Clan MacPherson — Doors Open London

9:00 and 10:30 am

Rev. Dr. David McKane

Oct. 12 Thanksgiving Sunday

9:00 and 10:30 am

Rev. Dr. David McKane

Oct. 19 19th after Pentecost

9:00 and 10:30 am

Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad

Oct. 26 20th after Pentecost

9:00 and 10:30 am

Nov. 2 All Saints Sunday

9:00 and 10:30 am

Rev. Dr. David McKane

Nov. 9 Remembrance Sunday

9:00 and 10:30 am

Rev. Dr. David McKane

Nov. 16 Celebration Sunday, Reception of New Members

9:00 and 10:30 am

Nov. 23 171st Anniversary

9:00 and 10:30 am

Guest Preacher: Rev. Malcolm Sinclair

Nov. 30 Advent Lessons and Carols

9:00 and 10:30 am

Rev. Dr. David McKane

Dec. 7 White Gift Sunday

9:00 and 10:30 am

Dec. 10 Christmas Hope Service

7:45 pm, Chapel

Dec. 14 3rd Sunday in Advent

9:00 and 10:30 am

Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad

Dec. 21 Carol sing before 10:30 am service

9:00 and 10:30 am

Rev. Dr. David McKane

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

7:00 pm Family Service

10:00 pm Candlelight Communion

Rev. Dr. David McKane

Dec. 28 First After Christmas

MUSIC

THE SENIOR CHOIR

Our Senior Choir leads in worship at all 10:30 a.m. services as well as presenting a number of concerts each year. Rehearsals are each Thursday from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Lower Hall. Please contact Paul Merritt (679-8182 or 679-9173).

THE JOYFUL SINGERS and JOYFUL RINGERS

This children's choir has just completed its fourth year of activities. Besides leading in worship throughout the church year, the choir also participated in various church productions. If your child (children) would like to sing and ring with us, bring them to our first rehearsal on WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. We're sure they'll enjoy themselves.

THE JUNIOR JOYFULS

This group will begin its third year of activities on WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17. Under the direction of Margaret Bereznick, the Junior Joyfuls learn a variety of musical skills and share these with the congregation in worship throughout the year. To have your child (children) join in the fun, please call Mrs. Bereznick at 474-6877.

COME RING WITH US!

THE LAUDAMUS BELLS

The Laudamus Bells, now in its 33rd year of offering praise at First-St. Andrew's, is reaching out for new members in readiness for the fall season. Men and women who read music and can commit to a weekly practice from September through May are invited to join our friendly, enthusiastic group, and to let Barbara know of others in the community who may be interested. Please call Barbara Plante, Director (472-4586 or 461-1202) for further information, or leave your name at the Church Office (679-8182).

COME PLAY WITH US!

THE FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S STRINGS

If you play a stringed instrument (violin, viola, cello, bass) this may be the group for you! The FSA Strings, under the guidance of Bruce Richardson, add their glorious sound to worship throughout the church year. The group accompanies the Senior choir on occasion as well. For more information, please call Bruce Richardson at 473-1023 or Paul Merritt at 679-8234 or 679-9173.

OTHER INSTRUMENTALISTS

Would you be interested in sharing with us your talents on the instrument you play? If so, call Paul Merritt at 679-8234 or 679-9173.



MONDAY, OCTOBER 6 AT 7:30 PM

THE ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET

with JAMES CAMPBELL, CLARINET

and ANDRÉ LaPLANTE, PIANO

in a program including: STRING QUARTET in F by RAVEL
QUINTET for CLARINET & STRINGS by MOZART
and PIANO QUINTET in f by BRAHMS

ADMISSION: ADULTS \$20/STUDENTS \$15

Tickets available from the Church Office and The Madrigal.

This will be one of the highlights of London's musical season featuring World-class performers performing some of the best-loved pieces in the chamber music repertoire, in a beautiful setting, at a very reasonable price! The tickets are sure to sell quickly, so don't delay in getting yours!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8 AT 7:30 PM

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BARRIE!

A Concert to honour Barrie Cabena in his 70th year.

A FREEWILL OFFERING will be taken in aid of the CLARK WILSON ORGAN APPRENTICESHIP FUND.

The choir of First-St. Andrew's, The Laudamus Bells, and other performers present an evening of Barrie Cabena's music to celebrate his 70th birthday and the great contribution he has made to the musical life of our church, city and country. Join us in honouring Barrie and welcoming him back to the church he served with such distinction.



The Music Ministry puts faith into action as it serves the congregation, reaches out to the community, and develops a bond of love and spiritual growth among participants. COME SING WITH US!

Music Director Paul Merritt

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 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 10:30 a.m. service. The children go to their classes following the children's story time in church. Again this year we are using the 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.

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

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

Young people in grade 9 and up are invited to participate in the confirmation classes as preparation to join the church next spring. We begin this fall on Sunday, Oct. 19th with the presentation of Bibles to the class and an introductory lunch. Call the church to register at 679-8182.

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.

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

ADULT DEVELOPMENT

THE BETA PROGRAM - FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO GO DEEPER...

Sunday Morning Bible Study

This lively group meets on Sunday mornings from 9 to 10:15 am, upstairs in the Music Room. The fall session begins on Sunday, Sept. 21.

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? We begin the fall session on Thursday, Sept. 11.

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) or Susan Shelstad (679-8182)

LABYRINTH WALK

Our next labyrinth walk will take place on Sunday, November 30 at 7:00 pm in the Lower Hall, as preparation for Advent.



NEW OFFERINGS FROM THE CD COMMITTEE:

Book Study - We'll be looking at Why Christianity Must Change or Die by Bishop John Shelby Spong in preparation for his coming here in Nov. 2004. We'll meet on Wednesday, Oct. 15, 22 and 29 at 7:30 pm. Register by calling the church at 679-8182. You will need to read the book before the sessions begin.



Pilgrimage Spirituality - Dr. Jim Schmeiser of King's College will lead a series on the spirituality of pilgrimage, the walk of life.

Thursday, November 13, 20 and 27 from 7 to 8:30 pm

Registration - \$25.00 Please call the church to register at 679-8182.

RETURNING THIS FALL:

Contemplative Worship - on the first Wednesday of each month beginning Wed. Oct. 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel. Meditation training will be part of the experience along with stretching, drumming, scripture, silence and prayer. Come and restore your soul!

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. 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

Do you 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 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 Donna Travis, 672-6116, or the church office, 679-8182.

Coordinators needed

Donna requires volunteers to help her coordinate the Monday meals. She also is looking for someone who will shop once a month for the supplies that are needed for the meals.

And thanks

To Jean and Ken Wright and Eileen Pyper for their team leadership in the past several years.

And Welcome

To Margot Christodoulou and Paul and Glenda Pennington who have offered to serve as team leaders.

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 used a farm near St. Marys. The growing season ended with a Corn Roast at First-St. Andrew's in August. 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 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!

FRIENDSHIP & LEARNING GROUPS

BIFOCALS

Bifocas resumes in the fall with a meeting on October 28. Come and enjoy good food, warm fellowship, a sing song and varied programs. The fall season kicks off October 28 with guest Sue Vanduyn Houen, a ventriliquist volunteer at Thames Valley School. On November 25, the guest speaker is a representative of Habitat for Humanity. New members and guests are always welcome. Call Shirley Wynne, 474-4788 or June McKay, 471-5668 for information.

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

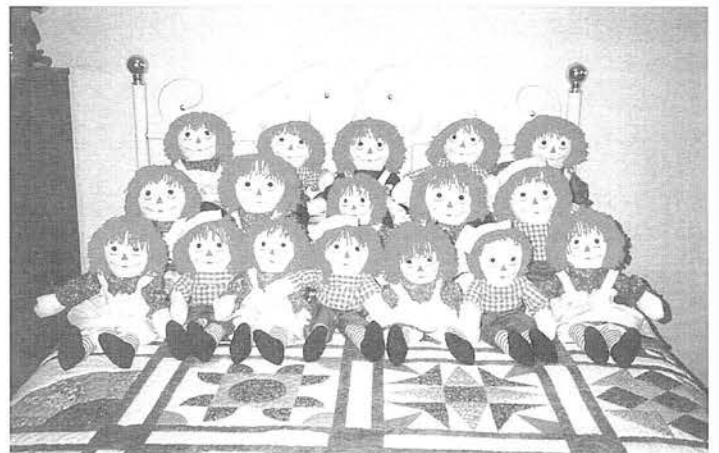
New members are always welcome.

BRIDGE GROUP

Another season will soon begin under the direction of Donna Travis. Look for information about the fall activities in the bulletin.

SEWING GROUP

Each Wednesday a small group of women, dedicated to the art of sewing, haul their sewing machines into the Fireside Room and work away at items destined to be sold at the annual Bazaar in November. This year, the special project is the sewing of Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls. The 25" models will sell for \$40, and the 20" dolls will sell at \$30. Remember: "Christmas is Coming!" What better gift than a Raggedy Ann doll.





A FINAL WORD

Fall Tidings

TOP FIVE THINGS TO DO AT FSA THIS FALL:



1. Come to worship. You have several options to choose from: Sunday mornings at 9 am in the Chapel or 10:30 am in the Sanctuary. Or, once a month, on the first Wednesday of the month, you can come to a contemplative worship service at 7:30 pm in the Chapel. The Worship Committee and the Music Committee are open to creating other kinds of worship services as well. Worship is good for you. Get into the habit of coming.

2. Come to learn. Christian Development is for all of us, young and old and everyone in between. We have lots of opportunities for you to grow in your faith and in your understanding of God's will for us. From the church school to special study series, we have something for everyone. The Christian Development Committee is constantly striving to create and offer relevant and meaningful learning events. Take the time to be part of them. It's worth it.

3. Come to serve. We exist as a congregation to serve God in this community we find ourselves in. FSA has a long history of service to the community, and each person in our church has gifts that are needed by the community. Think about offering your gifts. You can help with the hospitality meal on Monday nights, or get involved with Habitat for Humanity. The Stewardship Mission Outreach Committee would be glad to point you in the direction of service that best suits your interests and abilities.

4. Come to enjoy the community life. We are a church family, and we enjoy just being together as we share our faith and our calling. There are lots of opportunities for the congregation to gather, to celebrate, to mourn, to support, encourage, and sometimes just to play. Coffee and conversation, Bi-focals, Circle of Friends, UCW, new members dinners, are but a few ways that the community gathers. The Membership and Nurture Committee are always trying to strengthen the bonds of our community life.

5. Come to get involved. The church needs all kinds of people to help out in many different ways. The Volunteer Management Committee tries to match the needs of the church with the talents and offerings of our people. You could be a greeter on Sunday morning, or you could get involved with the Property Committee or the Finance Committee and help out with the management issues of running a large congregation such as this. There is no end to the number of ways you can make a contribution to the life and work of FSA.

First-St. Andrew's is committed to making a difference in the lives of its members and in the life of the community as a whole. God is calling us to this work. We would love to have the active participation of everyone. This fall, why not join us in our worship, our learning, our service, and our community life? It's just not the same without you.



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

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