

Tidings

FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH



VOLUME 16 ● NUMBER 2

SUMMER/PENTECOST 2006

Faster than a speeding bullet,
more powerful than a locomotive,
able to leap tall buildings in a single bound.
Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's Superman!

Most children love super heroes...Spiderman, Batman, Superman...because they represent the power and might that children often don't have in their own lives. If we're honest, adults probably feel that way too.

Superman is one of the oldest of the comic book heroes, and he's one of the most interesting because unlike the others, he takes off his disguise as the mild-mannered reporter Clark Kent to reveal his true identity. Most super heroes put on a mask and a costume to become their super selves.

At Pentecost we remember the power that came to the disciples who were waiting in an upper room in Jerusalem, as Jesus had directed. The Holy Spirit filled the room with the sound of a mighty wind, tongues of fire, and ecstatic utterance. The disciples spilled out into the streets, suddenly armed with a new power and enthusiasm for their work. The Spirit would direct and empower their ministry, just as Jesus had done.

When we let God's Spirit work in us, we become like those first disciples, and we become like super heroes. Whatever disguises we choose to wear in our everyday lives, underneath is our true identity...beloved children of God, bearers of God's Holy Spirit.

We may not be able to leap tall buildings in a single bound, but with God's Spirit we can be the people God has created us to be, bringing love and peace and justice to the world.

Pentecost reminds us that we too can be God's super heroes working in the world to make things better. Super Susan! Super Dave! Super You!



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From the Archives

A Diamond Jubilee

By Jim Hutchinson

In 1930, St. Andrew's United Church celebrated the 60th anniversary of the erection of our present sanctuary. It was actually dedicated Oct. 31, 1869, the cornerstone having been set on Queen Victoria's birthday, May 24, 1868.

A committee was formed in June, 1928 to plan events throughout 1930. They created a Jubilee Fund to refurbish the church and retire the mortgage. Receipts by 1930 were \$23,731, of which \$23,288 was spent. Other church expenses for 1930 were \$23,289, excluding missions!

Every group had special events, from a Valentine tea to a St. Patrick's Day bake sale, to a picnic at Springbank Park. Individuals made separate donations, including Mr. and Mrs. William Martin who dedicated the font in memory of their 6 year old daughter, and Mr. A. E. Silverwood who financed broadcasting of one monthly service.

A booklet written by John Gunn, titled *Almost a Century*, was sold to the congregation and visitors. (This effort raised \$8.15!). In September, the fourth UCC General Council was held here. The church was put in great shape, climaxing with celebrations from Nov. 2-9.

On Nov. 2, Rev. Dr. Clark, former minister of First United, led worship, and on Nov. 9, Rev. Dr. Johnston, the only living former minister of St. Andrew's, preached. Dr. Johnston also spoke at a congregational dinner Nov. 7. Afterward, the congregation met in the Church School building for a program, including presentations to Dr. Wheeler, organist and choir leader for 40 years, and to Mr. Morrison for serving 40 years on Session. A highlight was the burning of the \$8500.00 mortgage. Children of the fourth generation of St. Andrew's families presented flowers to members who had been present at the cornerstone placement in 1868.

The whole week was full of celebration. Of particular note was the Young People's dramatization of *Cousin Jedediah Comes to Tea*, a song popular 60 years earlier—"not even the cow and horse being overlooked in the presentation"! (Annual Report, 1930)

THE LOWER HALL PROJECT

by Ted Kostecki

FSA Council, at a special meeting, has approved in principle a project to refurbish the Lower Hall in the church. A Sub-Committee of the Property Committee has held more than a dozen meetings during the past six months to determine the needs of the congregation and to plan the work. With the help of this sub-committee, the project was designed by Pauline Slattery, a London designer.

The major changes would include a new floor, a storage area at the rear of the Hall, new lighting fixtures, an updated stage with new curtains, a re-painting of the walls, new windows and draperies, and new, lighter tables.

Total cost of the project is approximately \$175,000. Council voted to refer the matter of costs to the Finance Committee to explore sources of funding.

CURRENT ISSUE

In this Summer/Pentecost issue, we highlight the programs and events of the past three months. For an even more vivid view of Tidings, go to our Website and click on the Tidings icon to see past issues in stunning full colour. Our Webmaster, Paul Pergau, expects to have this current issue on the website within a week. Here is the address for the FSA Website:

www.fsaunited.london.on.ca

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

Congratulations to Michael Bancroft

who received a Doctor of Science, honoris causa (D. Sc.) Michael was a leading force in transforming Western into a research-intensive university, namely as a leader in the field of synchrotron radiation and in helping to establish the Canadian Light Source project.

.....And to

Winifred and Dave Wake who received special recognition at the recent Ontario Nature (Federation of Ontario Naturalists) Conference in Waterloo. They were presented with the W.W.H. Gunn Conservation Award, in recognition of their outstanding personal service and commitment to nature conservation over many years, and for their achievements in environmental activism.

Mark Sunday September 17 on your calendar.

FSA will host Bill and Karen Butt, United Church personnel, who will be home on leave from their work in Mozambique. It's also our windup for Grow-A-Row, with our annual delicious ham, beans and corn-on-the-cob lunch following the service. You can read the Butts' letters from Mozambique in the "yellow" section of the United Church Observer each month.

IT'S A SOUND PROJECT

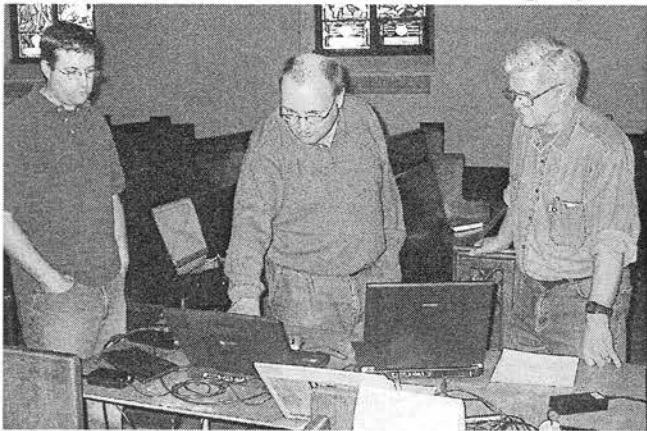
By Jack Fowler

Our sound system in the sanctuary had become a major issue recently. We were concerned that not only some members of our congregation but also folks visiting with us—and perhaps considering joining our Church—said that they had difficulty hearing the service. This did not auger well for attendance and membership.

The Wednesday “Brown Bag Lunch” fellows recognized an opportunity, and raised \$1000 among themselves to cover the cost of hiring a well-qualified consultant—Arthur Skudra from Hamilton—who tuned up the system, and prepared a report for the Property Committee concerning future improvement. You will likely hear more about this project as the Property Committee considers the issue further.

Thanks to the “Brown Baggers” for the impetus needed to get the ball rolling on a vital issue facing our congregation.

(below) Arthur Skudra (middle), a sound consultant, tunes up our sound system while Adam Plante (left) and Wes Sole (right), who maintain it during the year, look on.



THE BIG SPRING CLEANUP



Each year, members of the Property Committee, and helpers, clean up the area around the church. It not only beautifies the property, but it saves us money. Included among the cleanup crew this year, and gathered around the trailer, shovels in hand, were Ed Ellis (co-chair of the Property Committee, Jim and Audrey Coulthard and Donna Travis.

OUR 175TH ANNIVERSARY

Thoughts from the Chair of the Celebration Committee

By Donna Ellis



When the Anniversary Committee first met early last February, the upcoming celebration seemed a long way off. Now, as I look over the calendar of events planned for the anniversary year, I realize how much is coming up and how quickly it will be upon us!

A very dedicated group of FSA members have been working hard to make the anniversary year a memorable one. Susan Fullerton, Ted Kostecki, Bev Lindsay, Ron and Annabelle Logan, David McKane, June McKay, Barb Plante, Jo Ann Silcox and Bob Vosper have the task of coordinating the events for the year. Many members of the congregation have submitted ideas for events, and plans are well underway. There will be, as they say, “something for everyone!”

During the year we will be honouring the 175 year legacy that is First-St. Andrew's. We hope to unite the congregation in a celebration of all that the church is today. And we will be planning events that will encourage us to look forward to the exciting years ahead in the life and work of FSA.

The official “kick-off” to the celebration will be Sunday, October 29, 2006. You will want to plan on being present for very special music and celebration. Following the service, there will be a Gala luncheon. There will be more information available about upcoming events, but be sure to circle this date on your social calendar!

Speaking of calendars, the Anniversary celebration year has so many special things planned that we will be publishing a calendar of events just to help keep you informed and organized. You won't want to miss out on a single event! Calendars will go on sale in October and will include events planned all the way through until December, 2007. That's a lot of celebrating!

There are many ways to get involved besides attending events. We need lots of volunteers to perform many varied tasks. At this point in time, we have ideas that have been submitted, but, to date, not all the individuals to turn the ideas into reality have appeared.

If you have ideas, or some time you can dedicate for a specific event, speak with any member of the Anniversary Committee.

It's going to be a very exciting year in the FSA community. After all, First-St. Andrew's has been and still is “At the heart – since 1832”.



EVERYONE HAS A STORY

Transformation on Mt. Slioch

By Gavin McGregor

In 1956, as a young man, I wanted to climb Slioch in Northwestern Scotland. Instead, I settled for the view from the Empress of Britain, as she slipped up the St Lawrence River taking me to a life of adventures in Canada.

In 2001 I was diagnosed with cancer. When I asked about the probability of survival, my surgeon said survival had more to do with attitude than statistics, and that I should focus on life after chemotherapy. My thoughts returned to that missed climb, and Slioch... that thin place where heaven and earth must surely touch. Once again this became my goal.

My daughter Kimberley, now an empty nester, told me she wanted to come. I was surprised, pleased—and impressed, for she had never climbed before—perhaps she, too, was looking for inspiration.

On a glorious morning in July, 2003, we saw Slioch rising almost vertically from Loch Maree as we set out on the long hike to the foot of the mountain. Along the way the conversation ranged from the scenic beauty, to our lives, and the impact we had had on each other.

The ascent took us in a spiral behind Slioch—to avoid rock climbing—and consequently we were on the upper slopes before the soul-filling panorama opened before us. It was stunning! It seemed as though God must surely reveal His purpose to us... however, weariness and concern about the return journey took over.

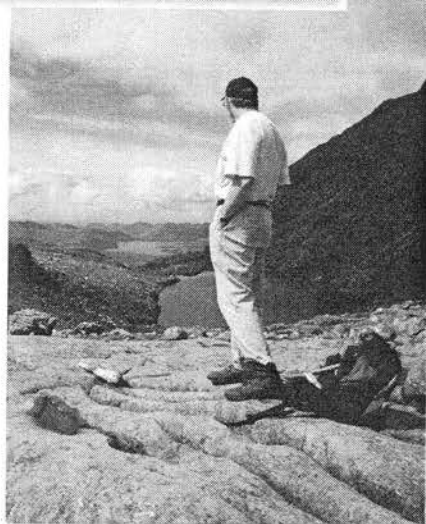
Some months later, enjoying a conversation with Kimberley, it suddenly struck me. The Highland experience had indeed transformed our former,

rather superficial, relationship into a warm trusting friendship. Slioch had truly been a thin place!



Above: Slioch (Spear), rising from the shore of Loch Maree, was used as a location in the movie *Highlander*.
(Source: www.celticfringe.org.uk)

Right: The author, from Slioch looking toward Loch Maree and the Isle of Skye



HOW HAS THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA RESPONDED TO THE TSUNAMI?

By Barb Dalrymple



Donations to the Tsunami Appeal have topped \$1,633,800; with matching funds of \$844,000 from CIDA (federal government).

The following partners have received funds:

- Action by Churches Together (ACT), of which the United Church is a member, an international ecumenical humanitarian disaster response agency
- Canadian Foodgrains Bank, of which the United Church is a member, an interdenominational body that shares food globally and strives for food security
- Regional councils of churches, e.g., Christian Conference of Asia, the National Council of Churches in India
- Denominational church partner organization, e.g. The Church of North India
- Partners working on human rights, including the rights of fishing communities, and community empowerment, including self-development, literacy, indigenous people's rights, e.g. Human Rights and Advocacy Foundation, Vikas Adhyayan Kendra, Institute for Development Education in India
- Partners working with communities in conflict areas in Indonesia
- Interfaith partners e.g. Asian Muslim Action Network in Thailand

How the funds have been used:

- Basic emergency relief of food, shelter, clothing, community-based trauma counselling, and provision of implements
- Reconstruction of community buildings and schools
- Construction of permanent housing
- Development of disaster management database systems
- To strengthen the role of locally elected institutions
- To develop networks supporting rights to shoreline location
- Planting of ecological barriers such as mangroves for storm protection
- Empowerment of women to access victim compensation
- Empowerment of Indigenous people to access victim compensation
- Strengthening of networks campaigning for the rights of the traditional fishing economy made more vulnerable by the tsunami
- Diversifying employment and generating income for tsunami-affected communities
- Livelihood support to Adhivasi/tribal groups once chased from the forest by development, scattered, then reunited post-tsunami
- To reduce conflict where discrimination has caused further crises
- To focus on communities with the least support
- To target communities with interfaith conflicts

MULTIGENERATIONAL FAMILIES

The Eberhards*

Helen Eberhard, whose life of 92 years was celebrated at a memorial service on May 28, was part of a family tree with deep roots at FSA. Helen's mother, Pauline Mowat, was the contralto soloist at First Church from 1898 to 1906, followed in the choir by her two sisters.

Although her father was a Baptist minister, Helen attended King Street United, then joined FSA in 1940 after her marriage to Rudy. Helen was an alto in FSA's choir for over 50 years, and also active in Delta Row and then the UCW, and as a Sunday School teacher.



Helen Pauline Eberhard

Rudy's parents, Charles and Beatrice, lived only 4 blocks from FSA. Charles, on St. Andrew's Board, actively supported Church Union. Rudy had 14 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School, exceeded only by with his brother Ken with 17 years. They also attended *Tuxus*. Rudy loved the music at FSA, and after his

1988 death, a trust was

established which, combined with the Barbara Eberhard Fund, became the Eberhard Vocal Scholarship, supporting eleven vocalists to date.

Rudy and Helen sat in the 7th pew on the right side, along with their four children—Stuart, John, Jane and Peggy. The Eberhard children attended Sunday School and a variety of other groups, including Hi C, YPU, and CGIT. They, along with many of Helen's 12 grandchildren and three great grandchildren—the fifth generation—attended her memorial service, taking up much more than the 7th row.

In 1969, John and his wife started a youth group. Both they and Stuart and his wife attended "Come Join Us" before graduating to Bi-Focals. John and Stuart were also Elders. Several new programs began at the time John chaired the Official Board, 1990-1, including Tidings and the new Atrium, along with a change in church governance from a Board to a Council system.

**Based on the Eberhard history submitted October, 2005 for the 175th Anniversary.*

OUR PERSON ON GENERAL COUNCIL

Ted Kostecki, FSA's Community Development Coordinator, has been named to sit as a voting delegate-at-large on General Council, the 43 member governing body of the United Church of Canada.



It's an honour for both Ted and First-St. Andrew's as he is called to be among the leaders of the church as it works toward the next generation.

Ted will also attend the General Council's Tri-Annual meeting in Thunder Bay in August.

QUEEN FOR A DAY

By Barb Dalrymple

Jean Gorwill became "Queen for a Day" on Queen Victoria's Birthday, May 24th. Queen Victoria would have been 187. Jean Gorwill turned 100. She was her usual charming self as she sat on her throne at FSA. Over 100 well-wishers came to greet her—relatives, friends, former neighbours, colleagues and students from South Collegiate.

The afternoon tea and celebration was initiated by Barbara Corbet, whose mother Donald Smith was Jean's long-time friend—they graduated together from UWO in 1928. Jean's friends—Susan Agranove, Marlyn Loft and Cathy Whelan—were also part of the organizational team with help from Louise Slater. UCW members poured tea. Paul Wenn was responsible for contacting former colleagues and was the official door greeter. Shirley Wynne catered the event.

Dick Gorwill, a nephew, and his wife Pat from Lindsay; Hugh Gorwill, a nephew from Kingston; Ruth Gorwill, a niece from Burlington and Joan Kalechstein, a niece from Deep River along with their children and grandchildren attended the party.

Jean Comfort presented her with a UCW life membership certificate and a life membership pin from the Tuesday morning unit. Ruth Gorwill brought greetings from the family. Ron and Annabelle Logan presented citations from the Prime Minister, Governor General, Ontario Premier, Ontario Lieutenant Governor, and Jean's M.P. and M.P.P., as well as the Mayor. Unfortunately, Queen Elizabeth II's citation will not arrive until sometime during Jean's birthday year.

The Governor General's citation referred to the many events and changes that Jean has experienced in her 100 years. Think about it—it is amazing.

Jean taught at South Collegiate for nearly 40 years. She lived on Wellington Street for nearly 98 years and has attended FSA for 77 years, after transferring from New St. James Presbyterian.

We all wish her well as she enters her second century.



Ron and Annabelle Logan present Jean with citations from the Prime Minister and other government leaders.



Among the guests at Jean's 100th birthday reception was Jean's nephew Dick Gorwill of Lindsay.

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

DEATHS

"Well done good and faithful servant."

Shirley (Betty) Goodman	December 23, 2005
Helen Pearl Woodruff	February 3, 2006
Robert Malcolm McFarlane	February 27, 2006
Sarah Hall	April 25, 2006
Helen Pauline (Janes) Eberhard	May 1, 2006
Nelles John England	May 10, 2006
Velma Beck	June 22, 2006
Allan Stinson	June 25, 2006

BAPTISMS

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

September 2005

Ethan Alexander Muise, son of Jennifer and Kyle Muise
Emma Kathleen Shawyer, daughter of Gillian and Scott Shawyer

May 2006

Rachel Lynda Gray, daughter of Heather and Christopher Gray
Timothy James Hodson, son of Tracy and Mark Hodson

GOODBYE & GODSPEED

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



Erin Linforth and Jordan Berard have been active participants at FSA since they came to London to attend Western. Erin has sung in our choir, played with the Laudamus Bells, and worked with our Youth Council. Jordan has joined Erin in a more active role with the Youth Council in the past couple of years. They have done a wonderful job working with our young people, and we will really miss their leadership this fall. They are both

from Perth, Ontario, and they started dating in high school. Jordan is currently finishing his Master's degree in English, and he has been accepted and awarded grant money to attend the University of Ottawa to do his PhD in English in the fall. He belongs to a Shakespeare club and an Ultimate Frisbee team. Erin is teaching music at Forest Park Public school in St. Thomas and is continuing to work as a personal support worker for a teenager with cerebral palsy. She conducts a small women's choir, teaches lifeguarding courses for the city, and practices and competes with a competitive lifeguarding team. Erin and Jordan are getting married at FSA in August, and moving to the Ottawa area.

We will miss you both!

UCW ANNUAL MEETING

The meeting was held in the sunshine June 14th at Jean Comfort's farm. Three women were given life memberships. See pg. 11.



MAYTIME COMMUNION



(Above) The annual Maytime Communion for shut-ins was organized by the UCW and one of the welcome guests was Gertrude Bergey, a long-time FSA member and former Chair of Council. Keeping her company is Grace MacIntosh.

(bottom) Annabelle Logan and Margaret Wonfor poured.

HOW TO REDUCE YOUR CAPITAL GAINS TAX BY DONATING TO CHARITY

by Michael Cooney

You should be excited about the new opportunities made available by the changes announced in the new federal budget. The government has created a wonderful way to eliminate the capital gains tax on securities that appreciate significantly in value, by eliminating the capital gains tax on donations of publicly listed securities to charity. Here's an example of how the new rules could work for you.

Mary's income is forecasted to be approximately \$ 120,000 per year at a marginal tax rate of 45 %. Mary owns shares in TD Canada Trust that have a current fair market value of \$20,000. She purchased these shares years ago for \$ 4,000. She is considering donating these shares to charity. If Mary simply sold the shares and kept the proceeds, she would recognize a capital gain of \$ 16,000 (\$ 20,000 less \$ 4,000). Fifty percent of that gain, \$ 8,000, would be added to her income during that year. At Mary's marginal tax rate of 45%, she would pay an additional \$ 3,600 in tax for cashing in those shares.

Under last year's tax rules, if Mary were to donate these shares to charity, she would receive a tax donation receipt for \$ 20,000, and therefore receive a net tax credit of \$ 7,200.

Under the new rules, if Mary gave those same shares to a registered charity, she would no longer have to pay the \$ 1,800 in capital gains tax and she would still receive a tax donation receipt for the entire \$ 20,000 she donates (45% of \$20,000) and recognize a tax donation credit of \$ 9,000. So Mary's net tax savings in this situation is \$ 9,000.

Given this example, Mary can make a \$20,000 donation to her charity of choice at a net cost to her of \$ 11,000 under the new rules, as compared to \$ 12,800 under the former rules.

For individuals who are planning to make significant donations to a charity, these new tax rules can truly benefit both you personally and the charity to which you wish to donate. It is strongly advised that you discuss such new donation plans with your tax accountant to understand how they specifically will affect your situation. You and your charity of choice could benefit substantially in the process.

RUMMAGE SALE A SUCCESS....



A success thanks to the work of many people including (left) Helen McLeod, Marg Leonard, Jan Hendry and dozens of others.

(right) The end of a long morning at the Rummage Sale and that means packing up the left-over goods and counting the proceeds.



CLOWN MINISTRY

By Erin Linforth

"We are fools for Christ's sake" 1 Corinthians 4:10

Clown ministry is used in worship services, community outreach, and for celebration in many places around the world. But why clowns, you might well ask?

"Clowns are beings who reflect God's unconditional love, receiving no reward more valuable than a smile..."

"A clown is willing to humiliate himself in order to exalt his audience, be that one person or 1,000."

"A clown is a beacon of love, and life, and joyfulness."

"Just as Christ taught through parables, clowns teach through storylines... [that] break down our defensive walls and allow us to laugh at our weaknesses and faults, perhaps learning a lesson, too."

The Youth Council had the opportunity to experience some aspects of clown ministry through two workshops with Jen McGibbon this spring. Many in the congregation will remember the way Jen used her talents to bring a smile to all of us as the clown, "Forget-Me-Not," at the Mid-Winter



Jen McGibbon (left) and friend entertain the children at the Youth Council's Mid-Winter Madness talent show.

Madness talent show earlier this year. Jen's background in Creative Drama and her experiences with "Care Clowning" were the foundation for the development of "Forget-Me-Not". This clown periodically visits the seniors at Chateau Gardens to provide them some much appreciated humour therapy.

At the workshops, Jen gave us the opportunity to discover our own clown. Through a meditative journey, we searched for a special aspect of our personality that we might normally hold back, favourite traits that we might over-emphasize, or a fantasy character that would become "our clown." We also used writing and drawing activities to develop our ideas. Finally, several of us got to experiment painting our faces, while others learned a few tricks of the balloon-animal-making trade.

The Youth Council encourages everyone to look inside themselves for their own clown and to look for opportunities in their own lives to let him or her out!

Source: www.clown-ministry.com

... AND SO WAS THE GERANIUM SALE



Once again, the May Geranium Sale, organized by Marg Leonard, raised more than \$2,000 for the work of First-St. Andrew's.

(left), Liz Mignotte and Wes Sole admire a flat of flowers.

FSA Program Guide

Pentecost/Summer 2006

WORSHIP

- July 2 10:30 am, service in Lower Hall
Rev. Dr. David McKane
- July 9 10:30 am, service in Lower Hall
Rev. Dr. Frank Meadows
- July 16 10:30 am, service in Lower Hall
Rev. Dr. David McKane
- July 23 10:30 am, service in Lower Hall
Rev. Dr. Barry Moore
- July 30 10:30 am, service in Lower Hall
Rev. Dr. David McKane
- August 6, 13, 20 and 27 10:30 am, services in Lower Hall
Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad
- September 3 Labour Day 10:30 am, service in Lower Hall
Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad
- September 10 Baptism 9 am and 10:30 am
Rev. Dr. David McKane
- September 17 9 am and 10:30 am
9 - Rev. Dr. David McKane
10:30 - The Butts - Mission Partners from
Mozambique

MUSIC

SUMMER MUSIC

Our Worship services will be held again in the Lower Hall in July and August. During these months various vocal and instrumental soloists will provide music for the service.

CHOIR OPEN HOUSE

Have you ever wanted to sing with the choir but been afraid to try? A large group of people did take part in the annual Choir Open House Sing on Sunday June 18th.



THE SENIOR CHOIR OF FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CRADLE ROLL

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

Coordinator: Martha Bere (641-6947)

NURSERY

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

Coordinator: Jolie Robertson (675-1533)

CHURCH SCHOOL

Regular church school classes are over but there will be group sessions throughout the summer.

Teachers and helpers are always needed. If you're interested, please speak to Chris or Monique.

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

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



Church School Coordinator Monique Silcox (right) works with the children on a project for the 175th anniversary.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

TEENS IN TRANSIT (TNT)

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

Leader: Nancy Howard (289-0540)

TEEN CONFIRMATION CLASS

A class of nine young people was confirmed on Sunday, May 7th. A new class will begin again in the fall.

YOUTH COUNCIL

Keep an eye on the Sunday church bulletin for meetings and special events.

ADULT DEVELOPMENT

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

This group has stopped for the summer, but will resume in the fall.

Meets weekly from 9-10 am in the Music Room (upstairs).

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

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

10 am in the Parlour. Why not join us?

This group has stopped for the summer, but will resume in the fall.

Facilitator: Susan Shelstad (679-8182)

DREAM GROUP

Come and discover the amazing world of your dreams. We meet usually on the last Friday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Parlour. Join us in the fall.

For more information, contact Anne Cunningham (433-9663) or Susan Shelstad (679-8182).

SPIRITUALITY ON TAP

An informal evening of a movie and discussion about it from a spiritual perspective. Watch the announcement insert in the fall for dates, movies and times.

COMING THIS FALL...



PART 2 OF "LIVING THE QUESTIONS"

4 MORE WEEKS OF THE DVD AND WEB-BASED STUDY DISCOVER-

ING THE RELEVANCE OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY AND WHAT A MEANINGFUL FAITH CAN LOOK LIKE IN TODAY'S WORLD.

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 always 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.

PRAYER CHAIN

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

CARE FOR THE CAREGIVER

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

CONGREGATIONAL VISITING TEAM

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

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Every Sunday, following our 9 am and 10:30 am worship services, the congregation is invited to remain for refreshment and the deepening of friendship. During the summer months, this takes the form of lemonade on the lawn after the 10:30 am service. 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.

COUNSELLING TEAM

There is a counselling service available to FSA members staffed voluntarily by Jo Ann Silcox, a psychiatrist, who provides initial assessment and follow-through counselling for individuals, couples, families or groups facing personal transitional crises. Referrals may be made through Jo Ann at 642-2152.

RIDES FOR SENIORS

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

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

A Baptismal preparation session is held prior to every Baptism (usually the Thursday evening) to prepare the parents who are bringing their children for Baptism. We explore the meaning of Baptism, and prepare for the Sunday service. Our next baptism is on September 10, 2006. Call the church office if interested (679-8182).

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

STEWARDSHIP MISSION OUTREACH

This Committee 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 much more.

HOSPITALITY MEALS

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

ST. PAUL'S DAILY BREAD

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

GROW-A-ROW PROJECT

Over the past five years, money has been provided for the Canadian Food Grains Program through the efforts of St. Marys United Church and FSA. Donations are matched 4:1 by CIDA. This summer, the project uses a farm outside London owned by Tom McLarty. The amount raised last year by members of FSA and St. Marys was \$10,000. . During the past several years, the money raised locally and matched by the government 4:1 means \$500,000 worth of food was shipped to countries where the need is high.

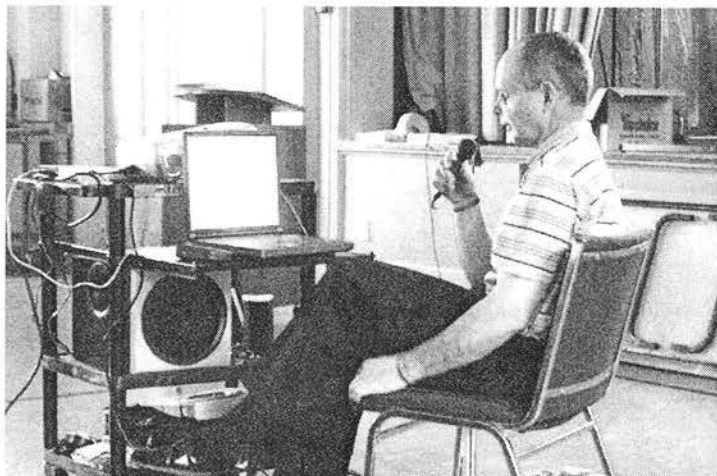
Once again, this year, we celebrate the effort with a September 17th corn roast at First-St. Andrew's organized by the Stewardship Mission Outreach Committee.



Members of the Stewardship Mission Outreach Committee, dressed appropriately, kick off the annual Grow-A-Row Campaign at a May Worship Service.

FSA SUPPER CLUB (FORMERLY BIFOCALS)

This has been an exciting year for the club, with record attendance and a good response from members. The Supper Club resumes on September 26, with meetings on October 24, November 28, January 23, March 27, April 24 and May 22. Guests and new members are always welcome. If you want to know more about us, call June McKay, 471-5668 or Shirley Wynne, 474-4768.



One of the Supper Club guest speakers this year was David Knoppert, who had just returned from a teaching assignment in China.

FRIENDSHIP & LEARNING GROUPS

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

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

The first Thursday at 1:30 p.m. in the church parlour

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

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

The UCW welcomes and encourages all women at FSA to become a member of the U.C.W. and to help keep up the good work in the years ahead.



The UCW of FSA has presented life memberships to three women: Marg Leonard, Anne Pattison and Jessie Vosper. The presentation were made at the annual meeting held at Jean Comfort's home.

BRIDGE GROUP

The Marathon Bridge Group has ended its season under the coordination of Jim and Jean Young. For information contact the Youngs at 681-8119.



(top) The Bridge Club at play. And (bottom), the winners: Bob Bass and June Bulloch and they're joined by Dorothy and John Harrison.

ISABEL GETLIFFE SEWING GROUP

Meets Wednesday from 9:30am - 2pm. Everyone interested in hand and machine sewing, cutting and stuffing is welcome. Coffee is provided. Bring a lunch. The group prepares items for sale at the annual Bazaar in the fall.

THE KNIT WITS

A group of experienced and beginner knitters get together on the first Tuesday of each month from 1pm - 2:30pm. They produce items for children and adults who are cold and in need in our community. For information, call Carol Leenders, 432-1233.





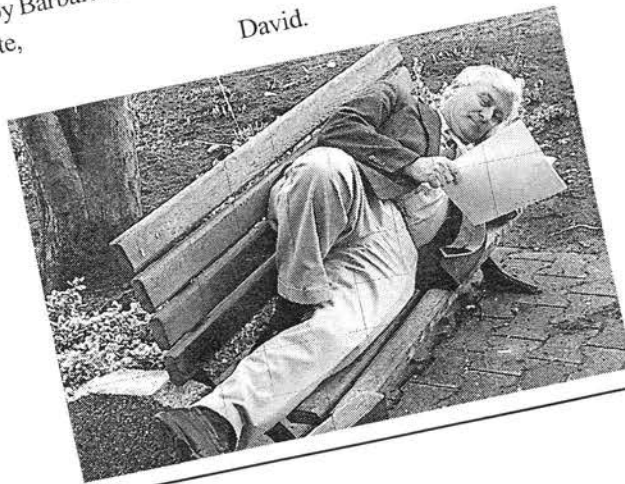
A FINAL WORD

PENTECOST 2006

THE WONDER OF WORDS

Summer is a time to relax, to settle in with a good book, whether by the pool or at the cottage, a time to lose ourselves in a good story or immerse ourselves in words. I was thinking about that the other day and the growing pile of summer reading on the corner of my desk. Words, after all, are a preacher's stock in trade. We use words like a roofer uses shingles or as a chef uses food. Sometimes they cover a multitude of sins and sometimes they present an appetizing meal. Words are like that. Saint Augustine called himself a word merchant. I can relate to that. After more than three decades of peddling my wares, I know less about the job than when I began. And words are all that preachers have. Words are what we use to do our work: marrying, burying, preaching, visiting, counseling, blessing. Sometimes the words are brittle like dried leaves, sometimes as warm and welcoming as a fire on a beach, sometimes limp like dead fish, sometimes as refreshing as a long cool drink on a hot summer afternoon, sometimes as distasteful as cough medicine. Words. Sometimes they are chiseled out of hard rock and sometimes fashioned out of soft clay. Always they are a self-offering, sometimes misunderstood, or, equally scary, understood only too well. Some Christians have to serve God in dangerous places, laying their lives on the line everyday. Some are called to be celibate or separate themselves from the world as contemplatives and forego the joy and pleasure of family. All I have to do is love words and use them to create community. Sure, I also have to stand up each week and say a good word for God, a scary task, but by the grace of God, we not only have something to say but the words with which to say it. Whatever you are reading this summer, **Freakonomics** by Levitt and Dubner or **Future Tense** by Gwynne Dyer, **Gilead** by Marilynne Robinson, **There Is A Season** by Patrick Lane, **Piece of my Heart** by Peter Robinson, or **Leaving Church** by Bruce Chiltern, **Three Day Road** by Joseph Boyden, **A History of God** by Karen Armstrong, or **Leaving Church** by Barbara Brown Taylor, I hope that you explore, taste and appreciate the wonder of words. Bon appetite,

David.



FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S MINISTRY

Rev. Dr. David McKane: Minister of Worship and Administration

Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad: Minister of Christian Development

Paul Merritt: Director of Music

Ted Kostecki: Community Development Coordinator

Sue Scorgie: Church Administrator

Maureen Scarborough: Administrative Assistant/Receptionist

Rusty Robertson: Custodian

