

# Tidings



**First-St. Andrew's United Church**

**VOLUME 11 NUMBER 2**

**PENTECOST 2001**

## MEET THE JOLES FAMILY

by June McKay



Once in a while, we are privileged to come across a family who make us stop and take a second look, and say something like, "I wonder how they became so close and caring, and seem to have it all together."

Such is the case with Charles (Chuck) and Nora Joles, and their children William (age 12) and Carolyn (almost 10). What a privilege it is to get to know this committed couple and their two delightful children!

Chuck grew up in Stratford, Ontario, and lived in Pickering while working for the Provincial Government, Ministry of Finance, as Senior Policy Advisor. In 1989 he joined the law firm of Underhill, Joles, where he now specializes in Estate Planning, Wills, Corporate and Business Law, and Real Estate. Chuck is also President of North London Kiwanis Club, and a respected member of the business community.

Nora Underhill, daughter of Betty and the late Fred Underhill, was born in London, attended Miss Matthew's school, Central Collegiate, and McMaster University. While living in London she was working in Stratford. Somehow, during the commuting, Nora and Chuck met, started dating, and were married in the chapel at First-St. Andrew's church by Dr. George Goth and Rev. Piercey McLean in 1986. In 1990 Nora accepted the position of Program Coordinator and Director of recreational Activities at McCormick Home, where she has been an invaluable resource for staff and residents.

They had decided early that they very much wanted to have a family, and applied through the International Adoption Agency in Stratford for two children. Coincidentally, at that precise time there were two little ones, a brother and sister, for whom a Canadian home was being sought.



Chuck and Nora immediately fell in love with the photograph they saw of two dark-eyed toddlers, ages 4 and 18 months, and subsequently travelled to Guatemala.

Their dream of a family was realized, and on December 2, 1992, the Joles family was complete. William was fluent in Spanish but spoke not a word of English. On the first day when they went shopping for suitable clothing, Chuck picked out some pants, but Will shook his head, unable to communicate. Undaunted, he wandered through the store, returning with his arms full of trousers, exclaiming "cinchos", pointing to the belts. He wanted pants with belts!

Since then, the family has been enlarged to include two dogs and two cats who are dearly loved.

What makes this family so special?

When talking with them, it is very evident that each one is loved and equally valued. It is a comfortable, close family unit, and each one feels richly fortunate to be a part of it. Nora and Chuck, as adoptive parents, the only relatives, consider themselves wonderfully blessed to have found these two beautiful individuals, who are easy-going, enthusiastic, willing, and helpful. There are no temper tantrums or moody confrontations, and they are always free to discuss any issue.

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They explain, "Families are made up in different ways, based on loving and caring, trust and friendship. They have come together to support one another and all are involved in the responsibilities, such as care of the pets."

Nora says they are "just another family." Maybe so, but there is a uniqueness about the Joles. Chuck and Nora have high expectations for the children. They both take their piano lessons seriously, practicing an hour each evening, as well as completing homework, and participating in the FSA Sunday school and Children's Choir, and the Amabile youth choir. William played the part of Noah in the FSA children's musical *A Technicolor Promise* in April. The stage is first nature to them as they recently appeared as the children in *South Pacific* presented at Lucas Secondary School. They are taught by example to follow through once they have made a commitment to a task.

They spend as much time as possible in the summer at the cottage on Lake Tooke, in south Muskoka, and the children have three weeks at Camp Tawingo each summer. Hot dog night is a favourite! Last year Will was in a group of five children chosen to participate in an exchange visit to Venezuela.

When asked why they attend FSA, they answer that they find a welcoming congregation where there is a warm atmosphere and sense of fellowship. The children are well cared for in the Sunday School. They mention Paul and Enid Merritt, Ralph and Corinne King, Heather Bedford, and many others who have shared their friendship. The Joles family wants to be friends, and know that their associations at FSA add much to life experiences.

If you need a hug some Sunday, just ask William or Carolyn!

## CONFIRMATION CLASS, 2001

Seven young men and women were confirmed at the May 4 service.

The congregation welcomed them as members of First-St. An-



Front row: Ryan Wilson, Jonathan Eberhard, Lindsay Freeman

Back row: Hugh Allen, Matthew Carapella, Peter Neville, Megan Elliott

## Info-Line

### OUR SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Beginning June 10, there will be one 10:30am service each Sunday.

On July 1, we will move to the lower hall, where it is less formal and much cooler.

### MUSIC FESTIVAL AWARD

Our Junior Church Choir, led by Paul Merritt, scored an 89 in the Intermediate Church Choir Competitions at the recent Kiwanis Music Festival. The score was high enough to achieve a first place award.

### CONGRATULATIONS FRANK

Our former minister of worship and administration Frank Meadows has been named to the position of secretary of Middlesex Presbytery. Congratulations Frank.

### BUS TRIP

There is still room on the "Les Miserables" bus trip on June 20 to see the touring Broadway production at the Centre in the Square in Kitchener. Contact Roger Snyder at 679-4885 or 672-5664 for information.

### BI-FOCALS TALENT NIGHT

The club holds its final evening before the summer break on May 22. As usual, it will feature a pot-luck supper, a sing-song with Paul and a "TALENT NIGHT" highlighting the talents of Bi-Focals members (and guests).

### HOLLY BAZAAR

The date for this year's Bazaar is November 16. Organizers remind everyone that the summer is a good time to prepare items for sale at the annual event.

## Tidings

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## SERIES: GOD'S STEWARDS DAVID AND WINIFRED WAKE

By Elaine Wilton



A brief conversation with the Wakes soon reveals the depth of their commitment to environmental matters. Both Winifred and David are active in the McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London, an organization that promotes environmental awareness and protection of natural habitat. They are the co-editors of the organization's quarterly publication, *The Cardinal*, and frequent contributors of articles on conservation matters.



The Westminster Ponds issue is probably the biggest and most time-consuming project the Wakes have been involved in. What began thirty years ago as a high school project for David turned into a life-long project to protect the environmentally significant Westminster Ponds from development. In recent years, with the help of the McIlwraith Field Naturalists, the Wakes undertook a study of the wildlife in the most threatened parts of the Ponds area, documenting the various birds and amphibians using that habitat. Armed with this data, and backed by strong public support, Dave was able to convince City Hall to reduce the amount of Westminster Ponds lands to be rezoned for development.

Winifred continues to use her research skills in the writing she does for various nature publications. A former monthly nature columnist for *The London Free Press*, she now writes for *Nature Canada* on endangered species, and contributes articles elsewhere on nature-related themes. She edited *A Nature Guide to Ontario*, a book featuring areas with significant wildlife habitat and natural history. Currently David and Winifred are part of an extensive network of volunteers working on an updated *Breeding Bird Atlas* designed to identify the nesting distribution of the birds of Ontario and provide data on population trends.

The Wakes' goal in all of these undertakings is to make a contribution to nature conservancy. They are concerned about our misuse of the environment through pollution, consumption of natural resources, and lack of regard for other species. It is their hope that public awareness of environmental problems will help

## FROM THE PARISH NURSE

The article for this issue is written by our student nurses, Sherry Frizzell R.N., Bonnie Kotnik R.N., Maureen Leyser R.N. and Carol Young-Ritchie R.N.. We thank them for their help. Heather Bedford



As UWO nursing students, the four of us were very fortunate to have joined the congregation of First-St. Andrew's as part of our community nursing experience. We were able to participate in a variety of church activities and meet many wonderful new friends as a result. Thank you for such a warm welcome. We will remember this rich experience with many fond memories.

One of the things we did was to help form a new group called "Grief Relief." We knew that there had been a number of deaths within the congregation during the past year and wondered if there was anything more that could be done to help families and friends who were left to mourn. We hope that this team can offer some comfort and solace to those who have suffered a loss.

The first meeting of the Grief Relief team was held on March 5. The meeting was spent talking about the experience of grief, and brainstorming about different ways in which the team might be able to offer assistance to members of the congregation. Some of these ideas included:

- \* formation of a friendly visitation team
- \* enhanced resource materials for the library on the subject of bereavement and grief
- \* plans for a "Celebration of Life" service to remember family and friends
- \* creation of a congregational memory book.

Thanks to members of the congregation who shared their perspectives and feelings about grief with us. We would also like to thank the members of the Grief Relief Team who so kindly assisted with this project.

If you are interested in joining this group or would like more information, please call Heather Bedford.

## GROW-A-ROW BEGINS ANOTHER SEASON

by Elaine Wilton



"Good air. Good food. Good water. Everyone has a right to these." So states the motto of the Canadian Food Grains Bank which we at First-St. Andrew's support through our Grow-a-Row program.

For the past seven years FSA and St. Marys United Church have teamed up to produce a crop which can be sold to help provide food for underdeveloped countries. Some years the crop has been corn; this year it will be soybeans. The fifteen-acre field is provided by the Richardson family of St. Marys who have been involved in the project since its inception. Other members of St. Marys United Church assist with planting, cultivation, and harvesting of the crop.

Net income from last year's crop was \$9,100. The Canadian International Development Agency matched this amount at a ratio of 4:1, resulting in a final donation to the Food Grains Bank of \$36,400. Following reports that the government might discontinue this funding program, many citizens wrote letters to their members of parliament. As a result of the strong public response, the government now appears to be reconsidering the funding matter, but a final decision has yet to be announced.

Meanwhile, planning for this year's Grow-a-Row project continues. FSA organizers, David Knoppert, and Bill and Jean Knowles encourage members of the congregation to become involved through financial donations, which will help meet expenses of land rental, fertilizer, and harvesting. They also urge members of the congregation to visit the Richardson farm, located on Highway 7 fifteen kilometers east of Highbury Avenue.



Sign on Highway 7 at stie

A corn roast will be held at the farm on Sunday, August 26 at 12:30 p.m. It is open to all FSA members, and provides an opportunity for members of the two churches to meet and see the progress of the Grow-a-Row program.

The Grow-a-Row committee is very grateful for the strong financial support shown in past years by FSA. They feel confident that we

Do you have an **e-mail address**? Please let us know in the office so that we can add it to our records. Just e-mail it to [pat\\_sole@hotmail.com](mailto:pat_sole@hotmail.com) or [dianemacpherson@hotmail.com](mailto:dianemacpherson@hotmail.com)

## BIBLE QUEST - A BIBLE STORY CURRICULUM FOR ALL AGES!

by Kevin Johnston



BQ has proven to be a positive curriculum in both our Big Circle and classroom times, making Sunday mornings much more enjoyable for everyone. Each quarter focuses on specific Bible stories. Depending on the age group or class, more than one week may be spent on one story, looking at different aspects of it.

Our Fall session looked at stories from the Hebrew Scriptures including Creation, Abraham and Sarah, Moses, David, Elijah, and The Peaceable Kingdom, and moved into the Christian Writings with the introduction of John the Baptist.

During the Winter session, we visited all areas of Jesus' advent and birth, his presentation in the Temple, the day he got lost in the temple, his baptism, some of his miracles, and a few of his parable stories.

Spring has allowed us to visit more stories of Jesus, the season of his death and resurrection, and will end with a visit to Peter, Dorcas, and Cornelius. This summer will include a look at some of the Psalms, as well as the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples.

Next year's curriculum will include stories about Noah, the Ten Commandments, Ruth, Josiah and Huldah, Jeremiah, more about Jesus, Pentecost, God's faithfulness to Israel, and a look at more Psalms.

Teacher Resource Kits (for all except 11:00 a.m. grade 4-6 class), learner leaflets (9:15 a.m. multi-age class), and activity books (11:00 a.m. grade 4-6 class) add to our time together.

The CD's include various songs (with some really cool beats and rhythms!), stories, sound effects, etc. - all designed to make learning more fun. And sometimes we add dance and movement to our Big Circle singing!

We welcome all of you to check out our programme. Maybe you too will join us in our BQ adventures for next year!!

## UCW SERVICE FEBRUARY 25, 2001.

The highlight of the service, featuring UCW members was a dialogue "You, in the Pew next to me."



Top row: Joni Pypka, Michelle Sangster, Mary Scott  
Middle row: Helen Guthrie, Jan Hendry, Anna Holman, Ann Pat  
Front row: Barbara Lloyd, June McKay, Jean Comfort, Laurel Kenney



# Changes..

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

## BAPTISMS

*"I will be with you always, even until the end of time."*

Jason William Bere

Ben Alexander Rothwell

Next Baptism: September, 2001

## 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."*

Ivana Klouda and David Manness

Karen and Peter Watson

## GOODBYE & GODSPEED

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

Alan McDougall

Thomas Goodwin

Dan MacLean and Jacalyn Walters

## DEATHS

*"Well done good and faithful servant."*

Vaughan Berdux, February 2

Enid Dawson, February 26

Reid Vipond, March 12

Lee Gonder, April 5

Zoe Licastro, April 15

Margaret Shewan, April 23

Marion Farmer, May 3

## MARRIAGES

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

May 5 Kelly Anne McLachlin, Kaveh Vafaei

May 5 Jennifer Lynn Brown, Darryl Gordon Park

## COUNCIL REPORTS TO YOU

by Gertrude Bergey (675-1207)



Council presented Paul and Lesley Pergau with a working weathervane as a memento of the successful Stewardship Campaign.

Ken Wright went over the Church budget for the Council, preparatory to its presentation to the Congregational Meeting on Apr. 29, 2001.

The Long Range Financial Planning Committee, as requested at the February Congregational Meeting, has been put in place and is functioning. Discussion has

centred on solutions such as fund-raising events, congregational building procedures, and assessment of present church functions. The committee, chaired by Ted Kostecki, consists of Bill Peel, Nikki Attwell, Jack Hillier, Elaine Wilson, Ken Wright, Diane Macpherson and Gertrude Bergey (ex officio).

Three existing committees - Mission and Service, Stewardship, and Community Service - under the leadership of Donna Travis, are considering the obvious overlap of interests of the three committees with a view to amalgamation.

Next Council Meeting - May 8 - 7:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Your presence would be welcome!

## THE LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

By Ted Kostecki

The Committee was established by council after concerns of financial difficulties were expressed at the Congregational Meeting in February.

The committee has met a number of times with the purpose of gathering suggestions and comments about what FSA means to its members, how we can improve, what we should be doing differently and how can we best serve the community. We have touched on a variety of issues including financial accountability, fundraising, rental of facilities, worship, music, outreach, youth and social activities. The intent behind the committee is to find ways to bring more of our current members into church and attract new members to build a strong and financially secure church to serve God.

The Long-Term Financial Planning Committee organized a number of focus groups at which our members had a chance to give us their views. The committee will take the results of these focus groups, along with submissions that we receive, and write a report for council's June 12 meeting.

The committee will continue to accept any comments or submissions and our members will be glad to answer any questions.

The committee's job is to try to determine if First-St. Andrew's is meeting the needs of its congregation and, if not, how can we change.

# Some of the people and events at First-St. Andrew's



Above. The Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad stands at the entrance to the Labyrinth, March 30. Nearly 200 people from the church and community walked the labyrinth that night.

Below. Jim Hendry and Stan Hill take a break from the annual yard cleanup April 21. Two dozen members of FSA took part in the annual cleanup making the grounds beautiful and saving the property committee some money.



Above. Russ Scorgie and Doug Jones flip out at the Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday. With the help of the members of the property committee, they fed 150 people.

Below. Members of the Junior Choir pose after their musical production of A TECHNICOLOR PROMISE, April 29. The musical drama tells the story of Noah and the ark in a new way.



Left. Paul Mifsud and Barbara Lloyd, on Earth Stewardship Sunday after the FSA congregation took part in a "GREENING OF THE CROSS" service.

# FSA Program

## Pentecost 2001

### WORSHIP

*Come and worship at First-St. Andrew's as we celebrate God's presence with us in this season of Pentecost. Our regular times of worship are 9:15 am in the Chapel and 11 am in the main Sanctuary. Beginning on June 10 we will have one service only at 10:30 am for the summer months. July and August worship services will be held in the Lower Hall. Contemplative worship services will resume in the Fall on Wednesday evenings at 7:45 pm in the Sanctuary. For up-to-date information about our services you can call 679-8182, 24 hours a day. You will also find updated material each week on our website at [www.fsaunited.london.on.ca](http://www.fsaunited.london.on.ca)*

**June 3** - The Day of Pentecost

9:15 and 11am

Preacher - Susan Shelstad

**June 10** - First After Pentecost - 76th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada

Communion - Church BBQ Picnic

10:30 am - Sanctuary

Preacher - Susan Shelstad

**June 17** - Second After Pentecost

10:30 am - Sanctuary

Preacher - Kevin Johnston

**June 24** - Third After Pentecost

10:30 am - Sanctuary

Preacher - Susan Shelstad

**July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

10:30 am - Lower Hall

Preacher - Kevin Johnston

July 15 - Guest Preacher

**August 5, 12, 19, 26**

10:30 am - Lower Hall

Preacher - Susan Shelstad

**September 2** - Thirteenth After Pentecost - Labour Day Sunday

10:30 am - Sanctuary

Preacher - Susan Shelstad

**September 9** - Fourteenth After Pentecost - Recovenanting Sunday

9:15 & 11 am

Preacher - Susan Shelstad

### MUSIC

Our Worship services will again be held in the Lower Hall this July and August. Although we will miss the beauty of our sanctuary and the sounds of the organ, the feeling of intimacy and relative informality (not to mention cooler temperatures!) are welcomed in the summer. During these months various vocal and instrumental soloists will provide music for our services.

### CHOIR OPEN HOUSE!

Have you ever wanted to sing with the choir but been afraid to try? Now's your chance! All are welcome to come and join us on Sunday, June 17. There will be a rehearsal at 10 a.m. in the Lower Hall before the 10:30 service. Do come and join us!

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

As we move into our summer schedule with one service at 10:30 a.m., June 10th to September 2nd, Church School will be one multi-age class for children 3 years of age to grade 6. Teachers are still required for the months of July and August, which is an excellent time for new people to spend time with the children and get to know them!

Thank you to Judy Cull, Cathie Ross, Carol Hemphill, Sarah Vis, Cynthia Simpson, Heather Burns, Mike Feeney, Beth Madinger, Heather Vouvalidis, Anne MacPhail, Graham Wagner, Pam Burns, Janice Elliott, Liz Galbraith, Glenda Baldwin, Jen Cull, Sue Scorgie, Jennifer Sullivan, Ardath Finnbogason-Hill, Heather Elliott, and Amy Rogan for spending time with our classes this year and sharing your gifts with us! We always welcome new teachers to join us!

### PASTORAL CARE

#### PRAYER CHAIN

Need prayers for yourself or others? Call Pat at the church 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.

#### HEALING PRAYER TEAM

Members of our team are prepared to come and pray with you in your home or hospital room. Two people will be sent in response to your call. Phone the church office (679-8182) and someone will get back to you.



# A FINAL WORD

PENTECOST 2001



Dear Friends,

*As I sit at my desk to write the 'Final Word', Easter has just passed, the celebration of the resurrection, of new life, and of new beginnings. The next few months will hold two new beginnings for me. I will leave my position as Office Coordinator at the end of May, to begin, on July 1<sup>st</sup>, my new position as minister to the Dunwich Pastoral Charge, in Elgin Presbytery. In the fall I will also begin part-time studies at Emmanuel College, Toronto, as I prepare for ordination in the United Church of Canada. It has been my privilege to serve the ministry of First-St. Andrew's during the past three years. As I leave here I will take with me many fond memories. Thank you for your support and friendship that made my time here so special. The words below, from an 'Irish Blessing', are my prayer for you.*

*May the road rise to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face.  
May the rain fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

Diane Macpherson

Susan

Heather

Paul

Ted

Kevin

Diane



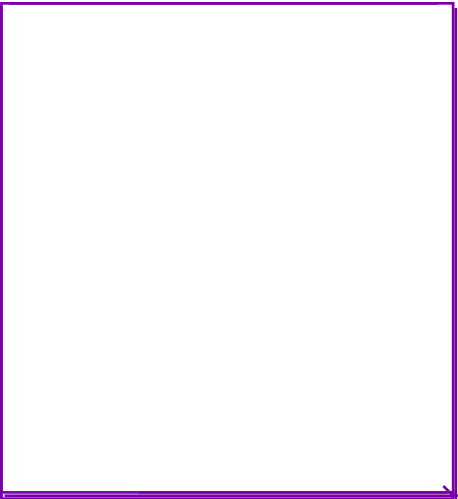
Be part of ensuring the future of First-St. Andrew's United Church through a planned gift to the Vision Fund.

## First-St. Andrew's Staff

- Susan Shelstad: Acting Minister of Worship and Administration/Minister of Christian Development
- Heather Bedford: Parish Nurse
- Paul Merritt: Director of Music
- Ted Kostecki: Community Outreach Coordinator
- Kevin Johnston: Church School Coordinator
- Diane Macpherson: Office Coordinator
- Pat Sole: Secretary/Receptionist
- Jim Gagnon: Custodian







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## **FRIENDSHIP & LEARNING GROUPS**

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

### **FOOD BANK CONTRIBUTIONS**

Food collection for St. Paul's DAILY BREAD continues. Baby food is a special need. White donation baskets are near church entrances.

