

Tidings



First-St. Andrew's United Church

VOLUME 11 ● NUMBER 3

FALL 2001

MEET THE NEW MINISTER

By Ted Kosteci, Community Development Coordinator

Call it serendipity. Call it being at the right place at the right time. Or just call it God's Grace.

But when Rev. Dr. David J. A. McKane received the opportunity to come to First-St. Andrew's United Church as the Minister of Worship and Administration, he was ready.

Rev. McKane was already familiar with First-St. Andrew's and he says the church was among a handful of churches in which he thought he would like to minister.

And, although the exhaustive search process took more than a year, it took only a short time for him to make up his mind to come to London. His family agreed.

A packed meeting of the congregation September 9th accepted, without one nay, the recommendation of the Joint Search Committee of First-St. Andrew's and Middlesex Presbytery, and in January, he will join Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad on the ministerial team at First-St. Andrew's United Church.

His journey to London, Ontario, began in Northern Ireland. David McKane was born in the small village of Jordanstown, Northern Ireland before immigrating to Canada with his parents and two brothers and two sisters in 1958.

The family lived in Kleinberg, near Toronto, where David entertained thoughts of being an engineer. But, instead, he attended Laurentian University in Sudbury, where he received a degree in Philosophy.

He was married to Susan Newbery, a teacher, in 1968 and they have three daughters: Jeanne, Pamela and Erin.



David did his M. Div at Emmanuel College. He was ordained in 1970 and did post-graduate studies in Liturgics at Union Seminary at Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland. He returned to Canada to complete his D. Min at Toronto School of Theology at the University of Toronto. His thesis was titled: *Integrating Life Experience and the Faith Story.*

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MEET THE MINISTER

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He has served the church in Ireland, Nova Scotia and Ontario. He is currently Minister of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care at Royal York United Church in Toronto

Rev. Dr. McKane has served on a variety of United Church committees in Toronto Conference, General Council and Victoria University, Toronto. At General Council, he has chaired or been a member of the Hymn Worship Resource Committee, the General Council Worship Committee and was a Commissioner for 16 years. At Toronto Conference, he served as President, and chaired various committees including the Revenue Generating Group, Toronto Conference Executive and the Liturgy Committee.

Rev. Dr. McKane has also been secretary of the Canadian Liturgical Society, and taught Celtic Spirituality at Five-Oaks and Emmanuel College, among others.

The entire process of the McKanes' move to London has also been rather serendipitous. The McKanes began a search for a new home and found one in north London on the first try.

At the same time, before they even listed their Toronto home, their realtor told them she had shown their home to a couple and they immediately made an offer to buy. And so, the McKanes will move to London at the end of November.

At the congregational meeting, the search committee was asked the question: What attracted you to David McKane. Speaking for the group, committee member Doug Jones said it was his intellect, preaching skills, experience as a team leader and humour.

Presbytery representative Ed Tufts described the call as "a new beginning, and a whole new era for the community and the church."

Tidings

Acting Chairperson	Elaine Wilton
Editor	Elaine Wilton
Layout Artist	Ted Kostecki
Photographers	Paul Pergau, Ted Kostecki
Staff Representative	Ted Kostecki, Paul Merritt
Team Members	Nancy Howard, Kate Pickering, Margaret Wonfor
Typist	Pat Sole
Distribution	Mary & John Jones & Team, Alton Ross & Team
Printer:	Stat Communications
Publisher	First-St. Andrew's United Church 350 Queens Avenue, London, Ontario N6B 1X6 Tel:(519) 679-8182 Fax:(519) 439-6838 www.fsaunited.london.on.ca

Four issues yearly. News Deadline for next issue: October 23
Distribution of next issue: November 18, 2001

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.

FINDING DAVID MCKANE

By the search committee

After the congregation elected us in April, 2000, the Joint Search Committee equipped itself to do the job by developing procedures based on the outline provided for United Church congregations.

To find David McKane, we held 29 meetings, considered 115 ministers (23 were referred, 34 applied and 55 were contacted). In making 129 visits to congregations, we required 36 Sundays and traveled 19,788 km. Three plane trips were needed.

Phone calls, letters, email, faxes, etc. numbered in the hundreds. Five congregational updates were circulated. Ten candidates were interviewed.

How was all this possible?

Stephen Adams, Mary Grace Bell, Donna Ellis, Kay Hillier, Rev. Tom Hiscock, Don Jones, Doug Jones, Carol Leenders, Aldis Murray, Paul Pennington, Kate Pickering, Barbara Plante, Ched Radoja, Barbara Ridgewell, John Schram, Chris Silcox, Bob Slater, Roger Snyder, Rev. Catherine Tovell, Ed Tufts and Bill Watson gave their time and talent freely knowing that the congregation was supporting them with prayer and encouragement.

Thanks be to God!

Info-Line

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday Oct 14, 12:15pm to consider the report of the Long Term Financial Planning Committee. Lunch and Babysitting will be provided.

HOLLY BAZAAR

Organizers of this year's event are seeking a variety of interesting crafts and foods for sale Nov.17.

RUMMAGE SALE

The date for this year's sale is Oct. 20. Please help by donating items, sorting, selling or cleaning up.

CONGRATULATIONS BARB BAIN

Barb has been elected provincial president of the Retired Women Teachers of Ontario.

ANNIVERSARY SPEAKER

Nov. 18, we welcome the Rev. Paul Ross, son of Alton Ross.

QUILT UP FOR AUCTION

The ladies of the Isabel Getliffe sewing group are organizing a silent auction for a large "Lone Star" design quilt. Watch for it in the lower hall on Sundays after the service.

HYMN CD RE-ISSUED

The senior choir's *Favorite Hymns* will be on sale shortly. This recording of spiritually uplifting music would make an excellent Christmas stocking stuffer.

THE REV. DR. DAVID J. A. MCKANE:

The following words are those of David McKane as he describes his style.



“Since my ordination in 1970, I have consistently honed my skills as a poet, preacher and liturgist and have made myself available to the wider church through Presbytery, Conference and General Council Committees. I have a strong commitment to the congregation as a primary theological community in which faith is shaped, shared and tested in action. As a narrative theologian, I love to explore the connections between life experience and faith confession and have spent considerable

time reflecting on how people integrate their faith into their daily lives. Over the past twenty years, I have explored and recovered my Celtic Spirituality, a creation centred spirituality.

A people person by nature, I love to preach in a style that engages contemporary life experience with the biblical narrative.

Thirty years of Christian Ministry have led me down many a dark valley and up some daunting mountains, but they have enriched my life immensely, and, I hope, the lives of those with whom I minister.”

Rev. Dr. David McKane

THE SINGING MINISTER

Music plays a large part in David McKane’s life. He was a member of the Hymn Worship resource Committee of General Council. For the past 25 years, he has teamed up with a former Laurentian University friend, Rev. Malcolm Sinclair in a duo: “The Singing Ministers”. It was a natural fit: both men had classical singing backgrounds.



And they both had the gift of gab and humour.

The pair, in Scottish garb, has sung on some 500 occasions in churches, hospitals, nursing homes and, of course, at Robbie Burns suppers. Over the years, the group has raised about \$250,000 for the Mission and Service Fund.

SUSAN AND DAVID MCKANE

The McKanes were married in 1968. David’s wife, Susan Newbery is a “child of the manse” and grew up in the West Indies. She lived in Sudbury and Toronto, where she attended Teachers’ College. Since 1978, Susan has been working in the field of early childhood education. She is currently teaching for the Toronto Board of Education and in the Continuing Education area of Seneca College. Among her hobbies Susan includes sewing, learning to play the piano and slinging a paint brush and wallpaper spreader.



THE REST OF THE FAMILY

The McKanes have three daughters. Jeanne, an editor for a pharmaceutical magazine, is married to Rob Murakami, a warehouse manager.



They both love to travel and are saving for a house so they can have room for some of the wedding gifts they still haven’t unpacked.

Pamela has just completed a Master’s degree at St. Mary’s University in Halifax and is working at the Red Door Women’s/Refugee Shelter in Toronto. She also volunteers with Amnesty International and is a keen historian.

Erin is in her second year at the University of Western Ontario and sees some form of social work in her future. She has just moved into a house in north London with five friends. She plays the flute, lifeguards and teaches swimming.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2002

By Donna Travis, chair Stewardship, Outreach and Mission Committee

First-St. Andrew's United is a wonderful church doing great work.

And, as we embark on this year's stewardship campaign, we are asking for your help to keep it that way.

FSA is always here to serve you. It's a place for worship, a place for reflection, a place for spiritual growth, a place to find support in times of illness or death, a place to get married, a place to be baptized and a place to hear beautiful music. It's a place to find wonderful fellowship.

FSA is here to serve the community. We feed the hungry, we support groups like the East London United Church Outreach Cluster (ELUCOC), the London Inner City Faith Team (LIFT). We help the hurting and disadvantaged in the London community.

We are here to serve the world. We are strong financial supporters of the Mission and Service Fund.

To continue to build and sustain this ministry of worship, preaching, music, and fellowship, we need your

You see, there is a connection between spirituality and raising money. We are made in the image of a generous God, so being generous is essential to our spiritual well being.

This is where stewardship comes in. In order for the church to do its work, it needs your help and support. We need your pledge so that we know where we stand financially and we need to involve you in the work of the church.

For 2002, we need pledges of \$600,000 if we are to avoid a deficit.

Each week, we will display the total amount pledged on a "giving thermometer."

In the next two weeks, you will receive a mailing containing everything you need to know about this year's Stewardship campaign.

We'll ask you to fill in the pledge card, and we'll ask you to complete the personal volunteer sheets.

We all want to build a strong financial base for the future, where we can stretch and grow. As we enter the New Year with a new ministerial team, we have to

GARDENING AT FSA IN 2001

Over the past several years the congregation has enjoyed the beautiful gardens created and nurtured by Ed Ellis, with some help no doubt from his wife, Donna. Last year Ed announced that he needed a respite from this responsibility. When a successor to Ed did not appear, Donna Travis solved the problem.

She offered to be Garden Coordinator, and then turned to the congregation for assistance. Individuals were asked to donate certain plants that would be placed in our planters and perennial gardens. There was an emphasis on red and white to celebrate the Canada Games. Planters made by Rudy Eberhard's father years ago were resurrected and placed at the atrium doors.

In May over 400 annuals were planted. For a short time the squirrels had a heyday digging them up, but all were replanted.

The task of maintaining the flowerbeds was also undertaken by members of the congregation. People who had indicated an interest in gardening on the Volunteer sheets were invited to choose a flowerbed they would like to adopt. As a result, flowerbeds this summer have been cared for by Cathy, Jim and Audrey Coulthard, Barbara and Fred Lloyd, Paul Mifsud, Lesley and Paul Pergau, Jan and Bruce Richardson, Ron White, Elaine Wilton and Donna Travis. Tom McLarty kindly transplanted periwinkle from his garden to the North driveway side of the church. It is hoped that the congregation will enjoy the gardens this year as they have in the past.

THE ANNUAL FALL CLEANUP of the property will take place Saturday November 4, weather permitting. Join us for the work, and enjoy the fellowship. Property co-chair Bob Vosper will be pleased to give you more information. 434-0346



BOOKS FOR TRINIDAD

By Helen Mahabir



If you stop and think back to your years in elementary school, no doubt a story about a gruelling research project, or favourite novel might come to mind. Living in Canada allows us the opportunity to access books through many different avenues, such as the public libraries, school libraries, and new and used book stores. However, there are places in our world where accessing books for research, information or simply enjoyment is rare. The island of Trinidad, located in the Caribbean, happens to be one of those places. However, thanks to the initiative, dedication and kindness of Dawne and Neville Mahabir, one school on the island was able to make books a part of the students' everyday school life.



In 1994, Dawne heard from her sister, Carolyn Ali, that the San Juan Presbyterian School in Trinidad was in need of a school library. At the same time, the London Board of

Education had amassed its discarded books at the warehouse. Neville and Dawne got permission to take some of the books. They packed their van with as many books as the van could hold. The books were then repacked into barrels and shipped to the school in Trinidad. This ritual has taken place every year since then.

At the Elementary School, a partitioned area was reserved for setting up the library. Students would peruse the books, share information and generally show a keen interest in their "new" books. Teachers took turns organizing, packing and carding the books. Presently, the school can loan books to students, as the number of books has increased. This is the only elementary school on the island that has this kind of facility.

For the first two years Neville and Dawne took the books to Toronto for shipping. Now, a local company ships the books. In 2000, the First-St. Andrew's United Church Women heard of Dawne's personal undertaking and offered to assist her, by covering the freight charges. Dawne and Neville accepted this generous offer and then proceeded to send another barrel to the Archibald Vocational Institute at their own cost. This year, 2001, the books will be divided between the Elementary School and the Vocational School which are both supported by the Presbyterian Church in Trinidad.

The continued support from members of First-St. Andrew's United Church is greatly appreciated by Dawne and Neville, as well as both of the Trinidadian schools. As long as there are books available for shipping, the Mahabirs will continue to send them where they are most needed.

FROM THE PARISH NURSE

By Cathy Kielb RN, UWO student doing her practicum with Heather Bedford.



I had never heard of parish nursing prior to my community placement at FSA. I have worked as an Intensive Care Nurse for the past twenty-five years. Although the work settings are quite different, there are many things that I have learned at FSA that I have been able to use in the ICU. I would like to share some of them with you.

The ICU is a fast-paced, very technical environment. Nurses prioritize care to meet the physical needs of patients. The spiritual needs are easily forgotten in this busy setting. Some of us shy away from the spiritual aspect of care because we feel it may invade a person's privacy. Often patients and families think, "the end is near" if you suggest a pastoral visit or a prayer. I now recognize the importance of meeting the spiritual needs of patients and families and caring for a person's mind, body and spirit.

I recently cared for a patient who asked me to retrieve some items from her suitcase. As I opened the case I found a bible and a prayer book. Ordinarily, I may have overlooked these items as I focused on her immediate physical needs. My FSA experience has made me more sensitive to the clues to my patient's spiritual needs. When I returned to the bedside we talked about her church and faith. Our patient/ nurse relationship reached a higher level.

Research demonstrates the positive relationship between health and spirituality. I have personally witnessed the sense of well-being and wholeness that comes with faith and a sense of one's own spirituality, thanks to my experience at FSA.

MAY COMMUNION

Parish Nurse Heather Bedford organized another successful May Communion. Fifteen shut-ins were among the nearly 40 people who were served communion. Many of these people are unable to get to church on a Sunday morning.



Enjoying a tea in the parlour after the May Communion service are, left to right: Mary Beattie, Anne Pattison, Ann Temple (visitor), and Margo Linton

UCW GENERAL MEETING

By Margot Linton

Our May meeting was held at Westminster Hall on May 30. In keeping with our theme this year, of concern for Aboriginal Peoples, we gave \$5,000 to Bella Coola United Church, where Betty Sangster is the minister. This donation will be put toward the building of a new church used by the Aboriginal People of the reserve.

Our special guest was the Rev. Will Kunder, the director of the Francis Sandy Theological Centre for native ministry students at the Five Oaks Centre. He spoke about the residential schools for Native children which were started in 1849, and not finally closed until 1970. These schools were managed by four churches - Catholic, Anglican, Presbyterian and United - all under the direction of the Federal government.

Children were removed from their families and way of life in order to educate them, but many of these children endured physical, psychological, cultural and sexual abuse. Some did not return home for several years. Eventually it became evident that the assimilation was a failure, and often the abused children themselves became abusers, and turned to alcohol and drugs.

In 1986 an Apology to Native Congregations was delivered by General Council, and in 1994, the Council established a Healing Fund of \$1 million to support healing initiatives for First Nations. The apology has as yet not been accepted by Native People.

Will also expressed concern that many of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Native Peoples have not been implemented.

Most of us were given a new insight into Aboriginal conditions, and what had been endured by thousands of the children who were forced to attend the Residential Schools.

Will Kunder is an inspiring speaker and we are all grateful to him for sharing his deep concern for our Native People.

LOOKING TO THE PAST

A great-great grandson of the man who started it all back in



1832 was a visitor to FSA on Canada Day. Al Howard and his children Sonya, 21, and Adrian, 16, are researching the history of their famous forefather and visiting areas where he ministered. The Rev. William Proudfoot was the first resident Presbyterian minister in London and built what was then known

as the United Associated Synod of Secession Church in 1833.

The interest began several years ago, when Al's daughter Sonya was in London and began research on William Proudfoot. The Howards decided to drive to London and find out more about William Proudfoot.

CARING CALL SYSTEM

Forty people have agreed to take part in a caring call group organized by the Membership and Nurture committee. Volunteers will phone other FSA members 3-4 times a year. The idea is just to communicate and keep in touch. Each caller can take five names, or multiples of five.

If you want to become a caller, please call Heather Bedford at 679-8182.

MEET THE COMMITTEE

By Donna Travis

What shall we call ourselves? First-St. Andrew's is a church with many committees and some overlapping mandates. In January 2001 the Mission & Service and Stewardship Committees were both without chairpersons, and so discussion began with the Community Outreach Committee to examine the feasibility of merging all three.

In March a joint meeting was arranged and all of the committees' mandates were studied. The committee members explored the advantages and disadvantages of amalgamation. At the May meeting a decision was made to amalgamate, and in June the Council supported this decision.

This decision will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting for congregational approval. I presently have the privilege of chairing this committee. We will be very active within our church community. Since amalgamation we have been involved with the following:

- Greening of the Cross
- Observer Subscriptions
- Mission and Service Envelopes
- Grow-a-Row Project
- Church Gardening Project
- Congregational Barbecue
- Fundraising for Refugee Project
- Supplying lunch for Habitat for Humanity Project
- Out of the Cold and St. Paul's Daily Bread

We look forward to a busy fall, winter and spring. The committee is fortunate to have Ted Kostecki as our staff associate. The Community Outreach Committee thanks Helen McLeod (our baby layette organizer) and Marjorie Smith, both long-standing members of the committee, for their time and talent over many years. They have been very much involved in the work of the committee and we shall miss them as they retire this year.

Committee members are: Linda Badke, Lyn Carpella, Brian Cram, Barbara Dalrymple, David Flynn, Jack and Kay Hillier, Laurel Kenney, Russ Knight, David Knoppert, Bill and Jean Knowles, Ted Kostecki, Tom Magee, Helen Mahabir, Thelma Pleiter, Gerry Shaw, Donna Travis, Patti Tyre, Mary Vernon, Susan Wark, and Ian Wright.

We would welcome suggestions for a name for our new committee.

“I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU FED ME”

By Annabelle Logan



Five years ago Barbara Plante and Bill Watson traveled to Toronto to talk to the organizers of the “Out of the Cold ” food program there. The logistics of organizing volunteers, determining food quantities, and providing overnight lodging all needed to be discussed. They came back with a proposal to the congregation, and it was heartily endorsed. Barb Plante and Bill Watson with the help of many volunteers were instrumental in beginning our “Out of the Cold” program.

Originally mattresses were purchased with money from the Hay Foundation. However, the number of people staying overnight did not justify the need for that part of the program, and so it was discontinued after the first winter. The Salvation Army and the Men’s Mission have beds for those who need them.

The downtown London churches are now providing suppers every night of the week. Most of the programs run over twelve months. A number of our volunteers come from other area churches such as St. Aidan’s Anglican Church, Riverside United Church, and from Exeter.

The number of dinners served ranges from as many as 155 to as few as 53. The menus vary each week, but the meals are always nourishing. Chile, macaroni and cheese, beans, meat casseroles, fresh cold celery and carrots or Caesar salad, bread, fruit, donuts, cookies, tea, coffee, juice and milk are some of the items served. Variations to the menu also occur in the summer. Our visitors are extremely grateful for the meals provided, and some stay to help put the chairs away after supper. Tim Horton’s donate the donuts and until recently Dempsters donated bread. From time to time other food donations are received.

Many volunteers make this program a success. It functions with a Coordinator of Food Purchases, four team leaders or co-leaders, and team members. Financial donations from the congregation help sustain the program. It costs anywhere from \$1.10 to \$1.50 per person to supply the meals.

At the end of August 2001 we had \$1,100 left in our account. The congregation is invited to contribute to “Out of the Cold” by submitting money to the church designated for this program. The M&S, Stewardship and Community Outreach Committee is the umbrella committee under which this program operates.

WHAT HAS COUNCIL BEEN DOING?

By Gertrude Bergey, Chair 675-1207



The first half of the May 8 meeting involved Council Members in a FOCUS GROUP, conducted by the Long-term Financial Planning Committee, established by the Feb. 11, 2001 Congregational Meeting.

Individual Council Members voiced their personal, committee, and general concerns about many facets of church life. Discussion was lively, objective, and wide-ranging.

Council also accepted the unanimous decision made at a well-attended joint meeting of three committees - Mission and Service, Stewardship, and Community Service - to amalgamate as one committee. Reasons given included the frequent duplication and overlap of services and projects, shortage of people power, and confusion as to who did what. The proposal will be submitted to the Congregation as required by the First-St. Andrew’s United Church Statement of Policies and Procedures. Council has agreed to rename the committee: Stewardship, Outreach and Mission.

At our June 12th meeting, Kerry Stover announced that he and George Jolink have obtained rights to the musical *Jesus Christ Superstar*, for presentation at FSA just prior to Easter.

At our September 11th meeting, council agreed to host a meeting of Middlesex Presbytery next June.

There are changes being made to the bookkeeping system at FSA to take full effect 2002. The planning has been done by John Scott and our office administrator Sue Scorgie.

DID YOU KNOW?

*The Rev. Alex Faquhar (FSA: 1964-1980), the Rev. Ralph King (member of FSA) and the Rev. Piercey MacLean (FSA: 1981-89) celebrated 50 years of ordination this past May.

*Gordon Hill celebrated his 90th birthday in May.

*The Children's Choir won a \$100 scholarship at the Kiwanis Music Festival from the Lansing MacDowell Memorial.

*There will be a covenanting service for our former office administrator Diane Macpherson at Chalmers United Church in Cowal, north of Dutton, September 23 at 3pm.

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH



London Badgers Baseball player, **WILL STEWARDSON** (pictured at left) will attend Eastern Michigan University on an academic and sports scholarship.

He has been scouted by several major league teams and will qualify for the draft in three years. He played in the 2000 World Junior AAA Baseball Championship in Edmonton.

Will attended church school at FSA and was a member of the Gone Fishing Group.

JAMIE (11 years old) AND JORDAN (9 years old) BALDWIN competed in the National Round of the Canadian Music Competition July 2 in Quebec City.

They both placed in the top five in their categories.

Changes...

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

BAPTISMS

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



*Logan Rylee Crow
and her family*



*Charles Nicholas Carson
and his family*

Next Baptism September 23, 2001

MARRIAGES

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

May 26 Cathie Jeffries, Darren Neil
June 23 Leanne Kokavec, John Leon
July 21 Joanne Gilchrist, Roy Carter
August 11 Laurie Young, Jeff Moore

DEATHS

"Well done good and faithful servant."

Jean Howie - July 13
Tom Magee - August 3
Robert Buist - September 15

COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN ACTION



Jean and Bill Knowles setting out the sandwich trays at the Habitat Home site. Two homes were built on Watson Street by Habitat for Humanity.



FSA's representatives at the Grow-a-Row cornroast in St. Marys on August 26: Dave and Diane Knoppert, Bill Knowles, Ron Chatterson, David Grey and Susan Wark. Jean Knowles took the picture.

Congratulations to:

■ Nancy McNee for being named a member of the order of Canada for her volunteer work. She will receive her medal later this year. Nancy has an outstanding record of volunteerism in the London community.

■ Karen Blatchford for completing and passing her course at the Canadian School of Hockey officiating. Karen, a student in fitness and health promotion at Fanshawe College, and an active member at FSA, has been involved with sledge hockey for disabled athletes.

RUN THE CHURCH FOR A DAY

This is a wonderful way to celebrate a birthday or anniversary or to remember someone.

With a \$100 donation, you can "RUN THE CHURCH FOR A DAY". Your contribution will help defray the operating costs of our beautiful church and its ministry. And your gift will be recognized in the Sunday bulletin. Call the office for more information. 679-8182.

INTRODUCTION

Do we have a financial problem at First-St. Andrew's? One year ago FSA members who attended a congregational meeting were worried enough, after hearing a budget report, that they established a committee to study the membership and financial situation.

This "Long Term Financial Committee" conducted nearly a dozen focus group sessions, and reviewed past visioning exercises.

The committee is now making a series of proposals to the congregation and council which, the committee believes, will make the church stronger in terms of membership, attendance, influence on people's lives and finances so that we will have a firm foundation in order to continue to do God's work.

The committee was authorized to find out why we were continually finding ourselves in a deficit position and to make recommendations to change the trend. This plan of action would involve strategies and procedures that would result in an increase in the number of active parishioners and increased financial contributions.

The members of the committee included:

- Bill Peel (trustee)
- Jack Hillier (former member of M&P, marketing committee)
- Elaine Wilson (former member of the marketing committee)
- Ken Wright (chair of the finance committee)
- Nikki Attwell (member of the music committee)
- Gertrude Bergey (council chair)
- Diane Macpherson (our former office coordinator)
- Ted Kostecki (community development coordinator).

We considered the major questions: how do we best serve our current members and potential members. Why is attendance declining and with it, finances?

We heard from the focus groups that our financial problem may also be a "mission" problem.

We heard the challenge that we have to get all groups working together as a team for the health of church, that we are a congregation of splinter groups each seeking to protect its turf.

We heard that we must find a way to expose to the community and to new potential members our greatest assets: our worship, our music, our sanctuary and our fellowship.

We heard that we must serve our congregation.

We heard that we must keep our church identity but operate the church in a more business-like manner.

Taking our research and the discussions in the focus groups, the committee formed a two-pronged plan that sought to alleviate our financial shortfall: one part deals with the financial side, the other with the "mission" side.

Although not everyone will agree with all proposals, it's our feeling they are the minimum necessary for the long-term health of FSA.

We feel changes must be made if our church is to remain strong and viable and able to serve its members and community.

We also feel the proposals give our congregation and ministerial team a strong platform on which to build into the future.

PART ONE: FINANCIAL

Many in our focus groups made it clear they didn't understand the status of our finances. There was a consensus that we must re-think our methods of running the church financially. Some participants were surprised by the size of the trustees fund and the division of bequeaths between operating and capital funds. There was surprise about the number and size of the "other" funds administered by various committees and the small return we are receiving on some funds. Our recommendations:

PROPOSAL: That FSA council make a greater effort to communicate the financial status (givings/expenses/trust funds) of the church to our membership through bulletin, Tidings, and committees.

PROPOSAL: That the Trustees assume their responsibility (as outlined in 5.1.4.5 of the trustees' responsibilities and authority) to allocate trust funds for major capital purposes, including insurance premiums, major repairs, maintenance or improvement. (In effect, the trustees would set the property committee budget.)

PROPOSAL: That council set a policy that directs trustees to:

- a) maintain a trustees' capital fund which would be capped at two-times the operating budget,
- b) Establish an Operating Reserve Fund for funds over the 2X operating level. These funds would be invested by trustees and managed and directed by council.

(Interest from the Capital Fund would cover the costs of the property committee, insurance, capital works, and maintenance with any remaining funds going to the operating budget.

Interest on the Operating Fund would go back into the operating fund, to M&S, or be re-invested in the Trustees Capital Fund, as Council decides.

The Trustees would approve and be responsible for the Property Committee budget.)

PROPOSAL: That the Board of Trustees manage all investments and trust funds held by the congregation, its committees, and organizations. Use of funds and proceeds remain the responsibility of the appropriate committee.

PROPOSAL: That committees present their budgets to council and the finance committee by June for approval by council in September. This is a responsibility of the Finance Committee – 5.5.4.2.1

PROPOSAL: That the Finance Committee strike an operating budget prior to the fall stewardship campaign and that budgets be based on the projected needs of the committee.

STEWARDSHIP:

There was strong opinion on both sides of the issue of how much money should be sent to the National church for the M&S Funds, when "God's work also had to be done here".

It was noted by the focus groups that UCW and other givings put the current total of M&S givings from FSA at 26%. It is hoped that, in future years, an operating surplus would allow more M&S funding. It was also noted that the original visioning report recommended we do more to help the hurting and disadvantaged in the London community and elsewhere in the world."

PROPOSAL: That council reconsider its commitment to the M & S fund as a percentage of envelope givings. That the total givings to M&S be established at 22% of our envelope givings, being made up of the UCW donation, the extra givings of our congregation and topped up from our operating budget.

PROPOSAL: That council name the chair for the fall Stewardship campaign in January.

PROPOSAL: That an ad hoc committee comprising members of the Finance and Property committees revisit the rate schedule for church property rentals.

PROPOSAL: That a more aggressive attempt be made to rent our hall and sanctuary.

FUNDRAISING:

Participants in the focus groups thought that a significant amount of money could be raised through various fund-raising activities.

PROPOSAL: That council set up an ad hoc committee to begin work on a Silent/Live auction to be held in February 2002.

PROPOSAL: That a volunteer be approached to help organize a "tour of heritage churches" in the spring of 2002.

PROPOSAL: That the Trustees be asked to sponsor and help organize a "mortgage burning" event for the access entrance.

PROPOSAL: That the "vision" committee be re-established (under 5.1.4.9.1 of the policy manual) and be marketed more heavily.

PROPOSAL: That the "Run the Church for a Day" campaign be revitalized.

MEMBERSHIP

The participants in various focus groups said we must decide what demographic group we should be seeking, what our image should be and how we should present it. A lot would depend on the new ministerial team.

PROPOSAL: That council set up an ad hoc committee, to prepare an action plan to "market" a new minister to the congregation.

PROPOSAL: That with the arrival of the new ministry team, council and staff hold a comprehensive retreat to establish priorities as to which demographic groups and interests we will market our church.

PROPOSAL: That the worship committee and narthex coordinator draw up a strategy for greeting the congregation before and after the Sunday worship service and for facilitating coffee and conversation.

PROPOSAL: That the worship committee

PART TWO: FULFILLING THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

WORSHIP AND MUSIC:

Focus group participants felt there should be a better blend between worship and music in our services. There was a general feeling that the music is of the highest caliber, but there were concerns about whether it is also intimidating to people. There was a feeling our music should be less stuffy and formal, that the repertoire should be expanded, and that we should use more of our latent talent. Some people were concerned about the revenue lost in the concert series. Focus groups generally encouraged the worship committee to continue to look at the format and style of our worship services. Participants in the focus groups all agreed that people taking part in our worship service should feel more welcome.

PROPOSAL: That council combine the music and worship committees so that they will work in closer harmony to ensure that music and worship are more closely integrated in our worship service.

PROPOSAL: That council establish a concert sub-committee of the joint worship/music committee.

PROPOSAL: That the concert music policy be repositioned as a ministry: drawing people to the church, and having a positive revenue-producing function.

PROPOSAL: That there be a stronger marketing plan for concert programs to take advantage of staff and congregational resources.

PROPOSAL: That the music committee consider expanding the music program at FSA to include more opportunities for different age groups.

PROPOSAL: That the worship committee continue its work on the style and format of the worship service.

PROPOSAL: That the worship and music committees allow more young people to play a role in our service.

STAFFING:

Participants in the focus group sessions cautioned about cutting back on staff, since it would cut back on the work of the church.

YOUTH:

It was generally felt that we need to attract more youth to the church, and it may be necessary to determine how much work should be done on this. The idea of involving them more deeply in the service and other church work was endorsed. It was felt that music and drama were two strong attractions and that young people themselves should be asked what they want from the church.

PROPOSAL: That a youth council be formed to shadow council and its committees, as well as meeting independently. That our policies and procedures be amended so that the chair of this committee would sit on FSA council.

PROPOSAL: That the CD committee develop youth programs for the congregation and ensure they are carried out.

PROPOSAL: That the Christian Education committee consider establishing groups for men, for women not involved with the UCW, and bible study groups to study new writers and thinkers.

PROPOSAL: That council canvass our members to see if there are resources to put on courses as a revenue generator.

PROPOSAL: That committees be encouraged to use the volunteer lists more than they do.

COUNCIL

PROPOSAL: That it is premature to talk about merger with another congregation.

PROPOSAL: That council monitor committees to ensure they are meeting the objectives and responsibilities outlined in the Statement of Policy and Procedures.

FSA Program Guide

Fall 2001

WORSHIP

Come and worship at First-St. Andrew's as we celebrate God's presence with us. Our regular times of worship are 9:15 am in the Chapel and 11 am in the main Sanctuary. Contemplative worship services are on Wednesday evenings at 7:45 pm in the Sanctuary. For up-to-date information about our services, 24 hours a day, you can call 679-8182 You will also find updated material each week on our website at www.fsaunited.london.on.ca

- Sept. 16** – 15th after Pentecost
9:15 & 11 am
Preacher – Susan Shelstad
- Sept. 23** – 16th after Pentecost – Baptism (11am)
9:15 & 11 am
Preacher – Susan Shelstad
- Sept. 30** – 17th after Pentecost
9:15 & 11 am
Preacher – Susan Shelstad
- Oct. 7** – 18th after Pentecost – Thanksgiving Sunday –
Worldwide Communion
9:15 & 11 am
Preacher – Susan Shelstad
- Oct. 14** – 19th after Pentecost
9:15 & 11 am
Preacher – Susan Shelstad
Congregational meeting 12:15pm
- Oct. 21** – 20th after Pentecost
9:15 & 11 am
Preacher – Susan Shelstad
- Oct. 28** – 21st after Pentecost
Mission & Service Sunday
9:15 & 11 am
Guest Preacher – The Rev. Susan Cameron
- Nov. 4** – 22nd after Pentecost – Music Awareness Sun-
day
9:15 & 11 am
Preacher – Susan Shelstad

- Nov. 11** – 23rd after Pentecost – Remembrance Day
9:15 & 11 am
Preacher – Susan Shelstad
- Nov. 18** – 24th after Pentecost – Anniversary Sunday
9:15 & 11 am
Guest Preacher – The Rev. Paul Ross
- Nov. 25** – Last after Pentecost – The Reign of Christ –
New Members (11am) –
Stewardship Sunday
9:15 & 11 am
Preacher – Susan Shelstad

Contemplative Worship Services

Wednesday evenings at 7:45 pm in the Sanctuary. Singing, stretching, drumming, scripture, silence and prayer. Dress is casual. Come and restore your soul!
Beginning Wed. Sept. 19th.

Healing Prayer in Worship

During the communion services where we are served by intinction we are now offering, in addition to the communion stations, two healing prayer stations. Members of our Healing Prayer Team will be at kneelers nearby to pray with anyone who would like to receive a prayer

MUSIC

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 its participants. Consider the many opportunities to rejoice at First-St. Andrew's in 2001-2002.

THE CHOIRS

Come sing with us!

THE SENIOR CHOIR

Our Senior Choir leads in worship at all 11:00 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 (679-8234 or 679-9173)



Music

AT FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S

CONCERT SERIES

Our well-known Concert Series features World-class artists, performing in a beautiful space at very affordable ticket prices. Through the generous support of Friends of Music, First-St. Andrew's sponsors a wide variety of musical programs as a musical outreach to the community. Highlights of the upcoming season include a return visit by the St. Lawrence String Quartet, a concert by the Tafelmusik Chamber Choir (moved "the finest choir in the world" by one columnist), and the musical *Jesus Christ Superstar!* Something for everyone! For information on these and our other concerts, please see our 2001-2002 brochure.

THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The Choir's second year of activities was an eventful one. Highlights included a First award at the Kiwanis Festival and the presentation of the musical, *A Technicolor Promise*. If your children would like to be a part of the excitement and they are six years of age and over, bring them to our first rehearsal on WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. We're sure they'll enjoy themselves and will want to return to share their musical gifts with the congregation throughout the year.



The Cast of *A TECHNICOLOR PROMISE* takes a moment to ham it up

LAUDAMUS BELLS

The Laudamus Bells, now in its 31st 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).

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

The Ministry of Music seeks to use instrumentalists to enhance the important role music has in our church life. Small ensembles and soloists provide occasional preludes to worship and accompaniments to hymns and anthems. Please contact Paul Merritt (679-8234 or 679-9173) if you play an instrument and might wish to participate in some way.

MUSIKGARTEN

This preschool music program for children of ages 3 and 4 years



is offered by registered Kindermusik Teacher Enid Merritt. This program offers rhythms, dance and nature appreciation and will begin in the autumn. Please call Enid Merritt, 679-9173, for more information

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CHURCH SCHOOL

This fall we are continuing with the curriculum, *Bible Quest*, based on the Bible stories. We began the fall season on Sun. Sept. 2nd, with Recovenanting Sunday taking place on Sept. 9th. Children from 3 years to grade 6 move to their church school class after the children's story in church.

Church School Coordinator: Kevin Johnston (672-5664)

NURSERY

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

Coordinator: Judy Cull

(There is also a nursery class at 11 am for children 3 years old to kindergarten in the classroom across the hall from the infant nursery, next to the washroom on the main floor. These children go to their class after the children's story in church.)

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)

SECRET PALS

We are hoping to introduce a secret pal exchange **by email** this fall! Children in grades 3 to 6 are matched up with volunteer adults in the congregation to write to each other under assumed secret identities throughout the year. In the spring there is an unmasking event for secret pals to meet each other.

Coordinator: Nancy Howard (289-0540)

POP 'N' POPCORN

Girls and boys in grades 5 & 6 are invited to events on Friday evenings about once a month just for fun and friendship.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

TEENS IN TRANSIT (TNT)

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

Leader: Nancy Howard (289-0540)

TEEN CONFIRMATION CLASS



For young people in grade 9 (or up to OAC year). This class, which meets throughout the year, prepares young people for church membership. We will begin this fall on **Sunday, Oct. 14th**, with the presentation of Bibles during the 11 am service, and a lunch after worship to look at the year's activities.

Confirmation will take place in the spring of 2002. Register by calling the church (679-8182).

YOUTH COUNCIL

This fall we are beginning a new venture with our young people in the formation of a Youth Council. The Council will be run by the young people of the congregation, supported by the Youth & Young Adult Committee. They will decide on programs, activities and worship that is relevant to them. Watch for more information about the Council this fall!

ADULT DEVELOPMENT

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

This group meets on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am upstairs in the Primary Room. Leader: Dr. Jo Ann Silcox (642-2152)

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

10 am in the Parlour. We are using the *Whole People of God* adult study material. 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).

LIBRARY

Our church library contains many wonderful things — good books for all ages, videos, and periodicals — all for your use. Come in and check us out! New material arriving all the time.

CD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Donations to this fund are used to help children and young people attend programs and events such as youth retreats, camp, and Conference events. Your help is appreciated.

PASTORAL CARE

In addition to the pastoral care done by Susan Shelstad and Heather Bedford, members of our congregation reach out to others in a variety of ways.

CONGREGATIONAL VISITING TEAM

Our Congregational Visiting Team are 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 Heather Bedford (679-8182).

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.

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, (679-8182) for further details.

RIDES FOR SENIORS

If you need a ride to and from church and/or church events, please call Stan Harris (473-2453).

DIAL-A-PRAYER 439-6838

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

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Every Sunday, following our 9:15 am and 11:00 am worship services, the congregation is invited to remain after service 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 further 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 **September 23, 2001**. Call the church office if interested. (679-8182)

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Preparation for marriage is important because marriage is important to the persons involved, to society in general, and to God. First-St. Andrew's works in cooperation with Westminster College to offer classes. Call Westminster College (673-0040) as soon as

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community Outreach is involved in Out of the Cold, preparing baby layettes, organizing food collection for the youth action centre and St. Paul's Daily Bread, actively supporting the ELU-COC 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.

OUT OF THE COLD (OOTC)

This program runs year round on Mondays, 5:30 p.m. providing hospitality meals for about 100 persons. One hundred or more volunteers have been involved, many of them from other churches. Could you help out for a 4 month period? May to August, September to December, January to April. Contact Donna Travis, 672-6116, or the church office, 679-8182.

Out-of-the-cold Team Three, with coordinators Ron and Annabelle



Logan prepare for a Monday night Hospitality Meal.

GROW-A-ROW PROJECT

Money has been provided for the Canadian Food Grains Program through the efforts of St. Marys United Church and FSA over the past five years, matched 4:1 by CIDA. Watch for news about GROW-A-ROW VII so you can participate and help alleviate hunger in the developing world.

SAVE CANCELLED STAMPS

Clip, leaving 1/4 inch envelope paper showing. One pound of stamps equals one bible which will be distributed somewhere in the world through the Canadian Bible Society. Please deposit cancelled stamps in the right hand bin below the mailboxes next to the elevator.

FOOD BANK CONTRIBUTIONS

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

FRIENDSHIP & LEARNING GROUPS

HAVA JAVA 'N' JUICE

An informal group of parents and preschoolers offering networking and support. Tuesday mornings 10:00-11:30. Contact Sandra Dwyer (438-6546)

BIFOCALS

Come and enjoy good food, warm fellowship, a sing song and varied programs. Watch the weekly announcements for upcoming events. New members and guests are always welcome. Call June & Jack McKay (471-5668).

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

All persons twenty and over who enjoy fun are invited to join with the Circle of Friends. Watch the weekly announcements for the next gathering.

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

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

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

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

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

New members are always welcome.

BRIDGE GROUP

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

STAINED GLASS WINDOW DEDICATED





A FINAL WORD

Fall 2001

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” Psalm 46: 1 (NRSV)

How many times have you heard that scripture sentence? It is a verse meant to comfort and sustain us and is often used during Funeral and Memorial services.

Ever since the events of September 11, 2001 unfolded before our eyes, Psalm 46 has been used as one of the readings as we seek comfort and support with one another. Scripture and prayer have been vital in this difficult and troubling time. Take a moment and read Psalm 46 in its entirety. You will probably find meaning in it that you never realized was there.

Our world will never be the same. Since World War Two our world has not experienced a tragedy as enormous as Sept 11th. Church attendance was increased on Sunday, Sept 16th – people coming to the one unfailing source of strength. It was a very moving service – the words and music chosen carefully to help provide comfort. There were symbols of unity – the globe of the world on the chancel steps, and candles lit for the seven continents in our world. The choir surrounded us with the Introit – “Dona Nobis Pacem” – “Grant Us Peace” before they processed to the choir loft – a musical interlude that so aptly set the tone for the service. One of the Anthems was the Prayer of St. Francis:

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
Grant that we may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen

One more Bible verse to keep in mind: Romans 8: 38, 39 (NRSV):

“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”



First-St. Andrew's Staff
The Rev. Dr. 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
Sue Scorgie: Office Coordinator
Pat Sole: Secretary/Receptionist
Jim Gagnon: Custodian

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