

Tidings



First-St. Andrew's United Church

VOLUME 11 ● NUMBER 4

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, EPIPHANY 2001-2002

THE GALBRAITH FAMILY

By Kate Pickering



Warning: Active Lifestyle Ahead! Meeting with the Galbraiths is like putting yourself in the middle of whirlwind of activity. One glimpse at their family calendar is evidence that there is always something going on for this family. After sixteen years of mar-

riage, Alan and Liz are busy with their careers, the activities of their children, Michelle and Paul, and church commitments. They comment that they'd love to be doing more, but there just doesn't seem to be the time left to do more.

Their philosophy of "if everyone does a little bit..." works well with the role Alan and Liz play at First-St. Andrew's. If you are a regular worshipper at the 9:15 service, you've probably noticed that the coffee is always ready – once the Galbraiths have arrived. Liz has also donated tremendous amounts of time to the children's ministry, having helped with *Gone Fishing* and the *Hava Java and Juice* program (which I understand to be just as beneficial to the moms as it is to the kids). The Sunday school will also have a new teacher this fall with Liz stepping in. Liz is enthusiastic about the curriculum since it involves not only the Bible teachings but incorporates music as well. Alan is comfortable having Liz involved in the children's ministry while he gives his time as a member of the Finance committee and yard clean-up crew.



It's understandable why Alan and Liz feel at home at First-St. Andrew's. Alan was baptized in this church after moving to London from Whitby when just a year old, and Liz was hooked after the first service she attended when Tony Gazzard was preaching.

Alan and Liz attended the University of Western Ontario together, and in fact shared a couple of economics classes (Liz stresses that she was glad of the help Alan offered her). Alan carried on to earn a degree in economics and administrative studies, and is currently working in the finance division of GM. Liz currently works for Bell in network planning. She took some years off to raise her children. While she was at home Liz babysat other children and took a systems analyst course offered through Bell in the evenings.

Coming from different religious backgrounds (Liz grew up Catholic in Midland where she played the bells in the bell tower) it was important for them to show their children a strong joint commitment to one church. Together, Alan and Liz have brought their children into FSA, seeing it as a positive role model in a society that is otherwise so "me" focused.

(continued on page 2)

INSIDE

Nancy McNeel: God's Steward.....	3
Council Musings.....	4
Earth Stewardship Report.....	5
Youth and Teen News.....	6
UCW.....	8
Haunted Mansion.....	8
Program Guide (what's ahead).....	9

THE GALBRAITHS (FROM PAGE ONE)

For Michelle and Paul the church serves to teach them an understanding of the needs of others. It's important that their Sunday school offering come straight from their pockets, and for such generous children, it really comes naturally. Michelle, for the fourth consecutive year has made a donation to the Children's Miracle Network Telethon with funding from various craft and bake sales she has organized on their Westmount cul-de-sac.

The children attend Kensall Park Public School, Michelle in grade six and Paul in grade three. They are involved in French immersion studies, piano lessons and soccer. Last year Michelle was in the choir for the school's production of *Annie*. In the summer both children enroll in vacation Bible school.

For this family there are never questions about what to do next; it could be curling, golf, tennis, volleyball, skiing, orchestra or nights at home entertaining friends. Or it could be a family night with Red Green, Royal Canadian Air Farce, or Alan's mom's weekly visit. Whatever the day or weather the Galbraiths will still be on the go. Looking to the future they envision early retirement, but knowing them, retirement won't slow them down, but make room for an increase in volunteering and more time in their camper, which will be making a trek to Nova Scotia this summer. Whatever is to be done, done it will be with 100% gusto and a sincere feeling of good fortune at being a small part of a bigger community.

DID YOUR KNOW?

Louise and Bob Slater celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in October. Congratulations.

Tidings

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YOU MUST HAVE BEEN A BEAUTIFUL BABY.....



We dug into our files to come up with this picture of somebody well-known to FSA members.

Can you guess who this is?

The answer is on page 7.

No peeking please.

Info-Line

TAFELMUSIK

Chamber Choir Wednesday, November 21, 8 pm.

AN EXCELLENT STOCKING STUFFER

The Senior Choir's Favorite Hymns CD has been re-issued and is available in the office. \$15 each, 2 for \$25, 5 for \$50.

THANK YOU

The Stewardship campaign is moving along well. We urge FSA members to turn in their pledges to allow the Finance Committee to set a budget for next year.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

If you would like to have a poinsettia placed in memory of a loved one for the Christmas season, please call the church office at 679-8182 by Monday, November 26 if possible.

2002 OFFERING ENVELOPES AVAILABLE

Convenient pickup is available in the Atrium lobby.

LABYRINTH WALK

This repeat of a highly successful meditation is scheduled for the lower Hall Friday December 7, 7 pm. \$5.00 person.

ADVENT RETREAT

Dr. Jim Schmeiser of King's College is facilitating the two-day event at FSA Friday, November 30, 7-9pm, and Saturday, December 1, 9am-late afternoon. \$25 person.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 10, 2002, after the service.

COVENANTING SERVICE

The Covenanting Service for the Rev. Dr. David McKane will be held in the evening on January 20, 2002.

WELCOME LUNCHEON FOR DAVID MCKANE

Sunday, January 6, 2002 in the Lower Hall right after the morning service. Space is limited to 180 people and tickets will be available in the church office and during Coffee and Conversation beginning December 2.

Series: God's Stewards

NANCY MCNEE

by Howard Capes

London citizens and the members of First-St. Andrew's, in particular, were overjoyed to learn that Nancy McNee has been named a member of the Order of Canada for her commitment over the years to the Arts, education, and community fundraising. She is a remarkable individual.

The FSA connection began in 1949 when she married John McNee in the Mount Brydges United Church, where her father was the minister. John and his family had attended First-St. Andrew's for a number of years. After the young married couple settled in their Dufferin Street apartment, John introduced Nancy to Dr. John Y. MacKinnon, the current minister at the time, regarding membership. Subsequently, she was interviewed by Dr.

G. A. Wheable, Clerk of Session, and a warm welcome was extended by Dr. Bill Johnson.

Nancy recalls the Friday evening Preparatory Service, when membership was confirmed prior to the Sunday morning Communion Service. Shortly thereafter, she was visited by Peg Stevenson and Dorothy Lawrence who outlined various church activities that would provide an opportunity for fellowship and service. Her interest in young people led her to become involved with the Explorer and CGIT groups, as well as teach Sunday

School for a number of years. They joined the Mr. and Mrs. Couples Club, and Nancy joined the Delta-Rho (WMS) that met on Tuesdays.

Over the years, local agencies became aware of her leadership qualities and her enthusiastic team approach. Her early involvement with the Women's Christian Association led to her appointment (1999) as Honourary Chair of Parkwood Hospital Foundation's Initiative to raise \$6.5 million for rehabilitative and geriatric research.

Nancy has been associated with the United Way since 1949 and was elected to the Board in 1989. She assisted with the campaign for several years and is currently serving with the Leadership Giving Committee.

Her interest in the Arts has led her to the Grand Theatre as a member of the Board (1988), and Chair of the Community Relations Committee and the Capital Renewal Appeal (1994). She has participated as a member of the Stratford Summer Music Festival Executive Committee and as an Advisory Board member of the Blyth Festival Theatre. In 1993, she was included in the Mayor's New Year's Honour List for her outstanding contribution to the Arts in London.

Along the way, she has remained loyal to The University of Western Ontario from which she graduated. She has been a board member of the UWO Alumni Association, Chair of the UWO Conference for Women (Choices '98 and Choices '00), and Chair of UWO Selection Committee for Alumni Awards of Merit (1998-2000).



FROM THE PARISH NURSE

by Heather Bedford

Even though I have been working at First-St. Andrew's for three years as the Parish Nurse, there are some members of FSA still asking, "What does the Parish Nurse do?" and "Why does a nurse work in our church?"

If I told you my title was "Minister of Pastoral Care and Visiting" most of you would have an "Aha" moment, but because I am a nurse there is an added dimension to a visit when it is appropriate. There are many times when a friendly visit to a member of the congregation includes some form of nursing advice and/or support. I may be answering questions about alternative living arrangements - a possible move to a Retirement or Nursing Home; supporting a family member dealing with these changes or helping someone to more fully understand a disease process. I also try to promote wellness and independence by pointing out ways people may remain safely in their own home. I deal with all age groups. I am not just here for the "elderly".

My background in Community Nursing and Long Term Care as well as many years of Emergency Nursing have given me a broad range of knowledge for the work I am doing now.

Why am I called a "Parish" nurse when we do not have a Parish? Granger Westberg coined the phrase approximately 25 years ago when he started the modern Parish Nursing Program in Illinois. It is not a new concept but rather goes back to biblical times when healing and wholeness was the body, mind and spirit. I feel that Parish Nursing complements the work being done by the rest of the staff team here at FSA. If you would like to know more - call me or better yet, come and see me.

NEW STRETCHER

We hope there's never a need to use it, but there is now a newer stretcher in the church available for emergency situations. It's located under the coat-rack in the Narthex (where the old stretcher was). The new stretcher has been donated to the church by Ferno Canada.

It is lighter, easier to use, and the wheels work (the old stretcher's wheels were almost locked up). In addition it can be raised for easier transfer or put in a seating position. Narthex coordinators will be instructed on how to operate it.



COUNCIL MUSINGS

by Gertrude Bergey



As Chair of Council I have felt a continuing sense of insecurity among church members in the last few months.

The words “doom and gloom” seemed more apt than “hope and cope.” So it was with great rejoicing that I learned of our good fortune in securing the Rev. Dr. David McKane and his wife Susan to lead us.

Those of you who met him at the Pot Luck Supper certainly realized our good fortune, and our great hopes for revitalization of all our attitudes and activities. It was such a joy for me to see member after member approach with beaming smiles and warm handshakes!

Now the ball is really in our court! Our habits, our attitudes to the main purpose of the church, our willingness to move into the new century, our devotion to Christ can deepen and revitalize our MISSION - or - we can refuse to grow and change to meet the new challenges spawned by this past September. Council would appreciate your prayers and support as we wrestle with the challenges we face.

We would be very remiss if we did not, as a congregation and as individuals, show the Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad our appreciation and admiration for the strong leadership she has provided. We have had many fine ministers in our long history, but Susan has been special in many ways. We have much to be grateful for.

The Marketing Committee should also be thanked for the endless hours of work they put into their proposals. Each one was weighed in terms of growth and indeed survival of the church as we know it. Now it is our task to take the ball and run with it.

God is very much alive in First-St. Andrew's!

POT LUCK SUPPER

The pot luck supper drew nearly 180 members of FSA to the lower hall on October 24 to meet, greet and hear the Rev. Dr. David McKane, who begins his official duties January 1. It's hoped there will be more gatherings, both large and small, so that everyone in the congregation can meet David in the first few months of the new year. David preaches his first sermon Sunday, January 6.



THE LAUDAMUS BELLS - A HISTORY

by Barbara Plante

The Laudamus Bells (formerly the Ladies' Handbell Choir) have been in existence since 1970. The original three octaves of bells were purchased from Whitechapel Bellfoundry in England through a special gift to the music programme. Barrie Cabena travelled to England when the bells were ready to officially take delivery, and brought them “home” to First-St. Andrew's.

The choir was formed immediately, and directed by Merrie Young. In 1973, Barbara Plante took over as director of the bellchoir, and has continued to this day. We have one original member from 1970, Bev Lindsay, who has been a faithful member through the years, with a couple of years off in the late 1970s.

The purpose of the bell choir is to ring in the services of worship at FSA. However, over the years, they have agreed to many outside performances at other churches, nursing homes, and community groups. The group has also encouraged other bell choirs in the area by organizing and hosting (in our church) the first ever Ontario Handbell Festival and establishing the Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers (OGEHR). The first president of that organization was Alan Barthel who was our Director of Music at that time. Since then the group has hosted three more festivals in our church for bellringers in Southwestern Ontario, travelled to two International Festivals, one in Vancouver in 1986 at which time they played at Expo '86, and the second in Birmingham, England in 2000.

Ringling in a handbell choir is a unique way to make and enjoy music. It is unlike any other musical experience, because ringers play selected notes only. There is wonderful teamwork involved, and participants work very closely together. In a handbell choir, ringers have the utmost respect for one another, because each player is of equal importance. The ringers form very close working relationships, and in many cases, very close friendships.



The Laudamus Bells: Anne Cummings, Elspeth Watson, Pat Sole, Pat McGregor, Margaret Trethewey, Nikki Attwell, Diane Brogton, Susan Knutson, Janice Anderson, Bev Lindsay, Erin Linforth, Joyce Brouwer, Adam Guthrie (substitute). Absent: Barbara Plante, director; Nancy Howard, Jane Smith.

EARTH STEWARDSHIP REPORT

by Dave & Winifred Wake



The Earth Stewardship Committee was formed in the early 1990s by the late Spencer Inch. Over the years, the committee has been involved in various educational endeavours, and has co-ordinated the annual Earth Stewardship service.

Committee members initiated a paper recycling program for the church community before the city commenced its program, encouraged the congregation to avoid use of styrofoam cups, and prepared the popular lists of environmental hints that ran for several years in the weekly bulletin. In addition, members of the congregation joined with committee members to study Global Action Plan materials.

Why should the church be interested in environmental issues? One explanation is provided in the following quotation from *Caring for Creation*, a book by David Hallman of the United Church head office:

"God created the earth and loves it. As part of that creation, we have been given some particular responsibilities for it. We are to exercise those responsibilities as obedient stewards. Our role is to care for the earth, recognizing that it belongs not to us but to God."

Would you be interested in working on Earth Stewardship issues? Call us at 472-4864.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

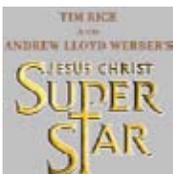
About 175 people joined in a lively discussion of various aspects of FSA at the Congregational meeting Oct 21. The focus of the discussion was a report from the Long Term Financial Committee which was set up by council to respond to the church's financial crunch. Finance Committee figures show a deficit in this year's operating budget.

The committee's proposals were designed to build a strong financial platform on which our new ministerial team can function, including stronger membership, attendance and influence on our member's lives..

There were suggestions on how to make FSA a more welcoming place for the community and a plan for dealing with bequests and trust funds that would allow council flexibility with its operating budget.

Several proposals were singled out for questions and comments, including proposals dealing with music, the rental of church property (and use of wine) and the amount of M&S givings. One suggestion was the placement of questionnaires in pews to solicit the views of members of FSA. Council will deal with all these issues at future meetings.

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR SCHEDULED



Council has approved the use of the church for the production of Jesus Christ Superstar March 20-23, 2002. Producer Kerry Stover is joined by Artistic Director George Jolink, Choreographer Laura Wood and Musical Director Angela Southern.

AIDS WALK

by Dennis Pellarin



I am so very pleased to be a member of First-St. Andrew's United Church for many reasons. One important one is the openness and generosity of the members themselves. When it comes to supporting causes and individuals in crisis and need of healing, our membership exemplifies true community. Over the past 15 years, HIV and AIDS have affected FSA's membership, our relatives and friends. We have consistently been caring supporters all of these individuals through

their difficult times.

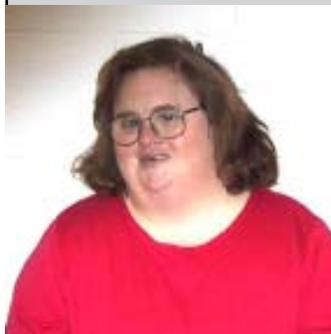
Although in recent times there has been good medical progress in treating and making HIV and AIDS more manageable and therefore less deadly, that hopefulness is limited to those in countries with health programs and benefits that provide access to new medications. Millions of new cases are reported annually and millions continue to die who don't have access to such benefits. HIV does not discriminate - it does not care what race, sex, sexual orientation or social status you are...it can infect and affect anyone. In London, the number of new cases of HIV being reported continues to grow and the populations being affected are broader: in fact approximately forty percent of total cases in southwestern Ontario are female.

The generosity of Londoners is also slowly growing. On September 23rd, the annual London and Canada-wide AIDS Walk was held. Our revenues from that effort have grown to near \$32,000. Thanks to all of you who have supported various walkers in our community.

I volunteer with the John Gordon Home in London. They provide hospice and supportive living services to people challenged with AIDS and HIV. Through the generosity of many friends and members at FSA, I raised approximately \$2,300 in the walk. Thank you for your ongoing interest in and support of this cause.

THE SUSAN WRIGHT BELL AWARD

The University of Manitoba has named an annual award after a Member of First-St. Andrew's.



The Susan Wright Bell award is for doctors who wish to learn more about people with developmental disabilities.

The award was announced by Dr. Brian Hennen, the University's Dean of Medicine and a former member of FSA.

DID YOU KNOW?

Winifred Wake writes a column on endangered species in each issue of NATURE CANADA magazine.

FSA'S VBS AUGUST 7-10, 2001

by Kevin Johnston

The first Vacation Bible School held in many, many years at First-St. Andrew's far exceeded any and all hopes, dreams, and expectations!

We hosted twenty-nine children, thirteen of them from outside FSA. Helping with the program were four youth from Hyde Park United, and six youth and five adults from FSA.

The sessions were held Tuesday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. 'til noon, and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00. Stations in which the children participated included the "Sing & Play Blast", "Bible Exploration", "Cool Crafts", "Igloo Eats", "Glacier Games", daily video visits with "Chadder Chipmunk" who enlightened us on various aspects of Polar life, and our "Ice Station Celebration".

Reports received from parents, grandparents, etc. have indicated that this venture was very much worthwhile for FSA to undertake! Children's lives have been changed in ways that have astonished others. As well, one of the Hyde Park youth had opportunity to personally counsel one of the participants who comes from a very broken home situation, leading the young man to personally accept Jesus Christ into his heart and life. To me, **this** was worth the whole week! Who knows what other amazing things have happened, and will continue to occur, in the lives of all those who participated?

Anthony Hillman captured our activities on video. An edited version has been placed in the library, and is available to anyone who may be interested in viewing our awesome adventure.

It is my sincere hope that FSA will make VBS an annual tradition. The outreach potential, together with the impact it can and will have on the lives of countless people, regardless of age, is tremendous.

And to be honest, I don't know **who** had more fun – the children, the other leaders, or me! Jesus tells us that God's realm belongs to children, or children at heart. What better way to rejoice, reach out, and renew!



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

by Kevin Johnston

Our second **BIBLE QUEST** year is up and running, and in full swing! We kicked off our fall schedule with an in-depth look at Creation, moving on to the story of Noah, the Flood, and God's promise to the world. The past few weeks have had us looking at God's covenant with Abraham & Sarah, culminating in the births of both Ishmael and Isaac, from whom the Islam, Jewish, and Christian faiths derive. Rounding out our fall will be the stories of Isaac & Rebecca, Jacob & Esau, Moses and the "Top Ten", Joshua's challenge of "Who will you follow?", keeping God's covenant, and the prophet Micah's call to "seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God."

Class enrolment this year stands as follows: 9:15 multi-age class – 4; 11:00 3 year old to Kindergarten class – 11; 11:00 grade 1-3 class – 15; and 11:00 grade 4-6 class – 20. So far this year, average attendance is approximately 16 children per week.

This year we have some new teachers with us too! Gwen Jones, Erin Linforth, Calvin Radoja, and Dale Radoja have joined our ranks, and we still have a few unclaimed units in both the 9:15 and 11:00 time slots if **you** would like to get in on things too!

As well, plans and rehearsals are under way for the annual Christmas Eve Family Service held December 24 at 7:00 p.m. This year, the children will present the "Stable Mouse's Gift", a delightful and heartwarming look at the birth of Jesus from some of the creatures who had front row seats. You are sure to be moved and enraptured by our young actresses and actors – and there is congregational participation as well. The children are very excited by the fact of having a "real" Baby Jesus this year! So plan to attend this very special event in the life of our congregation, and support the youngest of our family, as they are sure to bring a tear or two to your eyes, and a bright smile to your face!

TEEN NEWS

by Dale Radoja

The Youth Council is back in action and raring to go. We've already got tons of things planned for this year. We just did a Hallowe'en event for kids (story on page 8) and had an amazing time planning it! Thanks to anyone and everyone who helped us out with this. This spring, we're also taking part in the 30 hour famine and we're thinking about planning a retreat.

We're excited about getting more involved in the church this year and the more people, the merrier (that means you too, confirmands!) So far, there have been about eight of us meeting fairly regularly on Sunday nights; the times are usually in the bulletin. If you're interested, drop in on a meeting, talk to any one of the youth you recognize in the picture on page 10, or have Susan refer you to us. We'd like all the youth out there to come out and join us; don't be scared off by the name, we're just using "Youth Council" until we can think of a name that suits us better.

Once again, thanks to everyone who had a part in helping us get on our feet; we're glad you took the time because we're having a blast!

Changes...

BAPTISMS

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



Next Baptism: January 6, 2002

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

MARRIAGES

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

September 22 Christina German, Gregory Veitch
September 29 Andrea Van Stigt, Steven McFadden
October 20 Chandra Bowlby, Joseph Peretic

DEATHS

"Well done good and faithful servant."

Margaret Manning September 24, 2001
Madeline Cram October 13
Bill Robinson October 17
Ralph Girvan October 17
Robert Coghill October 20

GUEST PREACHER - M&S SUNDAY

FALL CLEANUP



On Saturday, November 3, sixteen members of FSA brought rakes and shovels to clean up the outside of the church property.



The Rev. Susan Cameron spoke on Mission and Service Sunday about her trip to Korea as a representative of the Canadian Food Grains Bank, and about the role of the churches in supporting the CFGB. First-St. Andrew's joined with St. Marys United Church to sponsor a Grow-A-Project on a farm near St. Marys.

.....BUT BABY, JUST LOOK AT YOU NOW.



Answer: Music Director Paul Merritt who, as a toddler, was already pointing out his ear for Music.

FROM THE UCW

by Margaret Wonfor



A long line of eager shoppers awaited the 9 a.m. opening of the UCW's fall rummage sale. Nor were they disappointed by the quality clothing, accessories, household effects, books, toys, etc. they found at a reasonable price!

The rummage sale serves a dual purpose. It provides an outlet through which church families can recycle things they no longer need or use, and it gives families with limited budgets the opportunity to shop for good merchandise at bargain prices. There is a social aspect as well. Our customers are greeted with warm smiles and an exchange of pleasant banter with the many men and women who give a Saturday morning to make this sale a success. Thanks to all who helped.

The \$2500 proceeds from the October sale helps the UCW to fund their outreach projects like sponsoring people from the congregation to workshops and seminars, the most recent being a seminar for Caregivers given at Five Oaks; paying the shipping charges on books that a member assembled for use in a church school in Trinidad; and picking up the tab for the dry cleaning bill so that our Senior Choir has fresh gowns.

Each week the flower committee takes responsibility for providing flowers to beautify the chancel for Sunday service. Members often place memorial flowers or an arrangement in honour of a special occasion. These are gratefully received and if you would like to honour the memory of someone or some occasion, there is a flower chart in the atrium on which you can indicate the Sunday of your choice. After the service these arrangements are split into bouquets and taken to church members in hospital, nursing homes, or just confined because of illness.

The UCW is part of a regional body of United Church Women in Middlesex Presbyterial. We would like to invite you (remembering that our purpose includes all women of the congregation as UCW members) to the annual meeting of this body on February 14, 2002 at Riverside United Church, London. The speaker for the day will be our new minister, the Rev. Dr. David McKane.

RUMMAGE SALE MOMENTS

(right) Mary Round, Fred Lloyd team up at one of the rummage sale tables.,



(left) Bob Plante and Marg Leonard try to decide who is going to sell an

TNT EXPLORES HAUNTED MANSION

by Nancy Howard

On Friday, October 19, eighteen youth, including members of the TNT Group and their friends, bravely wandered the halls of the Shriner's Haunted Mansion at the Western Fairgrounds. Calvin's

parents claimed that they intended to check out the Library book sale, but we suspect they were just too scared to open the door to the mansion!

Comments from Participants:

"Parents, pick up your kids right here at 8:30 p.m." "Don't come until quarter to nine!" says Will to his mother.

"Why don't all these people come on Sundays?" inquires one of our "regulars."

"The Haunted House was lots of fun. It was quite well done. But playing Hide 'n seek was the best part." (Allison)

"The Haunted House had lots of tricks! I liked the hands that came out of the walls." (Megan)

"I screamed and fell to the floor every time those hands reached out of the wall. I wasn't letting them touch me!" (Sue Ellen)

"I jumped when the knight jumped out at me. My friend just stood there and did nothing. It was fun going to the store to buy something." (Calvin)

"I see dead people. Great special effects!" (Nancy)

"I liked the guy with the magnet on the ceiling." "That was mirrors." "It was?"

"What about the headless guy on the exercise bike? How'd they make it look like there was nothing in front of him?"

"It was fun. We should do it again next Hallowe'en." (Christie)

If you missed this outing, stay tuned. There's lots more to come. You can start by finding your way up to the Youth Room at 11:05 a.m.



FSA Program Guide

Advent, Christmas, Epiphany 2001-2002

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

Dec. 2 – 1st of Advent – Lessons and Carols

9:15 & 11 am

Dec. 9 – 2nd of Advent – White Gift Sunday

9:15 & 11 am

Preacher – Susan Shelstad

Wed. Dec. 12 – A Service of Christmas Hope

7:45 pm in the Chapel (prayer station offered)

Dec. 16 – 3rd of Advent

9:15 & 11 am

Preacher – Susan Shelstad

Dec. 23 – 4th of Advent

9:15 & 11 am

Preacher – Susan Shelstad

Mon. Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve

7 pm Family Service;

10 pm Candlelight Communion

Preacher – Susan Shelstad

Dec. 30 – 1st after Christmas

One service at 11 am only.

Preacher – Rick Bain

Jan. 6 – Epiphany - Baptism

9:15 & 11 am

Preacher – David McKane

Jan. 13 – 1st after Epiphany

9:15 & 11 am

Preacher – David McKane

Jan. 20 – 2nd after Epiphany - Communion

9:15 & 11 am

Preacher – David McKane

Jan. 27 – 3rd after Epiphany

9:15 & 11 am

Preacher – Susan Shelstad

Feb. 3 – 4th after Epiphany

9:15 & 11 am

Preacher – David McKane

Feb. 10 – Last after Epiphany – Transfiguration Sunday

9:15 & 11 am

Preacher – David McKane

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP SERVICES

Wednesday evenings at 7:45 pm in the Sanctuary. Stretching, drumming, scripture, silence and prayer. Dress is casual. Come and restore your soul!

Last one before Christmas on Wed. Dec. 5. Begins again on Wed. Jan. 9.

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 for healing.

MUSIC

CHRISTMAS MUSIC

As always, December at FSA will be filled with the joyful sounds of choirs singing and bells ringing! Besides the annual services on Christmas Eve and Advent Lessons and Carols (Dec. 2) which so many look forward to, our Advent services will be enriched with solos and choruses from Handel's *Messiah* (Christmas Section) accompanied by our string orchestra. Come and worship with us as we prepare for and celebrate Christ's birth.

CONCERT IN CENTENNIAL HALL

Our Senior choir has been invited again this year to participate in the Salvation Army Band's *Gift to London Concert* on Monday evening, December 3. The choir will sing some pieces alone and help lead the massed carol singing as well. Other musical guests will include Denise Pelley and her band.



FRIDAY ADVENT NOON RECITALS

12:00-12:30 - Luncheon (\$6.00) served following recitals.

November 30 FLUTE DUET

Anne Cunningham and Sandy Towler

December 7 THE LAUDAMUS BELLS

Barbara Plante, Conductor

December 14 ORGAN RECITAL

Paul Merritt, Organ

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CHURCH SCHOOL

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)

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

This year's class of eight young people are preparing for confirmation in the spring.

YOUTH COUNCIL

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

Advisors: Debbie Maund (679-0716) & Erin Linforth (435-



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).

ADVENT RETREAT WITH DR. JIM SCHMEISER OF KING'S COLLEGE

Here at FSA in the Parlour.

A time to reflect on the scriptures of Advent.

Friday, Nov. 30 from 7 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 1 from 9 a.m. to late afternoon.

Please bring a bag lunch.

Cost - \$25.00 per person. Register by calling the church at 679-8182.

LABYRINTH WALK

Friday, December 7. Lower Hall.

Cost - \$5.00 per person.

Walk begins at 7 p.m.

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.

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.

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).

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 **January 6, 2002**. 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.

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

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. Our next meeting is Saturday December 8, at 2pm. Come Christmas caroling at the Chelsey Park Retirement Community. On Saturday January 19, we'll have a games night at the home of Heather, John, Eric and Jennifer Vouvalidis. Watch the weekly announcements for more information.

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 your calendar. For more information, call John and Mary Scott (238-6013).



A FINAL WORD

Advent, Christmas, Epiphany 2001-2002

Dear Friends,

It is a beautiful autumn day – cool and crisp – with the rustle of leaves under foot. We are blessed to be able to enjoy four distinctive seasons in this part of our world. Ever since the events of September 11 we have counted our blessings more frequently. Church attendance has been up, not just at First-St. Andrew's, but churches in general are reporting increased attendance. Sales of Bibles have increased by 50% and the book-stores that sell Bibles have had difficulty keeping them in stock. Our lives have been changed forever by the events of that horrific day, but look at what people have done to find support. They have turned to the one source of strength – their Bible and the church. The latest issue of the Observer has this verse on its cover with the date September 11, 2001:

For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, neither height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ

Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 8: 38, 39)

We will continue to pray for all the countries of the world and all the individuals whose lives are a daily struggle and concern because of the war that goes on.

We look back to September 11 but we must also look ahead. The Advent season at First-St. Andrew's brings with it a time of special music and worship services. There is something for everyone regardless of age. The staff is busy preparing for this season keeping in mind the varied needs and wants of the congregation. It is a time for you as a

Susan *Heather* *Ted* *Paul* *Kevin*



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 Development 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