

Tidings



First-St. Andrew's United Church

VOLUME 14 ● NUMBER 1

LENT, HOLY WEEK, EASTER 2004

THE TRAVISES

by Bill Watson



Donna Marie. It almost sounds like the title of a series on Masterpiece Theatre! And the drama and excitement grows when you discover that they met and fell in love on a First-St. Andrew's bus tour of the Holy Land!

Donna first. A life-long Londoner, baptised as a child in FSA, worked with Kay McDonald in kids crafts and supervised the nursery. Her main church activities were associated with the Sunday School until her first husband, Reg, died in 1989, after which she began to engage in regular church activities.

During the past ten years she has been involved in, or is about to become involved in, the UCW, and the following committees - Worship, Christian Development, Stewardship Mission Outreach, Out of the Cold (which she is stepping down from as coordinator), and Property, which she is about to join.

While still at public school she decided to become a doctor, but got deflected from medicine into nursing, graduating from the Western program in 1954. In the event, Nursing proved to be her thing. She has been involved in the training of thousands of nursing students, has published articles in the nursing literature, and would still love to be actively involved in the profession.

She has three children - Lori, the youngest, who has recently moved to Indiana; Sue, a librarian at a school in Brampton, and en route to being the Principal; and Linda, a neonatal nurse in the Intensive Care Unit at St. Joseph's Hospital here in London. Her brother, John Ross, she describes as a 'Gentleman Farmer.'

Chuck was born in Toronto and pursued an intriguing educational and academic career that included such schools as Earl Haig, Jarvis Collegiate, and Malvern College. He wanted to be a doctor, but instead his path was directed to the field of education and a career that took him to such places as Peace River, Telegraph Creek, Stikine River, an isolated Indian village, all in British Columbia, where he

traveled with his first wife and their two children. When he finally returned to Ontario it was as Principal at Dwight Public School near Huntsville.

Chuck has had a distinguished academic career. His degrees include a B.A., Master of Education, and, make note of this, a Master of Divinity!



Chuck was first married at the age of nineteen. He has six children, 8 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren, all living! His passion though at first glance you would never imagine he could have such a thing, is orchids! - which he grows from seed and cultivates from cuttings. And he has had the honour of being an orchid judge at an international show. He also does beautiful work with stained glass.

Has he any unfinished business? Yes! He would like to do a doctorate in English, and write a paper on the 'Song of Solomon.'

I asked them what their opinions were of each other. His reply, tongue in cheek, "She's demanding." Hers, getting a woman's privilege of the last word, "He's a pain in the neck."

It's obvious that they love and enjoy each other.

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MYSTERY PICTURE

Where, when, what, who. If you recognize this picture or someone in it, please call Jim Hutchinson. Here's a hint from Jim: "Proud to be here".

The correct location and event will be revealed in the next edition of Tidings.

Those responding correctly to the question will be listed in the next edition.



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPER



Herb and Margaret Wonfer join Ina Covers in the pancake line.



In the kitchen, David Manness, Jim Coulthard, Russ Scorgie and Doug Jones prepared the pancakes and sausages for a crowd of about 150 people.

Tidings

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Info-Line

SPONG HERE NOVEMBER 8

Throughout his career as an Episcopal Priest and Bishop, John Shelby Spong has been surrounded by controversy as he has pushed at the edges of Christianity and what it means to be the church today.

His books have challenged traditional teachings on sexual morality, the literal interpretation of the Bible, the role of women and the origins of Christianity.

We are delighted to host this seminal thinker and dynamic speaker as the first of our Proudfoot Lectures Series. Tickets will go on sale shortly.

THE MAY GERANIUM SALE

Marg Leonard's annual sale will be held at FSA on May 12.

HANDBELL SYMPOSIUM TRIP

A bus trip is being planned for the final afternoon concert of the International Handbell Symposium in Toronto Sat. Aug. 7. Watch your weekly bulletin for more details.

FROM COUNCIL

by Doug Jones, Chair



Greetings all. Having recently completed the Annual Congregational meeting, as we are looking forward to the coming of spring, there are only a couple of items to report from Council. First, from the Annual meeting, we recognized the outstanding and long-lasting contributions of 4 retiring committee members: from Membership and Nurture, Marg Leonard, Helen McLeod and Louise Slater, and from Worship, Elspeth Watson. From Council we acknowledged the contributions of the retiring Co-chairs of Worship, Marion Orser and Roger Snyder. Joanne Silcox will be the new Chair of Worship. We were pleased with the response of members of the congregation who agreed to become members of committees: Martha Bere, Paul Mansell, Mary McKim, Lillian Reid, Russ Scorgie, Jim Silcox and Mike Walker. We also were delighted that Susan Fullerton has agreed to be the Chair-elect this year. She will continue in her capacity as Chair of Finance for the year until her transition to Chair of Council in 2005. Thank you all very much for your skills, talents and time on our behalf - from your FSA family.

We also acknowledged the need for additional effort and novel ideas, from all of us, to meet the needs of the Church and reduce this year's projected deficit of \$56,484. As one interested member of the Congregation confided, maybe we all could do some little thing to help reduce the deficit and our reliance on bequests to balance the budget. For example, when out for dinner, forgo that fattening desert, and put the money aside as a contribution. That way there would be a mutual benefit. Very interesting idea, don't you think. Meanwhile, I have also challenged all groups in the Church to explore ways of contributing to the reduction in the deficit.

There was one item for a special congregational meeting which met "in the round" after church on January 18th, 2004. There was open and frank discussion and sharing of ideas on the historical background, the potential drawbacks and appropriate use of alcohol in the Church. The final resolution was to permit very restricted use of wine at FSA Church functions, organized by FSA Church groups, with many provision including: preapproval by Council; the necessary availability of non-alcoholic beverages and food, as well as the requirement for a designated responsible adult. The policy is to be reviewed at the Council meeting in December 2004.

Also, there was a very successful meeting organized by the Stewardship, Mission Outreach Committee as part of the "Beads of Hope" campaign for AIDS awareness. A powerful and dramatic presentation was made by Scott Forbes, Canadian Director of Kids Alive Canada, non-denominational Mission sponsoring children's support homes in many Countries including Africa. His slide presentation on the family homes and orphan children in Zambia certainly struck a responsive chord with many attendees and a possible link for support from members of our congregation is being discussed. Information on the organization can be found online at www.kidsalive.ca for the Canadian group or www.kidsalive.org for the parent organization.

By mid- to late-spring we are expecting reports from the two ad-hoc Committees of Council: the Health Council Committee and the Parking Committee. If you have any suggestions for either Committee, contact the respective Chairs: Mary Vernon & Audrey Coulthard for the Health Council, and Russ Gonder for the Parking Committee - (or anyone else on either committee).

We are looking forward with renewed commitment to a very interesting year. The Council meets at 7:30 P.M., the 2nd Tuesday of every month from September to June. Council meetings are open meetings. Everyone is welcome at any meeting.

A HIGH TECH CHRISTMAS PLAY

By Liz Galbraith

Tradition in our church is to have the Sunday school students perform a Christmas play as part of the Christmas Eve service. This year the play involved 7 main characters with the remaining (20 plus) children forming the choir of angels and stable animals.

Even though I was a novice, I agreed to direct the play, but only if parents and cast were willing to try something new. The challenge was to coordinate practice times around already hectic schedules and to select the play.



Rehearsals would require everyone to drive at least 20 minutes each way with the added risk of inclement weather. I proposed doing the majority of rehearsals using 3-way calling. Some-parents were sceptical, but were assured that if Bell Canada can conduct a majority of its business

using conference calls, it must be possible to rehearse a children's play. From the comfort of their homes the main cast members, ages 9 - 11, set up a "daisy chain" connection and rehearsed their parts.

Feedback from the children and their parents was extremely positive. The children enjoyed the practices and the independence that the rehearsal format provided them. The parents were grateful they did not have to add more "outings" at this busy time of year. Directorial expectations were greatly exceeded. By the time of the first of three live rehearsals with full cast, the main actors had their lines memorized and knew their stage positions. This saved a lot of time and I could concentrate my efforts on coordinating the smaller children.

Many parents and children were not aware of the 3-way calling feature. This experience provided them with a hands-on opportunity to use the feature and to see the benefits of conference calling. Some of the parents are now considering using it for holding meetings. Their children are planning on using it when working on group homework assignments. They have all shared their experiences with their friends and family.

Tell a friend, who will tell a friend, who will tell a friend.....

FRIENDS OF MUSIC

by Bruce Richardson, chair, Music Committee



First-St. Andrew's is very fortunate to have a group of supporters, the *Friends of Music*, that allows the Music Department to present an annual concert series, *Music at First-St. Andrew's*, to both the FSA family and the community. The series features outstanding talent both from the locality and of international renown. Although it is part of the church's outreach program, *Friends of Music* is completely self-supported through donations made specifically to this fund. As such it underwrites much of the production costs and allows the ticket prices to be affordable to all.

Led by our music director, Paul Merritt, this year's program includes a wide array of styles to stimulate all tastes. For 2003-04 the series featured the celebrated St. Lawrence String Quartet, followed by a UWO Choral Celebration, a Birthday Tribute Concert for composer and former FSA music director, Barrie Cabena, Friday Noon Advent and Lenten Recitals, Celebration of Robbie Burns, an Opera Explained lecture series with Prof. Donald Neville, culminating in an Opera Gala evening with our own Senior Choir, a Spring Handbell Concert featuring FSA's Laudamus Bells, and concluding with the Polokwane Choral Society from South Africa on their North American tour.

It is the intention of the series organizers to end the year having expended most of the funds. Thus donations from those who support the *Friends of Music* are an ongoing necessity to keep the series healthy and growing, and we are most grateful to those contributors of the past and present. Donations can be made on your own behalf or in the name of another (a memorial perhaps) by a cheque to "Friends of Music" left or mailed to the church office. Your donation will be rewarded with a tax-deductible receipt and the knowledge that you are part of an indispensable group. Your, or another's, name will join those who support *Friends of Music*, and will appear on the Concert Series flyer.



Left: Paul and Enid cut the cake on the occasion of their 20th anniversary with FSA.

Below: Rev. Dr. David McKane presents flowers to Paul and Enid as the congregation and choir members look on



PAUL MERRITT AT TWENTY

On January 25, Paul Merritt was honoured for his twenty years of service to First-St. Andrew's. For the occasion, the choir surprised Paul during the service with a song written by two choir members. It was sung to the tune *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*.

Chorus: (congregation and choir)

Glory, glory Hallelujah,
All good thoughts we're sending to ya,
You work so hard, you always smile, you never make a fuss,
It's Merritt-orious!

You are so very talented and serving God your call.
You're musical and sensitive, inspiring to us all;
When you sit down to play, the con-gre-gation you enthral;
It's Merritt-orious!

For our devoted organist there's love in all our hearts;
You lead the choir, ac-com-pany, and learn each of our parts.
Your fingers fly, your feet reply; you're master of the arts,
It's Merritt-orious!

Now there's a certain lady whom we'll call your better half;
She soothes your brow; she keeps you calm, and even makes you laugh.
You work together as a team with love and great panache;
It's Merritt-orious!

Chorus: Glory, glory Hallelujah...

With children you're especially kind, the Joyful Singers say;
They learn and sing together and your every cue obey.
Some Sundays they perform in church their talents to display,
It's Merritt-orious!

Clarinets and flutes and strings and brass and other instruments,
They all add to the music mix, the sound can be intense;
Conducting is your special skill, your giftedness immense,
It's Merritt-orious!

We wonder as we look ahead at what might be in store
For this extra-special music man whose playing we adore;
We hope you'll stay around another twenty years or more,
It would be Merritt-orious.

Chorus: Glory, glory Hallelujah...

Helen Guthrie/Pat McGregor

MEMBERS OF THE TROUPE

The cast of the Christmas Eve Pageant, A Christmas Wish, get together for a photo call. The complete story is on page three



Changes...

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

MARRIAGES

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

Dec. 8, 2003 - Sandra Chalk and Helen Booth

Dec. 30, 2003 - Nicole Jones and Robert Latka

BAPTISMS

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

Katherine Grace Joyce, child of Brenda & Brian Joyce

Bridjet Pauline Radstaak, child of Wesley & Krista Radstaak

DEATHS

"Well done good and faithful servant."

Dec. 19, 2003 - George Beverly "Bev" Coulter

Jan. 10, 2004 - William Rhys Dixon

Jan. 11, 2004 - Dorothy Agnes Buchner

Feb. 6, 2004 - Virginia Lodge

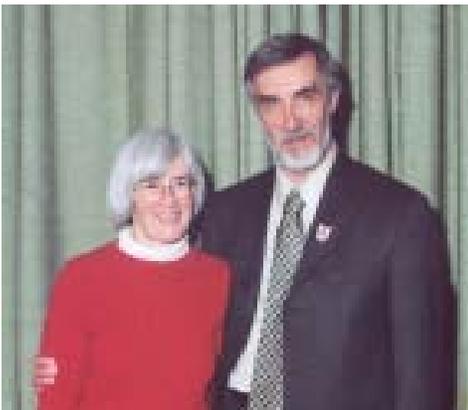
GOODBYE & GODSPEED

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

Lisa Moore Prentice

Robert Vanderheyden

CONGRATULATIONS



Left: David and Winnifred Wake, recipients of the Mayor's Honour List for their work in the area of the environment.



Left: Karen Blatchford and Team Canada for winning bronze at the world.



Left: Viki Meredith (a former member of the FSA choir) accepts the Wallace Laughton Performance Award from Gregg Bereznick, the president of the Canadian Music Educators Association.

THE BURNS DINNER

*Once again, another successful Celebration
with Rev. David McKane as Robbie Burns*



Upper right: Bruce Richardson pipes in the Haggis carried by Robin Sutherland.



Right: Bill Watson addresses the Haggis as Robin looks on.



Below: "Haggis Stew" performs during dinner.



SAYING THANKS

by Liz Galbraith



On our way back to the car on a cold February night I spotted a familiar dull, dark object on the ground. I bent down to claim my prize find. Triumphant I stood up, put my prize inside my mitt and we continued on our way. The cold object started to warm up inside my mitt and I was pleased with myself for having rescued it from the frozen sidewalk.

My friend, a recent immigrant to Canada, broke the silence when he asked: "Why did you stop and pick up a penny?" I was speechless which, for those who know me, is not a common thing. Fingering the penny inside my mitt I could feel the design imprint on the cool, no longer frozen, metal. After some time of reflection I came to understand what prompted me to go to all of the effort of bending down for a penny.

Those commercials started to run in my head: "For only pennies a day you can help a child less fortunate that you and your pennies can make a difference". Although a penny has little value in our society it does have value. I realized that I don't ever want to feel that I am too good or too rich to bend down to pick up a penny. The penny may not seem like much but it helps to remind me of how fortunate I am and to thank God for all of the blessings I have in this world. It helps me to remember that there are a lot of people out in the world who are less fortunate than I and to whom a penny may mean a lot.

The more I thought about it the warmer the penny seemed to get in the palm of my hand. It felt like it was glowing. Picking up a penny has a humbling impact. The physical act of bending down to pick up the penny is humbling. Bowed that night before my friend and God, I picked up something that may seem useless to some while others in our world see it as hope. Ironically this is how many see the church and religion.

I kept that penny in my mitt for the next few weeks and often reflected upon the power of the "humbling penny". One penny may not seem significant but one by one they start to add up. I started to think about all of those pennies tucked away in piggy banks and boxes in closets and drawers. What if we collected all of these pennies (and any other loose change) and donated them to a worthwhile cause.

My friend on that cold February night is a doctor of infectious diseases who has specialized in AIDS. I started formulating the idea of holding a Penny Drive and I thought it fitting to have the proceeds go to help with the AIDS pandemic. Coincident with this plan I discovered that The United Church was launching the Beads of Hope campaign with a goal of raising \$1 million. The penny drive proceeds could be donated to this campaign.

I am in the process of organizing this Penny Drive to be held within the church during the Spring. More information will be made available shortly. Please start thinking about those pennies and other loose change that you have tucked away. Start bending down to claim those lost pennies and while you are down there say a little prayer of thanks for all of our good fortunes.

Pennies a day to help the Pain go away.

ARCHIVES

by Jim Hutchinson



In his leaflet, "DID YOU KNOW THAT?", Rev. Moir A. J. Waters reminds us of many interesting bits of our past. Did you know that the first service in this sanctuary almost occurred without the leadership of a choir? He writes, "In the minutes of October 17th, 1869, it is recorded that the members of the Choir had tendered their resignations because the Session had refused them permission to use a musical instrument at a social meeting held in the new church on the Monday evening following the opening of this present sanctuary."

What fascinating information can be found in our archives! In the same document, Eunice MacDonald, long time soloist and recently deceased, wrote, "The proceeds from the children's opera 'The Selfish Giant', by Barrie Cabena, furnished almost the entire purchase price of the remarkable Whitechapel handbells that are used by our Bell Choirs." She referred to the first three octaves purchased, not to the five now in use.

Memories like these are partly responsible for the decision by the Archives Committee to work toward producing a book to celebrate the 175th Anniversary of our congregation, and the 70th Anniversary of our union as First-St. Andrew's. Two earlier publications document the first hundred years of First and St. Andrew's separately. Now we need to celebrate our years together.

To date we have been examining documents and interviewing some of our long term members. We will be contacting others personally, but we want input from everyone. Rather than a history of meetings and minutes, we want to produce a book of memories and pictures. Do you have memories to share, or pictures we can copy? 2007 sounds a long way off, but it really isn't when you consider the time needed to organize, write, edit, and print such a document.

Contact Jim Hutchinson at 471-4267, Ted Kostecki at the church, any member of the archives committee, or fill in one of our information sheets to contribute or become involved. Also watch for new displays in the curio cabinets in the Atrium.

PLANNED GIFTS – LIFE INSURANCE

By Ted Kostecki, Community Development Coordinator

There's so much to think about when planning for the future. A Planned Gift is a powerful gift. Like a Gift of Life Insurance.

You can sign over a policy, buy a new policy and sign it over to FSA, or make the congregation the beneficiary of a policy. A gift of Life Insurance allows you to arrange a future gift to the church at a lower cost to yourself.

A gift of an existing policy to the church earns you an immediate charitable donation. If you take out a new policy, assigning the United Church as owner and beneficiary, you get a charitable donation receipt for the annual premiums you pay.

One of the benefits of a gift of Life Insurance is that it does not reduce the size of your estate. As in all cases of Planned gifts, speak with your professional advisor and lawyer. If you have any questions, I will be glad to assist.

NEVER SQUARE DANCED BEFORE?

from UCW Tuesday Evening Unit

This could all change for you and your family and friends (teens and older) on Friday, April 2, 7:30 to 9:30 pm in the Lower Hall. A lively combo and experienced caller will help us learn the basics. Many rewards will result: enhanced friendships, exercise benefits, delicious sandwiches, sweets and appropriate beverages, as well as 16 UCW outreach projects supported. Free parking on the street and in FSA, and the former Queens Avenue Library parking lots. Find some casual clothes and \$15 for each participant for a night to enjoy and remember.



Four FSA couples founded the square dance group known as the Castle Club in 1949. More than 35 FSA couples have belonged over its 55-year history!

UCW REPORT

by Margaret Wonfor



Laurel Kenney's first annual meeting as president of Middlesex Presbyterial UCW sent members home with their spiritual lives enriched and many practical ideas to enhance the work of their local groups. The theme for the day, "Here I Am Lord" was creatively and humorously illustrated by the Rev. Heather McLean, who reminded us that we are all God's children with gifts to share that all may experience the abundant life.

The M & S Fund is the lifeblood for many needs. The Rev. Susan Eagle highlighted the needs of the ELUCOC community, especially affordable housing for the 4,000 plus London families awaiting a decent roof over their heads. Dr. David Cechetto from Medical Electives at U.W.O. invited UCWs to continue support to this programme which offers 4th year medical students the experience of practising medicine in a developing country.

UCWs were urged to support a presbytery project which is collecting new and slightly used clothing for infants up to age six. This clothing is transported by OPP planes into a number of native reserves in Ontario's far north. Liz Mignotte (435-0777) is a liaison in this project and contributions will be stored at FSA until there is sufficient to be shipped.

Can one of these needs be our challenge?

RUMMAGE SALE REMINDER

The Spring sale will be held Saturday April 17. A great place to bring your "Spring Cleanup" items.

MISSION AND SERVICE FUND

By Barb Dalrymple



Every year the Mission & Service fund allocates annual Mission Support Grants to each of the 13 United Church Conferences. In 2004 London Conference will receive \$132,271.00. Your support for the Mission and Service fund makes these grants possible. Some of the City of London projects and outreach ministries that receive grants are listed below.

ELUCOC (the East London United Church Outreach Cluster) is an active ministry present in the communities of Marconi and Huron Heights. ELUCO provides a wide range of educational, nutritional, community building and advocacy programs. It offers support for, and assistance to, families whose incomes are not adequate to meet basic needs.

The SOUTHDALE CHAPLAINCY serves families living in or near London's largest subsidized family housing complex. It offers support to children and parents through homework clubs, after school suppers, workshops, counselling youth retreats, and a host of other opportunities which the chaplain and volunteers provide.

LIMBERLOST CHAPLAINCY is ecumenically supported and has been providing a Christian presence to families in a public housing complex in the Sherwood Forest area. The chaplain/outreach worker serves as a counsellor to family members of all ages and a liaison with social agencies, schools, and churches. She has facilitated a "Well Baby Clinic", and "Coffee Drop-Ins" which have helped develop a sense of community. She has launched bible study, support groups, a toy-lending library, a workers' cooperative, and a youth employability improvement program.

The **HOSPITAL VISITORS PROGRAM** offers a ministry of presence to patients in London hospitals. The two visitors act as liaisons between United Church patients and their ministers, making approximately 8000 visits per years. In 2003 the visitors became a vital link between patients and their pastoral charges in light of the SARS epidemic. Even when family and ministers were not allowed to visit because of the quarantine, the hospital visitors were present.

Southwestern Ontario projects include the **WINDSOR DOWNTOWN MISSION**, the **WESTSIDE FRIENDSHIP GROUP** in the west end of Windsor, **OPERATION SHARING** in Woodstock, the **SAAIL (the Stratford and Area Access to Independent Living)**, **HURON SAFE HOMES FOR YOUTH** in Exeter, and **GROUP DELTA—HURON PERTH CENTRE** in Clinton.

Thank you from the **MISSION & SERVICE FUND** of the **UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

HIGH FLIGHT

Ross Strickland, right, with grandson Michael Hamphill (centre) stand by as pilot Bruce Richardson prepares for a memorable flight over Middlesex and Elgin Counties. Ross won the trip as the door prize at the Celebration Sunday Luncheon at Wonderland Gardens. Doris Strickland took the picture before joining them on the flight



FSA Program Guide

Lent, Holy Week, Easter 2004

WORSHIP

- Feb. 25 Ash Wednesday Service with Labyrinth Walk**
7:45 p.m.
- Feb. 29 First Sunday in Lent**
9:00 & 10:30 am
Rev. Dr. David McKane
- Mar. 7 Second Sunday in Lent**
9:00 & 10:30 am
Rev. Dr. David McKane
- Mar. 14 Third Sunday in Lent**
9:00 & 10:30 am
Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad
- Mar. 21 Fourth Sunday in Lent**
9:00 & 10:30 am
Rev. Dr. David McKane
- Mar. 28 Fifth Sunday in Lent**
9:00 am Rev. Dr. David McKane
10:30 am The Joyful Singers present Three Tall Trees
- Apr. 4 Palm/Passion Sunday**
9:00 am Rev. Dr. David McKane
10:30 am Palm Sunday Drama
- Apr. 11 Easter Sunday**
9:00 & 10:30 am
Rev. Dr. David McKane
- Apr. 18 Encirionment Sunday**
9:00 & 10:30 am
Speaker: John Jardine
- Apr. 25 Third Sunday of Easter**
9:00 & 10:30 am
Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad
- May 2 Fourth Sunday of Easter**
9:00 & 10:30 am
Rev. Dr. David McKane
- May 10 Christian Family Sunday**
9:00 & 10:30 am
Sacrament of Baptism at 10:30
Rev. Dr. David McKane
- May 16 Conference Sunday**
Speaker:
- May 23 Seventh Sunday of Easter**
9:00 & 10:30 am
Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad
- May 30 Pentecost Sunday-Sacrament of Holy Communion**
9:00 & 10:30 am
Rev. Dr. David McKane

MUSIC

SALUTE TO MUSIC, TO YOUTH

A special recital to celebrate the musical talents of FSA's children and youth.

SUNDAY, MARCH 28 at 2:30 pm

All young instrumentalists, singers, dancers, etc. etc. are invited to participate in this recital. Please contact Paul Merritt, 672-8234 or Bruce Richardson, 473-1023 to reserve a place on the program.



OPERA EXPLAINED

During March and April, FSA will venture into new musical territory with a lecture series and concert on opera. If you've always been intrigued by the world of opera but never had a chance to explore it, this is the series for you! Given over six evenings (Wednesdays March 10, 17, 24, 31 April 14 & 21) at 8:00 pm by Don Neville, a professor in the Music History Department at the University of Western Ontario, this exciting series will trace 350 years of opera.

Dr. Neville's wide experience in the theatre in his younger years as actor, stage director, and music director, combined with his study of opera and opera research, has given him a unique insight and understanding of the genre. He has shared his knowledge on this topic with many students, undergraduate and graduate, at the University of Western Ontario for 27 years and continues to lecture with flare and enthusiasm on opera, a topic so dear to him.

The series will culminate in a concert featuring our choir, soloists and guest artists including Dr. Darryl Edwards from the University of Toronto, on SATURDAY, APRIL 24 at 7:30 pm.

Dr. Neville chose the musical selections for this concert and the lectures complement the music. The concert programme is drawn from several periods and illustrates the changes in the genre over the centuries; in other words, the history of opera, themes and styles through the use of sound, video, and an entertaining presentation.

One of Don's students once said: "His passion for opera is contagious even if you don't really like it."

For \$25 for the lecture series you too can catch the "opera bug"! Tickets for the series and concert will be available from the church office and at Coffee & Conversation. Plan to join us.

A SPRING HANDBELL CONCERT

SUNDAY, MAY 2 at 2:30 pm

The Laudamus Bells, Barbara Plante, Conductor
Freewill offering

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CRADLE ROLL

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

Coordinator: Nancy Stanlick (451-9491)

NURSERY

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

Coordinator: Judy Cull

CHURCH SCHOOL

Church School classes are now offered only at the 10:30a.m. service. The children go to their classes following the children's story time in church. Again this year we are using the curriculum called Seasons of the Spirit, which is lectionary based so that the scriptures we are reading in church are the scriptures the children are studying in their classes. **Check out the new Children's Library off the Fireside Room.**

Church School Coordinators: Chris and Monique Silcox (438-

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

TEENS IN TRANSIT (TNT)

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

Leader: Nancy Howard (289-0540)

TEEN CONFIRMATION CLASS

Seven young people are enrolled in this year's confirmation class. Confirmation will take place on Sun. May 2.

YOUTH COUNCIL

The Youth Council is run by the young people of the congregation under the supervision of Debbie Maund and Erin Linforth, and supported by the Christian Development Committee. They decide on programs, activities, and worship that is relevant to them.

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



Members and leaders of the Youth Council got together for a pizza lunch at Christmas and treated a surprise visitor, David McKane

ADULT DEVELOPMENT

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

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

This lively group meets on Sunday mornings from 9 to 10:15am upstairs in the Music Room.

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

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

10 am in the Parlour. This popular lectionary Bible Study group is guaranteed to make you laugh and help you grow in your Christian faith. Why not join us?

Leader: Susan Shelstad (679-8182)

DREAM GROUP

Come and discover the amazing world of your dreams. We meet usually on the last Friday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Parlour. For more information, contact Anne Cunningham (433-9663) or Susan Shelstad (679-8182).

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP

On the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel. Meditation training is part of the experience along with stretching, drumming, scripture, silence and prayer. Come and restore your soul!



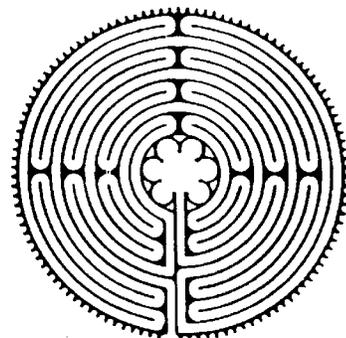
SPIRITUALITY ON TAP

An informal evening of a movie and discussion about faith in a pub setting. The movie is at Rainbow Cinemas. The pub is the Elephant & Castle.

Both are at Galleria Mall. Watch the announcement insert for dates, movies and times.

LABYRINTH WALK

Our next labyrinth walk will take place on **Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25th** at 7:45pm in the Lower Hall,



NEW OFFERING FROM THE CD COMMITTEE:

Lenten Book Study – The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith,

by Marcus J. Borg.

3 sessions – Thursday, March 4, 18, 25 – 7:30 to 9p.m. in the Chapel.

OTHER

LIBRARY

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

CD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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

PASTORAL CARE

In addition to the pastoral care provided by David McKane and Susan Shelstad, members of our congregation reach out to others in a variety of ways.

COUNSELLING TEAM

There is a counselling service available to FSA members staffed voluntarily by the following: Kerry Hill, a management consultant and career counsellor, provides personal counselling and detailed vocational assessment by appointment when mutually convenient; Ardath Finnbogason-Hill, a nurse-educator with considerable experience in personal counselling, and Jo Ann Silcox, a psychiatrist, work as a team to provide initial assessment and follow-through counselling for individuals, couples, families or groups facing personal transitional crises. Referrals may be made through Ardath Hill at 657-3000.

PRAYER CHAIN

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

CONGREGATIONAL VISITING TEAM

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

CARE FOR THE CAREGIVER

This group is for those who find themselves in the role of caregiver, and who are feeling a bit overwhelmed. Please contact Heather Bedford (685-1714) or JoAnn Silcox (642-2152) for further details.

RIDES FOR SENIORS

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

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Every Sunday, following our 9:15 am and 11:00 am worship services, the congregation is invited to remain for refreshment and the deepening of friendship. This is an opportunity for each person to make contact and share his/her journey as a valued individual within our community of faith. Volunteers are needed to make and serve coffee and to clean up.



The new easy-to-use dishwasher is a godsend to groups using the church kitchen. After Coffee and Conversation, Jim and Jan Hendry demonstrate while a Katherine Wonfer and Joanne Girvan watch

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

A Baptismal preparation session is held prior to every Baptism (usually the Thursday evening) to prepare the parents who are bringing their children for Baptism. We explore the meaning of Baptism, and prepare for the Sunday service. The Sacrament of Baptism will be administered again on January 11. Call the church office if interested. (679-8182).

DID YOU EVEN WONDER WHERE OUR WONDERFUL BANNERS COME FROM?



On this day, the creative spirit comes from Trudy Valentine, Pat McGregor, Mary McLarty and Fryke Oostenbrug

STEWARDSHIP MISSION OUT-REACH

Stewardship Mission Outreach is involved in the Hospitality Meals, preparing baby layettes, organizing food collection for the Youth Action Centre and St. Paul's Daily Bread, actively supporting the ELUCOC in special projects, working with St. Marys United Church in support of the Canadian Food Grains Bank, and occupying a chair on their board, sending two members to the LIFT Council meetings and more.

HOSPITALITY MEALS

This program runs year round on Mondays, 5:30 p.m. providing hospitality meals for more than 100 persons. One hundred or more volunteers have been involved, many of them from other churches. For information, contact Donna Travis, 672-6116, or the church office, 679-8182



At the Christmas Hospitality Meal, our own Marion Wilson played carols on the piano for diners. Benjamin Musgrave sings along.

GROW-A-ROW PROJECT

Over the past five years, money has been provided for the Canadian Food Grains Program through the efforts of St. Marys United Church and FSA. The donations are matched 4:1 by CIDA. Next summer, the group will use a farm near St. Marys. Over the last four years, the congregations of FSA and St. Marys United have donated about \$84,000 to the Grow-A-Row project and when matched by the government, that means \$420,000 worth of food was shipped to countries where the need is high.

FOOD BANK CONTRIBUTIONS

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



Jean Knowles, a member of the Stewardship Mission Outreach Committee, carries out some of the items generously left for the Christmas Share Program and St. Paul's Daily Bread. 198 families totalling 600 people were recipients of the program.

FRIENDSHIP & LEARNING GROUPS

BIFOCALS

Bifocals resumes with a meeting on March 23. The meeting will feature Winnifred Wake, a bird lover, so you can imagine what she will be talking about. The next meeting after that is April 27, Music Night, and then May 25, Talent Night. Get ready to perform. Come and enjoy good food, warm fellowship, plea sing song and varied programs. New members and guests are always welcome. Call Shirley Wynne, 474-4788, or June McKay, 471-5668, for



All Good things: The Circle of Friends kindly erected and took down the giant Christmas Tree in the Sanctuary. Here, some of members of the group tie up the last bundle of branches to be put away for another

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

All persons twenty and over who enjoy fun are invited to join with the Circle of Friends. Look for information in the weekly bulletin. The next event is Saturday March 6 at 5:30 in the Fireside Room. It's the Bring-A-Friend Pot Luck Supper. After supper, there will be a coffee pub featuring Sonja Gustafson singing jazz melodies. Contact Ann MacPhail for more information at 645-8867.

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

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

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

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

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

New members are always welcome.

BRIDGE GROUP

Another season is well underway. The group plans to wrap up its year in June with a final get-together.

