

# Tidings

FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH



VOLUME 16 ● NUMBER 4

ADVENT 2006

## "AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH..."

by David McKane

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." It trips off our lips without much thought but those eight words contain the core of the Christian faith. They are the heart of this season. Without this truth—the lights, the trees, the carols, the gift-giving, the celebrations—all become something else, something still beautiful but something lesser, something bordering on empty. John is taking his first century faith community in a radically different direction. Some might call him progressive. Some might call him blasphemous. He is using cosmic and universal images, and searching for language large enough to contain what he believes to be true about Jesus and us. "And the Word became flesh." Emmanuel, God with us...the infinite has become finite, the (w)holly Other has become us. Can we comprehend that? Can we truly believe that? Can we get our collective heads around that?

The 20<sup>th</sup> century poet, writer and broadcaster, John Betjeman, wrestled with this in one of his poems:

*And is it true? And is it true,  
This most tremendous tale of all,  
Seen in a stained glass window's hue,  
A Baby in an ox's stall?  
The Maker of the stars and sea  
Become a Child on earth for me?*

And is it true? If it is true, then a great sea change has taken place. God resides in us not out there someplace, or up in heaven but in us, in us. If God resides in us then every human being is a reflection of God and all of creation is sacred, holy, and, as Paul tells the Church at Philippi, "We work out our own salvation with fear and trembling."

Meister Eckhart, the 13<sup>th</sup> century mystic accused of heresy in the turbulence of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, says that if God is not birthed in us it does not matter that he was birthed in Bethlehem: "Whoever possesses God in their being has God in a divine manner...for them, all things taste of God and in all things it is God's image that they see." What does this say about interfaith dialogue? Even then, Eckhart was exploring the boundaries between spirituality and other faiths.

Progressive theologians, poets, mystics and Gospel writers—all pointing us in the same direction. The infinite has become finite, the omnipresent has become present, the transcendent has become immanent, as the God in a manger

becomes the God on the cross. Again Betjeman:

*No love that in a family dwells,  
No caroling in frosty air,  
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells  
Can with this single Truth compare—  
That God was man in Palestine  
And lives today in Bread and Wine.*

Like Mary, the mother of Jesus, we all need to ponder these things in our hearts during this season of Christmas.



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## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

### Good Tidings of Great Joy

by David Flynn

As we enter the Advent season, we look ahead to the joyous Christmas season, with Epiphany to follow in the New Year. It is a time to anticipate, to celebrate—and remember the events of the past Church Year.

There are some wonderful articles in this issue, written by a host of FSA writers, about people whose lives embody God, stories from China to Scotland, and from our 150th Anniversary Celebration, to the next Supper Club. As well, there are reports from various committees, descriptions and photographs from past events, and the usual Program Guide to the many activities at FSA.

I am doing the layout for this issue while Ted recovers, so any strange anomalies are due to my inexperience.

Again, a reminder to check out the modified Website [www.fsaunited.com](http://www.fsaunited.com) to see the Fall issue of Tidings in vivid colour. The current issue should be on the Website in about a week.

On behalf of the Tidings Team, we wish you a wonderful celebration of Christ's coming, and your own sacred epiphany in the New Year.

[www.sculpteur-pierre-cairn.com](http://www.sculpteur-pierre-cairn.com)



## Tidings

Chair and Editor	David Flynn
Layout Artist	Ted Kostecki
Photographers	Willis Buckingham, Ted Kostecki
Staff Representatives	Ted Kostecki, Paul Merritt
Team Members	Charlotte Anne Bell, David Flynn, Barb Dalrymple, Ted Kostecki, Mary MacKenzie, Ellen McKim, Paul Merritt
Typist	Maureen Scarborough
Publisher	First-St. Andrew's United Church 350 Queens Avenue, London, Ontario N6B 1X6 Tel:(519) 679-8182 Fax:(519) 439-6838 <a href="http://www.fsaunited.com">www.fsaunited.com</a>

Four issues yearly. News Deadline for next issue: Nov., 2006  
Distribution of next issue: Mar.11, 2007  
Deadline for submissions: Feb. 25, 2007

*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.*

## COUNCIL REPORT

by Susan Fullerton, Chair

It seems like just yesterday that I was writing about the beginning of the fall season. Now, snow covers the grounds and we will soon be celebrating Christmas.

It has been a busy and productive fall. We held the Grow-a-Row Corn Roast; ran our annual stewardship campaign—once again ably chaired by Jim and JoAnn Silcox—kicked off the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration with a gala luncheon attended by William Proudfoot, and celebrated Anniversary Sunday, to name but a few events.

As we approach our Annual Congregational Meeting in February, I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you that there are many, many ways you can volunteer your time and talent at FSA. In particular, if you have not sat on a committee before, please consider doing so in 2007. For me, joining the finance committee was a wonderful way to meet new people and learn more about the Church. Please speak to a member of the nominating committee, chaired by Doug Jones, if you are interested.

I also wanted to remind everyone that Council meetings, usually held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, are open to all, so please feel to attend if you are interested.

I hope that however you spend the Christmas holidays, you are filled with peace and joy. May God bless you and your family as you celebrate the wonder of Jesus' birth.



## Info-Line

### LOS QUINCHOS

Many thanks to those who shopped at *10,000 Villages* and *Kiss the Cook*, raising \$863 for the Los Quinchos School in Managua, Nicaragua, the "Away" 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary project of the Stewardship, Mission and Outreach Committee.

Also in support of Los Quinchos, we are selling Fair Trade coffee, hot chocolate and chocolate bars from Nicaragua. 2007 Church calendars will also be available following each Sunday service.

### A TASTE OF BURNS

Saturday, January 27, 2007, with pipes, songs, dancer and entertainment by "Haggis Stew." Supper catered by The Grosvenor Club. "Immortal Memory" with DAVID McKANE as ROBBIE BURNS. Limited Seating at \$30.00 per person. Table reservations for 8 or more only. Tickets in the Office or at Coffee and Conversation

## PEOPLE OF GOD

### GOD'S STEWARDS

#### Louise and Fred McLarty

by Barb Dalrymple

As the winter solstice approaches, one FSA couple looks forward to the June 21 summer solstice. On that day, 60 years ago, Louise and Fred McLarty were married at FSA by Rev. Hossie.



To quote Fred, "I was born into First Presbyterian Church." Fred's father was the last treasurer and Fred was 14 when First joined St. Andrew's. They sat in the sixth row on the pulpit side, so Fred's father could hear better.

Louise, born in Regina, met Fred during the War, in Winnipeg, where he served with the Air Force. After the War he returned to London where they were married the next June.

She recalls that it was a VERY LONG walk down the aisle to meet her groom.



They raised two sons in FSA, James of Oshawa and Douglas of Mississauga, both baptized by Rev. MacKinnon. The boys attended Sunday school, Cubs and Scouts. The McClartys now

have five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Louise says James used to complain that she baked sweet buns for the bazaar but seldom for him. One year, in frustration, he bought a half-dozen before the buns left the house. Louise was a member and leader of the Sewing Group, Tuesday Evening unit leader, and president of the UCW.

She and Fred were members of the Mr. & Mrs. Club, Bifocals and Marathon Bridge. Fred was a Steward and an Elder, and, for 24 years has counted the offering. Sue Scorgie describes Fred as accurate, dedicated, and very protective of confidentiality.

After retiring from London Life and the Board of Education, Fred and Louise traveled the world, including visits to their grandson in the Ukraine. At 80+ Fred drove them to the West Coast. How will they celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup>?—traveling, of course! They and their two sons and wives will cruise to Bermuda in May. They will also host an Open House June 23<sup>rd</sup> to which we're all invited.

### PROFILE

#### Annabelle and Ron Logan

by Ellen McKim



Annabelle and Ron Logan have worked tirelessly in many capacities within FSA, not only giving of themselves, but being valuable role models for the children and young adults in the Congregation. Annabelle served as Chair of the UCW, of the Membership Committee and Chair of Council. Presently she is Chair of the Caring Callers Committee, as well as looking after New Member Dinners.



Ron was Chair of Trustees for 12 years. He organized a fundraising campaign for the new organ, installed in 1968, and co-chaired, with Bob Schram, the First Celebration Dinner, as well as organizing several Stewardship campaigns.

When asked how their faith has influenced their daily lives, both expressed a sense of nurturing support and unconditional caring. Attending Church regularly, they are continually inspired to tackle life's challenges, to help others in need, and to share God's teachings.

They have been blessed with four daughters, all influenced by their parents' strong moral and Christian values. Their daughters, in turn, are passing these values along to their offspring.

Ron's Christian beliefs apply not only to his family but were reflected in his business principles, as well. He operated Patton's Place with fairness, honesty and respect, leading to his induction, along with partner Gord Patton, into the London Business Hall of Fame. At the 2005 Fall Convocation, Ron was given an honorary degree from the University of Western Ontario for his community involvement.

Annabelle and Ron are proud of the United Church's forward thinking on issues of the day, both within and outside the Church, realizing that, as times change, so must the Church, while never straying too far from Christ's teachings.

FSA is honoured to have the Logans as vibrant members of our congregation, inspiring us, encouraging us, and assuring us that our Church will continue to be "At the Heart."

**MULTIGENERATIONAL FAMILIES**

**The Beatties and First Presbyterian Church**

by Kay Hillier

Colonel, the Rev. William Beattie, D. D. arrived in London in 1921 as the Minister of First Presbyterian Church, after 7 years as a chaplain during WWI. With Dr. Beattie was his wife Mabel, and four children: Laura, Basil (my father), Jack (Ann Beattie-Stokes father), and Alan. Their home was a lovely walk across Victoria park to the church.

His congregation voted decisively in favour of Church Union in 1925. He assisted at the Church Union service in Victoria Park, and First Presbyterian became First United.

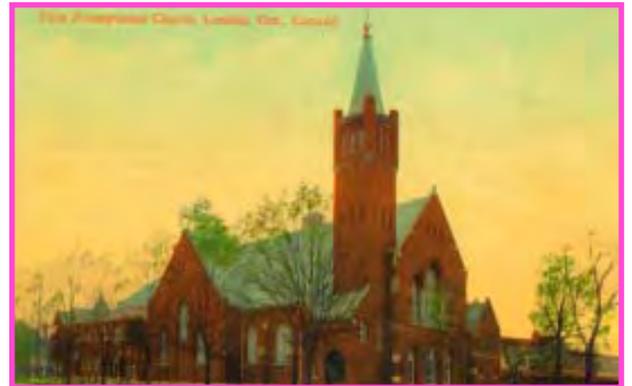
Along with caring for and feeding the homeless, and maintaining his chaplaincy for the War veterans at Westminster Hospital, Dr Beattie, in 1925, pioneered the use of radio broadcasts to shut ins. He remained attached to the radio, and years later would join my other grandfather to listen to Detroit baseball.

Dr Beattie was a kind and gentle man. He retired in 1933, succeeded by Rev. Moir Waters, who said of his predecessor, "Dr. Beattie was one of my most appreciative and kindly worshipers. He never interfered and was always a source of kindly council and encouragement."



In 1939, when First United Church was to be torn down, the Congregation amalgamated with St Andrews and 'First' was attached to their name. Dr Beattie became an active member of this congregation until his death in 1944. One of his activities was to organize and run a Christmas dinner for the homeless. He would be delighted to know that FSA continues in his tradition with our Hospitality Meals.

When I was growing up, my family attended various United Churches in London, moving to FSA when the window was dedicated to my grandfather. Jack and I were married there by Dr McQueen in 1958, leaving London shortly after for 35 years, although two of our sons were baptized here. We retired in 1993 and have been at FSA ever since, back to my grandfather's Church.



First Presbyterian Church

**MINISTER EMERITUS**

**The Rev. Dr. Frank Meadows**

by Barb Plante

On Sunday, November 26, Council, together with our ministers, David and Susan, conferred upon the Rev. Dr. Frank Meadows the title of *Minister Emeritus*. And what a lovely ceremony it was. Those of us who remember Frank's years of ministry here were delighted. At the end of a short ceremony the Congregation lovingly and appropriately rose in a standing ovation.

The title of Minister Emeritus is bestowed upon a minister who has retired and remained within the congregation he served. It is a practice similar to that exercised by universities. Not all congregations follow the practice but it is a lovely way of showing appreciation and affection for a loved and respected former minister. As with universities, the title is purely honorary. It carries with it no responsibility and no remuneration.

Frank was minister here from 1989 to 2000. He served us wonderfully, and his wife Joyce also took an active role in the life of our congregation. What a fitting way to honour their years with us. Thank you, Frank and Joyce, for your years of service to FSA, and for remaining with us and continuing to contribute to our church community. We are proud to call you our Minister Emeritus.



## STORIES...

### From the Archives

#### LOOKING BACK...TO THE 150th

by Jim Hutchinson

As we celebrate the 175th year of the founding of our Congregation, it is interesting to recall the experience and fun we had in 1982 on the occasion of our 150th year. It began January 16 with a short (cold) sunrise service in Oakland Cemetery at the grave of our founding minister, the Rev. William Proudfoot.



Later, we had less serious events. Remember the talent show, the auction, the review of wedding wear through the years? We ate, of course, at the Strawberry Social in June, the Congregational Picnic in September, and the Congregational Breakfast on November 7.

Orlo Miller was commissioned by the Congregation to write a play. Produced by Theatre London, it opened the McManus season with a host of special guests.

We unveiled the plaque on our front lawn. We welcomed previous ministers and local leaders of other faith communities. We must not forget a well-attended bazaar, the choir homecoming, or the souvenir spoons.

Finally, we had the “mountaintop experience” of a televised Anniversary Sunday. The Right Rev. Dr. Robin Barbour, M.C., M.A., B.D., S.T.M., D.D, former moderator of the Church of Scotland and Chaplain to Queen Elizabeth II, was our guest preacher. His week here was full of special events. The Offertory Anthem was the same Beethoven “Hallelujah” sung for our 100th Anniversary in 1932.

What a year—thanks to the 150th Anniversary Committee chaired by Dr. Bill Watson.

Now, a request from your Archives Committee. We have unidentified pictures. Who is in the picture? What was the occasion? When? Help us please! When you donate pictures, write on the back—it doesn’t deface them.

Can you name the individuals in the pictures below?



#### MUSICAL INNOVATION IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

by Gavin McGregor

A skit at the Gala Luncheon launching our 175th celebrations revealed how hard it was to get FSA to accept the installation of an organ. Explanations for this 19th century extremism have their roots in Scottish history.



For centuries, singing of the Psalms was led by a ‘Precentor’ or ‘Lettergae’. Lettergae means one who “lets go the letters” to an unlettered congregation, by speaking the lines of Psalms before singing them—not always well. The Precentor’s desk, situated adjacent to the pulpit, was called the Letteran or Lecteren from which he sang Psalms to a few (a very few) familiar tunes.

In time, Scottish congregations became more literate, and also allowed precentors to employ tuning forks.

Playing a musical instrument in church, however, did not take place until 1790 when “Preachin’ Geordie,” an itinerant minister, entered a country church with a fiddle under his arm. He announced the Psalm, gave the Precentor the key note and then—accompanied the singing! This sacrilege did not sit well with the congregation but the deed was done.

In 1807, Dr. Ritchie, minister of St. Andrew’s in Glasgow, introduced a small organ built by the renowned inventor, James Watt. This caused a commotion in Glasgow, which did not subside until 1808 when Presbytery moved Dr. Ritchie to Edinburgh. “Out of the way, and out of mischief,” reported one newspaper.

The first use of a choir occurred at a service at the University of Glasgow in 1815—the year of Waterloo. We are told that the choir music was received enthusiastically.

How times have changed—from unaccompanied psalms to FSA at the Heart: the musical church of London!



From *The Kirk and its Worthies*  
by Nicholas Dickson

## CELEBRATING MISSION IN CHINA

by Mary McKim MacKenzie

In October, I attended the 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of the Mission Hospital in Weihui, Honan, China, now part of Xinxiang Medical University. Dr. William McClure (father of Bob McClure, the former Moderator) began medical work there for the Presbyterian Church in 1888. Land was purchased and a hospital built.



*Author in front of Government hospital, built in 1914*

The central portion of that hospital was saved as a museum when the new hospital was planned. The celebrations included the opening of the Museum, which features a bronze bust of Dr. McClure in the front entrance. Displayed on the first floor are pictures of early missionaries provided by Dr. Sonya Grypma, whose thesis, "Healing Honan", is the story of thirty WMS nurses who served between 1847 and 1947.

The celebrations were outstanding, with red banners, coloured flags, huge red balloons and a brass band. The area was filled with medical students and hospital staff. After the dignitaries spoke, Norah McClure Busby, granddaughter of William, and I, each offered a few words in faltering Mandarin. The whole community was there to watch the fireworks display that evening.

My uncle, Dr. R. Gordon Struthers, spent 28 years tending patients in that hospital, and was the second Superintendent. In 1916 Dr. McClure joined the staff of the Shandong Christian University Medical School in Jinan, the adjoining province. He was our neighbour as I was growing up and a substitute grandfather.

Eight other relatives of missionaries attended. We were treated royally, driven to Jinan, and from there to Weifang, the site of the internment camp where so many suffered under the Japanese, and where Eric Liddell, of Olympic fame, died. In each location we were guests at a traditional Chinese feast with local dignitaries.

The events were all the more remarkable following 57 years of a regime which had refused to recognize the contributions of missionaries.

## SUPPER CLUB

by June McKay

The Supper Club at FSA is a lively group which began about 60 years ago as the "Bi-Focals." Originally it was for couples, the only requirement being that the combined ages of the couple could not be less than 80 years of age. Since then, the make-up of the group has changed and we welcome all ages, both singles and couples.



We meet seven times during the year, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, and start with a wondrous POT LUCK SUPPER, followed by a SING-SONG, arranged by Paul Merritt, and then a PROGRAM.

It is not a fund-raising group, with the exception of a \$2 donation which allows us the luxury of hiring someone to wash the dishes for us!!

Some recent program speakers were Dr. Mike Bancroft, Dr. Terry Peters, and Dr. Jim Silcox—all FSA members who presented various aspects of their work as faculty members at UWO. We also heard members of the Canadian Peacekeeping Team, and Luearie and Wilf Noordermeer, well-known world travellers from London.

In 2007, we will welcome Peter Clements, jazz pianist and associate Dean of Music at UWO, Susan McKane from Merrymount Children's Centre, and Eduard Klassen, harpist. Watch the Sunday Bulletins for more information.

If you would like to learn more about our group, feel free to come along, or call Shirley Wynne, 474-4768 or June McKay, 471-5668. Good food, happy songs and entertaining speakers—what better way to spend an evening?!



*Supper Club, October 24, 2007*

### IMPACT FOR YOUTH

by Rocky Moretti

This Fall, FSA launched a new youth program called IMPACT, geared toward grades 7 to 12.

The IMPACT program has several elements, including a school program during church services, a youth group which meets for a variety of activities, and an after-school program which provides an opportunity for high school students to socialize at FSA. The name IMPACT was chosen to reflect the goal of the program—to make a positive impact on the lives of its members, their families, FSA, the community and, while they're at it, the entire globe!

IMPACT was inaugurated on October 15<sup>th</sup> with high school students meeting in the upper room for what promises to be a dynamic, active year of group activities and exploration. Following church, the young people had lunch and then had fun playing an improvisational theater game.

Since then, the IMPACT group has been to the Pioneer Village Haunted Hayride, gone curling, and has plans for a Christmas Party, a skating outing and a cross country skiing trip. Look for announcements in the Church Bulletin of coming IMPACT events and Sunday School programs.

In November, IMPACT also started meeting on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month from 2:45 to 5:15 pm, to enjoy films, play board and card games and just hang out.

The leaders of the IMPACT program are Dale Radoja, a student at the University of Western Ontario who sings in the FSA choir, and Rocky Moretti, who recently started attending FSA along with his wife Valerie and their four children, Myrna, Stella, Talia and Tad. If you have any questions about IMPACT, please call Dale Radoja at 473-3745 or Rocky Moretti at 642-4896.

And watch for our IMPACT!

### UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

by Mary McKim MacKenzie

On January 21st, 2007, the United Church's Women's Organization will celebrate forty-five years since the amalgamation of the Women's Association—traditionally concerned with local church matters—and the Women's Missionary Society. According to the UCW constitution, membership includes all women in the church.

Donna Travis, our President, would like those who are not regular attendees at any of the three groups to know that they are welcome to come to any meeting that is of interest, in particular the General meeting potluck in December, and the Annual meeting in June.

A sincere thank you to all the women and men who generously gave of their time to make the Holly Bazaar a success. It brought in upwards of \$10,000, remarkable in view of the smaller crowd. *(Some pictures of the Bazaar are on the back page.)*

The next fundraising event will be a sale of Antiques and Collectables in March. Keep this in mind while pondering what to do with redundant articles which are too valuable for the Rummage Sale.

### OUR 175<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

by Donna Ellis

Our anniversary is underway! The celebration has begun! We're hoping that pedestrians and drivers alike notice the big anniversary banners facing onto Waterloo Street. The Anniversary Gala Luncheon was a



big success. William Proudfoot was the "surprise guest" and he was such a hit that we are hoping he reappears at some other anniversary events this year.



There are a number of anniversary items for sale as fund raisers. Contrary to rumours, the anniversary bottles for sale at Coffee and Conversation contain a very fine vintage non-alcoholic juice—not wine. The sparkling juice is available in peach, apple-raspberry and white grape. If you haven't tried some yet, please do. The juice is great for holiday entertaining and gift giving. And check out the anniversary stationery and cuddly bears that also sport the anniversary logo. All of these anniversary items make great gifts.

We are nicely underway with the celebrations, with many more exciting events coming up. Check your anniversary calendar and watch Sunday Bulletins for updates as we move into the early months of 2007.

**PROPERTY**

**PROUDFOOT HALL**

*by Bill Cockshutt*

**H**ave you seen and felt the uplifting atmosphere of our newly renovated lower hall? It is now a fitting compliment to the magnificence of our Sanctuary, and the welcoming ambiance of our Atrium—a brighter place to celebrate our faith on summer Sundays, for Council to meet and plan our future, for music appreciation, and for fellowship activities.



Beautiful new windows light our daytime activities but can be closed off completely by the rich coloured drapes. Chandeliers and column sconces complete the range of lighting available for all occasions from meetings to Supper Club, from wedding receptions to Hospitality Suppers.

Notice the new curtain and framing of the stage for Robbie Burns' night and theatre presentations. A power screen will also be added soon for power-point presentations and guest speakers.

And more—new colour scheme, new entry landings from the Narthex, new floor, new tables, and new side wall treatment. Everything has been done to provide a warm, welcoming and beautiful space for the enjoyment of our members and our visitors, as we demonstrate the Heart of First St. Andrews.

Our thanks to Bob Vosper, Ed Ellis, and all the members of the sub-committee who planned, revised, and directed this renovation, with the help of designer Pauline Slattery. We are extremely grateful, as well, to Emile Kellenberger and Brian Parr, who spent many long hours chasing city permits and sub-contractors, fabricating trim, and directing all phases of the work. It would not have been possible to complete this work in such a short time frame without their expertise and dedication.

Go down to Proudfoot Hall and celebrate!



*Supper Club, October 24, 2007*

**A LOOK AT OUR FINANCES**

*by Michael Cooney*

**W**e are now putting together next year's budget, based on budgets submitted to the Finance Committee by the committee chairs. Because of its importance, I asked Barb Plante, Chair of the Ministry and Personnel Committee (M&P), to comment separately on the M&P budget.

“When you look at the M and P budget, it is apparent that it is the largest, as it is for all churches. This, of course, is as it should be since our staff is our greatest asset. It is their leadership and expertise which ensures that we are a healthy, thriving, and growing congregation, starting an exciting year of celebrating who we were, who we are, and where we are going. There is probably no other United Church in Canada which has our amazing combination of worship services, mid-week programmes, lecture series, concerts, and community outreach. In large part, this is because of the excellence of our staff. And we are proud to call them “ours”, and to have the budget to pay them the salaries they deserve.”

The Finance Committee appreciates, along with the efforts of our staff, the generosity, hard work and commitment shown by so many members of the congregation. It is these attributes that make First St. Andrews a special place. Through everyone's generous support and with creative ideas from our committees, we will maintain a fiscally strong Church.

Our other “great” asset is the church building itself. A wonderful building, a building with great history, a building with many memories but—as with any older structure there is continued maintenance and upkeep. Over the next 5 to 10 years we can expect several large projects to maintain the integrity of the building.

We have had a wonderful 175 years “At the Heart”. Lets start planning for the next 175 years!!!!



## PAST EVENTS

### KAREN AND BILL BUTT

by Joan Bancroft

September 17 was Mission and Service Sunday, and FSA was blessed to hear Karen and Bill Butt. Missionaries on furlough, they return in February to their communications work with the Christian Council of Mozambique.

Their passion for their work and for the people was evident. For the children, Karen described a church in Mozambique with mud floor, stone chairs, no electricity, and drums, shakers, and symbols for music. She showed pictures to help them envision children who are AIDS' orphans.



With the help of slides, Bill's sermon added more information about the 7<sup>th</sup> poorest country in the world, where few people are educated beyond Grade 5, where life expectancy is 37, and where people earn less than \$1 a day. Amongst adults, the HIV/AIDS infection rate is 33%—amongst girls aged 15-25 years, the rate rises to 50%.

They educate young people about HIV/AIDS. Karen works with girls 10-14, who learn to sew, embroider, and crochet bags and banners, decorated with HIV/AIDS symbols and words.

Bill works with young people 18-24. Together, the Butts recently produced a video with their own music—which they showed us—to educate young people about risky sexual behaviours.

Besides educating us about their important work, they also thanked the Canadian Food Grains Bank for their help. Through the M&S fund, grains are sent to Mozambique and new crops established.

It was appropriate, then, that following the Service, we celebrated our own Food Grains Bank Project by sharing a wonderful lunch of corn, beans, and rolls in the Fireside Room. It gave us an opportunity for community building with fellow members and visitors from St. Mary's UC, our partner in the Project.

M&S Sunday was a special day at F.S.A. Thanks be to God!



### ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY 2006

by Herb Wonfor

On Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, FSA celebrated its 174<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. As usual, we were inspired by the London Citadel Salvation Band, the Scott Kearns' Chorus, and special music from the Senior Choir. The Anniversary Committee invited the Rev



Gretta Vosper as speaker, someone who would challenge our thinking.

Ms Vosper, minister of West Hill United Church, Scarborough, is Chair of the Canadian Centre for a Progressive Christianity (CCPC). The CCPC argues for a Christian understanding broader than the belief in a god who has a personal relationship with and who is revealed to humanity through the historical Jesus of Nazareth. Members of the CCPC draw their inspiration not only from the Bible but from other sources of wisdom, regarding all writings as fallible human expressions requiring evaluation of their contributions to our lives.

Saturday afternoon, Ms Vosper addressed about 80 people—coming from several area churches—on the subject of progressive Christianity. She outlined advances in knowledge over the last few centuries, regretting that Christian thinking had not kept pace. Her presentation was followed by a lively discussion. In the evening, Gretta's partner, composer Scott Kearns, and his all-female chorus, presented a concert on the Wonder of Life.

In her sermon, Ms Vosper challenged us to welcome people with different views so that we grow together through honesty, respect, intellectual rigor, courage, creativity, and, especially, love. Following the service, there was a lunch and Birthday Cake—plus a buzz of conversations about the sermon. Some appreciated her emphasis on the inner and outer spirit. Others regretted the omission of the historical Jesus and the creative presence of God.



Whatever our perspective, there is no question that our thinking is being challenged as we go into our 175<sup>th</sup> year!

### PROUDFOOD LECTURE

#### Bishop Spong

by Susan Shelstad

Bishop John Shelby Spong, retired Episcopal bishop of Newark, accompanied by his wife Christine, returned to FSA on Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006 for our third annual Proudfoot Lecture. This controversial and progressive liberal Christian leader was our inaugural speaker in 2004. Once again we had a full house for the evening with people coming from great distances and many denominations to hear him.



The lecture was entitled, "The Sins of Scripture: How a Book of Life became for many the Source of Death." It was based on his most recent book, where he argued that the Bible contains many texts that have been used in hurtful ways against the environment, women, homosexuals, children, and Jews. As a deeply committed Christian, Spong wants us to reclaim the sacred story in our scriptures, the story

of God who is the Source of Life, of Love, and the Ground of All Being, the God who calls us to love even our enemies.

Following the lecture there was a lively question and answer period. He tackled questions about atheism and prayer in his usual articulate and warm manner. "Are you an atheist in cleric's clothing?" he was asked. He answered, "I believe in God passionately. What I doubt is the way we understand God." "Would you say your life is a prayer?" He answered, "I think you've caught it perfectly. A lot of prayers are really adult letters written to Santa Claus."

At the end of the evening many people went to the chapel to meet Spong personally and have him sign copies of his books. The Middlesex Resource Centre provided a book table in the Atrium.



# 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!"*

September 9, 2006 Kathryn Alsop and Justin Riedstra  
October 7, 2006 Andrea Galloway and Jamie Kuntz  
October 7, 2006 Tracey McManus and Melanie Studholme  
October 28, 2006 Cecile Beaurepaire and Pierre Mattar  
October 28, 2006 Bethany Hook and David Cousins

## DEATHS

*"Well done good and faithful servant."*

Jean Hawkins September 16, 2006  
Marie Stratton October 7, 2006  
Albert Kilb October 29, 2006  
Joan Ramsay November 4, 2006

## BAPTISMS

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

September 9, 2006 Ella Shea McKane-Murakami, daughter  
of Jeanne McKane and Rob Murakami  
September 10, 2006 Norah Grace Bryans, daughter of  
Emily and Michael Bryans  
October 15, 2006 James Gerard Newbery, son of Alison  
Brookes and Ted Newbery  
October 15, 2006 Thomson Hardy Silcox, son of  
Monique and Christopher Silcox  
Quinn Jacob Robert Tufts, son of Jil  
Kennedy and Jacob Tufts  
November 26, 2006 Sarah Nicole Meadows, daughter of  
Mary and James Meadows

## PAST EVENTS *continued*

### KYIV CHAMBER CHOIR

*by Charlotte Ann Bell*

The *Sounds of Ukraine* reached the rafters and beyond when the Kyiv Chamber Choir performed at FSA on Monday evening, October 30th. Having recently completed a Scandinavian tour, London was the second stop on their 15-day Canadian tour.

Conducted by Mykola Hobdych, the 21 choir members performed traditional and modern sacred works in the first part of their performance. The rich, deep tones of the men and the soaring voices of the women filled the sanctuary with the close, mystic harmony of one thousand years of Ukrainian Orthodox choral literature. Mr. Hobdych often joined in the singing, lending his exuberant personality to the incredibly full sound of the choir.

The second portion of the concert was devoted to a weaving of folk tales of village life, uninterrupted by applause. The women carried large garlands of flowers which they used effectively in several ways, and the men changed their concert garb for less formal attire. Although



sung in Ukrainian, it was not difficult to see the patterns of love lost and love gained, of jealousy and triumph, of hard work, and most of all, the sheer joy of being alive. The choir members were very effective in relating the stories, through their facial expressions and constant choreographic movement, and it was a pleasure to watch as well as to hear. Although much of the singing was done *a cappello*, drums, recorders, and ancient instruments added to the mesmerizing performance.



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# FSA Program Guide

Advent, Christmas and Epiphany 2006

## WORSHIP



<b>December 17</b>	<b>9:00am and 10:30am</b> Third of Advent Rev. Dr. David McKane		
<b>December 20</b>	<b>7:45pm</b> Christmas of Hope		
<b>December 24</b>	<b>10:30am</b> Rev. Dr. David McKane	<b>February 11</b>	<b>9:00am and 10:30am</b> Annual Meeting Rev. Dr. David McKane
	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES</b>	<b>February 18</b>	<b>9:00am and 10:30am</b> Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad
	<b>7:00pm</b> Family Service Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad	<b>February 20</b>	<b>5:30pm</b> Pancake Tuesday
	<b>10:00pm</b> Candlelight Communion Service Rev. Dr. David McKane	<b>February 21</b>	<b>7:00pm</b> Ash Wednesday - Chapel Service
<b>December 31</b>	<b>10:30am</b> Rev. Dr. Frank Meadows	<b>February 25</b>	<b>10:30am</b> Lent 1 Rev. Barry Moore - Faith Story 2
<b>January 7, 2007</b>	<b>9:00am and 10:30am</b> Epiphany Communion Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad	<b>March 4</b>	<b>9:00am and 10:30am</b> Lenten Communion Rev. Dr. David McKane
<b>January 14</b>	<b>9:00am and 10:30am</b> Baptism Rev. Dr. David McKane	<b>March 11</b>	<b>10:30am</b> Rabbi Joel Wittstein
<b>January 21</b>	<b>9:00am and 10:30am</b> UCW June McKay	<b>March 18</b>	<b>10:30am</b> Guest from Muslim Community
<b>January 28</b>	<b>9:00am and 10:30am</b> Rev. Dr. David McKane	<b>March 25</b>	<b>9:00am and 10:30am</b> Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad
February 2, 3	Buxtehude Festival		
<b>February 4</b>	<b>9:00am and 10:30am</b> Rev. Dr. David McKane		



## MUSIC

### MUSIC: CHORAL AND INSTRUMENTAL

*First-St. Andrew's is committed to a Music Ministry that is rich in variety, grounded in spiritual integrity and inclusive of all ages. Consider the many opportunities to rejoice with us in 2006-2007.*

Again this year, our Advent and Christmas services will be filled with seasonal sounds as sung and played by our various music groups.

On December 17, our Senior Choir and FSA Strings will present portions of Vivaldi's Gloria during the service. And the Christmas Eve 10pm service will, once again, be filled with carols both sung and played by our senior choir and FSA strings.

Advent, Christmas and Epiphany are a time for special concerts. You are encouraged to attend as many of the events listed in the next column, as you are able.



#### Junior Joyfuls

*October 29, 2006*



#### Joyful Singers

*October 29, 2006*

#### Choir Recording

Looking for an inexpensive but unique Christmas gift? Why not consider one (or more!) of our CD's: Favorite Hymns (\$10) and Christmas is Love (\$15). The price is right and we know the recipient will have many hours of enjoyable listening. Look for the displays on tables in the Atrium, Narthex and by the Chapel.

Remember—all revenues go directly to the Church.



#### FRIDAY ADVENT NOON RECITALS

**12:00-12:30** *lunch, \$5 by Thames Culinary School*

**December 15** Paul Merritt, Organ  
Allison Graham, Oboe

**December 22** The Laudamus Bells  
Barbara Plante, Conductor



*Laudamus Bells, October 29, 2006*

#### CONCERTS IN EPIPHANY

**BUXTEHUDE 300**

##### ORGAN AND CHORAL WORKS

**Friday, February 2nd, 8:00pm**

The Thames Scholars  
Gerald Neufeld, Director  
Paul Merritt, Organ  
Free Concert

##### CHAMBER WORKS

**Saturday, February 3rd, 8:00pm**

Patricia Green, Mezzo-Soprano  
Joseph Lanza, Baroque Violin  
Laura Jones, Viola da Gamba  
Sandra Mangsen, Harpsichord  
Admission: \$15 and \$10

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

### CRADLE ROLL

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

**Coordinator: Martha Bere (641-6947)**

### NURSERY

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

**Coordinator: Jolie Robertson (675-1533)**

### CHURCH SCHOOL

Family Christmas Eve Service, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm

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

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

**Coordinators: Chris and Monique Silcox (293-3960)**

## YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

### TEENS IN TRANSIT (TNT)

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

**Leader: Nancy Howard (289-0540)**

### TEEN CONFIRMATION CLASS

A class with four young people is underway and looking forward to confirmation in the spring.

### IMPACT

- ⊕ Sunday mornings during the 10:30 a.m. service, high school age young people meet in the Upper Room for a learning program.
- ⊕ Youth Group (grades 7-12) meets every two weeks for a variety of activities.
- ⊕ After high school program meets the second and fourth Thursday of every month in the Upper Room from 2:45 – 5:15 p.m.

**Impact Coordinators: Dale Radoja (473-3745) and Rocky Moretti (642-4896).**

## ADULT MINISTRY

### SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

This group meets weekly from 9-10am in the Music Room (upstairs).

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

### THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

10am in the Parlour.

No sessions in December. We begin again on Thursday January 4.

**Facilitator: Susan Shelstad (679-8182)**

### DREAM GROUP

Come and discover the amazing world of your dreams. We meet usually on the last Friday of the month at 7:30pm in the Parlour. (No meeting in December.)

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

### SPIRITUALITY ON TAP

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

### COMING THIS WINTER...

#### PART 3 OF "LIVING THE QUESTIONS"

#### 4 MORE WEEKS OF THE DVD AND WEB-BASED STUDY:



**DISCOVERING  
THE RELEVANCE OF  
CHRISIANITY IN  
THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY  
AND WHAT A  
MEANINGFUL  
FAITH CAN LOOK**

**LIKE IN TODAY'S WORLD. WE BEGIN  
ANOTHER 4-PART SERIES ON WEDNESDAY  
JANUARY 17TH AT 7PM 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 always appreciated.

## PASTORAL CARE

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

### PRAYER CHAIN

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

### CARE FOR THE CAREGIVER

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

### CONGREGATIONAL VISITING TEAM

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

### COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Every Sunday, following our 9am and 10:30am worship services, the congregation is invited to go down to Proudfoot Hall, below the Sanctuary, for refreshment and the deepening of friendship.

During the summer months, this takes the form of lemonade on the lawn after the 10:30am service. This is an opportunity for each person to make contact and share his/her journey as a valued individual within our community of faith. Volunteers are needed to



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

make and serve coffee and to clean up.

### COUNSELLING TEAM

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

### RIDES FOR SENIORS

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

### BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

A Baptismal preparation session is held prior to every Baptism (usually the Thursday evening before) to prepare the parents who are bringing their children for Baptism. We explore the meaning of Baptism, and prepare for the Sunday service. Our next baptism is on January 14. Call the office if interested (519-679-8182).

### STEWARDSHIP MISSION OUTREACH

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

### HOSPITALITY MEALS

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

### ST. PAUL'S DAILY BREAD

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



## FRIENDSHIP & LEARNING GROUPS

### UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

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

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

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

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

The UCW welcomes and encourages all women at FSA to become a member of the U.C.W. and to help keep up the good work in the years ahead. For information call **Donna Travis, 672-6116**.

### FSA SUPPER CLUB (FORMERLY BIFOCALS)

The Supper Club meets seven times during the year, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, for pot luck and entertainment, fellowship and varied programs. (See our story on page 6)

In 2007 we have some several interesting programs planned. Please feel free to come along and join this congenial group for any of these events. For example, on **April 24, 2007**, we are very thrilled to welcome back **EDUARD KLASSEN** who will present a concert with his **PARAGUAN HARP**. Eduard was born in Paraguay, South America and now resides in the Stratford area. He has performed concerts in over 20 countries, over 3,000 concerts in all. He was our guest in March, 2006 and we all were excited and privileged to have the opportunity to hear and meet him. Don't miss this very special evening !!

Mark these dates on your calendar : January 23, March 27, April 24 and May 22.

For more information, call **June McKay 471-5668** or **Shirley Wynne 474-4768**. All are welcome



*Supper Club, Tuesday, October 24, 2006*

### BRIDGE GROUP

The Marathon Bridge Group is well underway under the coordination of Jim and Jean Young. For information contact the **Youngs at 681-8119**.

### THE MEN'S BROWN BAG LUNCH

Every Wednesday at noon, from September to April, a group of men meet in the Parlour over brown bag lunches, washed down with coffee and tea prepared by Ted Kostecki. David McKane is our facilitator—although we have been known to meet when he is away.

What do we talk about? Well, it's a guy thing, so we talk about sports, politics (carefully, since we represent a wide range of views), our work (and play)—and religion. Religious topics range from FSA itself—for example its music—to questions of a deeper spirituality. Again, being men, someone usually has an appropriate (?) joke which brings us back to reality—when we start to get too theoretical.

Please join us for our first get together in 2007, on Wednesday, January 10, 12-1. For more information, contact **David McKane, 679-8182**

### ISABEL GETLIFFE SEWING GROUP

Meets Wednesday from 9:30am-2 pm Everyone interested in hand and machine sewing, cutting and stuffing is welcome. Coffee is provided. Bring a lunch. The group prepares items for sale at the annual Bazaar in the fall. The sewing group is on hiatus until Easter at which time it will start up again for the next Bazaar. For information contact **Lorraine MacDonald, 433-8815**.

### THE KNIT WITS

A group of experienced and beginner knitters get together on the first Tuesday of each month from 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. They produce items for children and adults who are cold and in need in our community. For information, call **Carol Leenders, 519-432-1233**.





# A FINAL WORD

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY 2006



**THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT  
DECEMBER 10, 2006**

*Hark the Herald Angels Sing*



**THE HOLLY BAZAAR,  
NOVEMBER 4, 2006**



*Mrs White*



*Thank  
You!*



*The littlest Angel*



*Away in  
a  
Manger*



## FIRST-ST. ANDREW'S MINISTRY

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

**Rev. Dr. Susan Shelstad: Minister of Christian Development**

**Rev. Dr. Frank Meadows: Minister Emeritus**

**Paul Merritt: Director of Music**

**Ted Kostecki: Community Development Coordinator**

**Sue Scorgie: Church Administrator**

**Maureen Scarborough: Administrative Assistant/Receptionist**

**Rusty Robertson: Custodian**