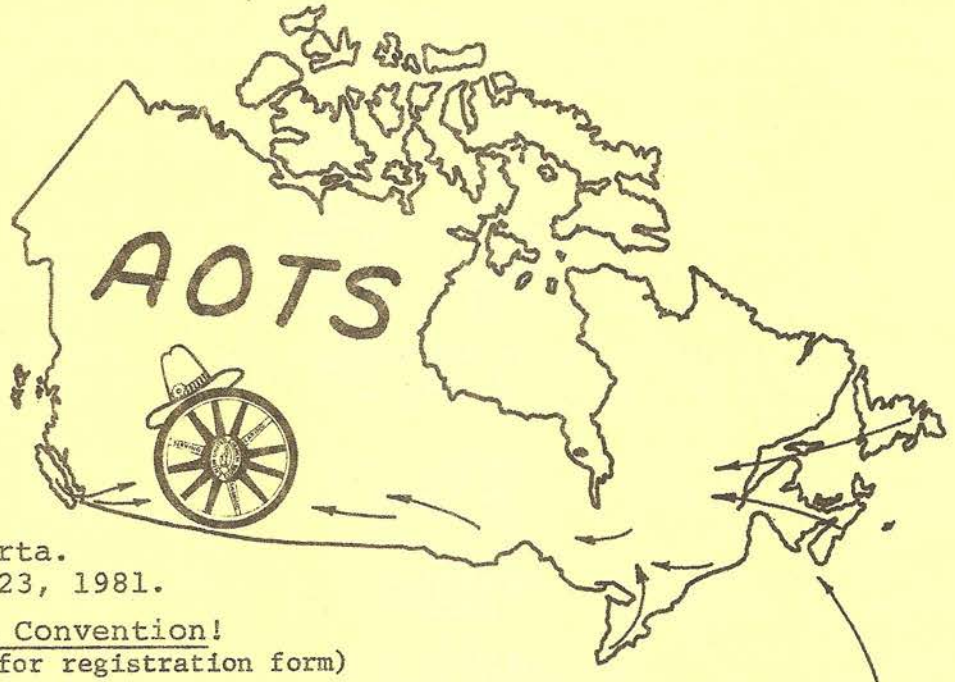
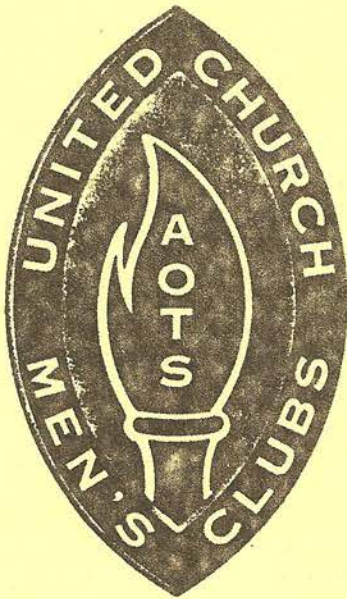


National AOTS Newsletter

Vol. 4, No. 1. February 1981.



Calgary, Alberta.
August 21 to 23, 1981.

12th Biennial Convention!
(see back cover for registration form)

- In this issue:
- Men's conferences, a full calendar
 - Club News, 34 clubs report
 - Alan Staig: AOTS and the Church
 - Annual financial statement
 - Editorial: The Long Journey

AOTS is a movement of United Church men founded in 1923 and dedicated to promoting Christian fellowship, deepening the spiritual life of men, and developing effective programs of Christian service. Clubs are active across Canada, from Vancouver Island to Newfoundland, and in Bermuda, and are united under the National Association. The Newsletter is published by the National Association for the exchange of information between clubs and individual members. It appears four times a year: February, April, September and November from the office of the Executive Secretary: G. Allan Smith, #602 70 Baif Boulevard, Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4C 5L2.


Editor - Maurice Wright

National Association of United Church AOTS Men's Clubs

The United Church of Canada

"I am among you As One That Serves." Luke 22:27.

COMING EVENTS

- March 2 - Mark Gibbs, eminent British Christian layman, speaking on "Christians With Secular Power", Asbury and West U.C. (3180 Bathurst St., Toronto), 8 PM. Mark Gibbs is editor of Laity Exchange, author of God's Frozen People and God's Lively People. Sponsored by Toronto Conference AOTS Men's Club Council and Asbury and West United Church.
- March 28 - 9 AM to 7 PM, 1981 B.C. Round-Up, Duncan U.C., Duncan, B.C. Theme speaker: Alan Staig. Please advise Jock Gillatt, 377 Beech Ave., Duncan, 746-6084, as to numbers (men and wives) attending, and ferry time (if coming from the mainland).
- April 3 - South Saskatchewan AOTS Spring Round-Up, Lakeview U.C., Regina. Theme speaker: Alan Staig. Contact: Ray Silzer, 48 Marsh Cr., Regina, S4S 5R5, (306)584-1006.
- April 10-12 - 1981 (27th) Ontario Round-Up, Geneva Park. Theme speakers: Dr. Bob McClure former Moderator of the United Church, and Don Smith, past Executive Secretary, National Association UC AOTS Men's Clubs: "AOTS and You". Contact: Keith MacFayden, 1081 Pharmacy Ave., Scarborough, Ont. M1R 2H2, (416)755-9857.
- April 29 - Niagara Presbytery UCM Spring Rally, St. Paul Street U.C., St. Catharines, Ont. Theme speaker: Alan Staig. Contact: Ralph Graham, #4 290 Glenridge Ave., St. Catharines, L2T 3K4, (416)682-2126.
- May 1-3 - 1981 Manitoba Laity Conference, place to be announced. Theme: "Reaching Out". Speaker: Rev. Eleanor Geib, Westworth U.C., Winnipeg. Contact: Glen Bergson, East Kildonan U.C., Winnipeg.
- * May 2 - UCM Coastal Men's Conference, Langley, B.C. Contact: Charles Lucas, 7781 Elwell Street, South Burnaby, B.C., (604)522-2112.
- June 5-7, 12-14 - 29th UCM Muskoka Men's Conference. Theme speakers: Rev. Robt. F. Smith and Robt. C. Plant - "A Working Faith". First weekend at Elgin House, Port Carling, Ont., for men only; second weekend at Delawana Inn, Honey Harbour, Ont., for men and wives. Contact: Roy Atkinson, 391 King Street East, Oshawa, Ont. L1G 7L3, (416)723-5101.
- * June 13-14 - West Manitoba Churchmen's Conference, Riding Mountain National Park, Manitoba. Contact: Clare Bailey, 43 Valleyview Drive, Winnipeg, R2Y 0R5, (204)837-2612.
- June 17-21 - "Kirchentag" (the day of the Church), Hamburg, West Germany. Planning a vacation in Germany this year? Consider attending; about 70,000 people are expected!
- August 7-9 - Laity Summer Event of the Montreal and Ottawa Conference, Lennoxville, P.Q. For men, women, and children. Contact: R.G. Beairsto, #204B, 352 Dorval Ave., Dorval, P.Q., H9S 3H8, (514)631-8594.
-  August 21-23 - 12th Biennial Convention, National Association of UC AOTS Men's Clubs, University of Calgary. Contact: George Waite, 3420 Cardston Cr., Calgary, T2L 0S6, (403)289-9052, or Convention Registrar Steve Megley, 10707 Maplecreek Dr. SE, Calgary, T2J 1V4. See back cover for registration form.
- * September 12-13 - 26th Stanhope Men's Weekend, Camp Abegweit, P.E.I. Contact: Dave Murphy, 28 Hawthorne Ave., Charlottetown, P.E.I. C1A 5Y3, (902)892-6985.
- * September 19-20 - 26th Central Newfoundland Men's Conference, Loon Bay Camp. Contact: Cyril Locke, Box 190, Springdale, Nfld., A0J 1T0, (709)673-3326.
- * October 3-4 - 23rd Manitoba Laity Weekend Retreat, Lakeside Centre, Gimli, Man. For men and women of all ages. Contact: Murray McPherson, 740 Lanark St., Winnipeg, R3N 1M3, (204)489-9344.
- October 16-18 - 27th Banff Men's Conference, Banff Centre for Continuing Education, Banff, Alberta. Contact: Doug Jamieson, 6208 34 Street S.W., Calgary, T3E 5L9, (403)249-5655.
- * October 31 - November 1 - 2nd Cape Breton Island Men's Conference. Contact: Malcolm MacDonald, R.R. #5, Dutch Brook, Sidney, Nova Scotia, B1P 6G7, (902)564-9640.

CLUB NEWS

It is a fat packet of news we have this time, from 34 clubs, partly because news was omitted from the last issue but also because we have 10 clubs reporting for the first time (*). Also, a number of interesting items has added to the length. But then, that is what this is --- a newsletter, a report on what you are doing that is likely to be of interest to others, a story of the great diversity of AOTS activity across this land. If you are looking for new program or project ideas you may find some here. And don't forget, the next mailing deadline is March 27th, and the address: The Executive Secretary, G. Allan Smith, #602 70 Baif Blvd., Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4C 5L2.

British Columbia Conference, 7 clubs reporting.

Fairfield U.C., Victoria (#685), five excellent monthly newsletters received from editor Ted Belt, September to February. Some very interesting topics at recent meetings: two ladies from the production of "The Wonder of It All", a musical based on the life of Emily Carr (1871-1945; regarded as Canada's greatest artist, a native of Victoria who sketched the Indian villages and forests of her homeland and who later in life achieved recognition as a writer as well); a report on Naramata (one of five national training centres of the U.C.); an illustrated talk on "The Enigma of Africa"; a B.C. Tel film: "100 Years of Telephone Service in B.C."; "Money Matters", a talk on investment options; and a musical evening with members of the Victoria Conservatory of Music, this latter for their annual Valentine Ladies Night Dinner, Feb. 3rd. And coming up in March: "Hi! We Care", the acronym for Handicapped Individuals Worldwide Encouraging Christian Awareness Reaching Everyone, on what we can do for the handicapped and what they can do for us (this is, as you know, the Year of the Disabled). A fine program; it means that the evening out is time well spent --- a major factor in a successful AOTS fellowship.

Some fund-raising results: June Strawberry Tea - \$176, annual Christmas Candy-Cane Tea - \$137, and annual sale of Christmas nuts - \$175. This effort supports donations to worthy causes, one being \$150 for new marine radio equipment for the west coast mission ship "Thomas Crosby V", a project of the Vancouver Island District Council. [Started in early November, by mid January two thirds of the \$3600 goal had been raised.]

Gordon U.C., Victoria (#757), November newsletter, with the logo (wheel and white hat) of the 12th Biennial Convention on the letterhead! The big news here is the major role that Gordon men will now be playing on the Vancouver Island District Council, having placed several members in key spots: John Dexter as president, Jack Law as treasurer, and Larry Buchanan (club president and newsletter editor) as secretary. [Norman Godfrey of the Brechin club and Gordon Taylor of Centennial will be serving as 1st and 2nd vice presidents, respectively.] Quite an undertaking for these fellows.

Duncan U.C., Duncan (#016), some notes from Don Morton, our faithful Duncan correspondent. This remarkable club never ceases to amaze us: in the size and scope of their work at home and in their generous outreach to other clubs. Thus, since October Duncan members have visited the clubs at Centennial, Esquimalt, Fairfield, Gordon, and Oak Bay (the latter two for quarterly district council meetings), all of Victoria, plus those at Cowichan Lake, Brechin (Nanaimo), and South Burnaby, as well as the Shawnigan-Mill Bay Interdenominational Men's Fellowship in Shawnigan Lake. While some members led in the October 26th Laity Service at Duncan, others on the same Sunday took part in the Laity Service at Ladysmith and Cedar U.C.'s. And on the previous Sunday three members played leading roles in the Laity Service at St. Andrew's (Nanaimo). Finally, on the first Sunday in January the club conducted a service at the local Extended Care Hospital, 21 members turning out to lead in the singing of familiar hymns. Truly a remarkable effort.

As for project activities: the October 19th Pancake Brunch employed 42 men in two shifts on this Sunday morning to raise \$285; two days later 38 men prepared and served a roast

beef dinner to 121 ladies of the UCW Thankoffering meeting, netting \$146; \$300 raised in the annual November variety concert, 25 men performing before a full house in assorted songs and skits; and members are selling 4000 (!) boxes of AOTS nuts. The latest event was the annual Burns Night Concert and Dance, January 24th.

Recent donations include: U.C. M & S Fund - \$500, George Pringle Camp - \$100, Italian Volcano Relief - \$50, Christmas Cheer Fund - \$200, Unitarian Services Committee - \$100, local accident victim - \$150, "Thomas Crosby V" Radio Fund - \$500. Al Trebel is now president.

Cowichan Lake U.C., Cowichan Lake (#317), some notes from our tireless correspondent Don Morton assisted by Ernie Stafford, also of Duncan, who were visitors at two recent meetings. One was a talk by missionary Miss Penty on Samoa, and the other on the building of a technical school in Haiti by Duncan member Gordon Miller, both illustrated. Donations include \$100 to the Crosby Radio Fund. President Bob Thiessen and fellow officers were returned to serve a second term.

* Esquimalt U.C., Victoria (#033), again notes by indefatigable correspondent Don Morton. The club was joined by a contingent of Duncan members at both the December and January meetings, the former a program of Christmas music and readings. Duncan member and 1980 VIDC President Ernie Stafford installed the 1981 executive, Roy Jones becoming president. In fund-raising activities the club earned \$166 on the sale of 11 tons of newspaper and \$770 from the sale of 960 boxes of nuts, very good results for a membership of 30. Recent donations include \$200 to the Crosby V Radio Fund, \$200 to the George Pringle Camp, and, again this year, a gift to the Second Mile Fund equal in amount to their payment of dues to National. Looking ahead, the club has undertaken to convene the 1982 Pacific Coast Conference of Men.

Oak Bay U.C., Victoria (#404), a note from club secretary Doug MacDonald with the program of their 5th Annual Hobby, Art and Crafts Show in November. The show displayed the varied talents of the Oak Bay congregation in painting, sewing, wood carving, ceramics, and in other areas. Proceeds (\$100) were given to the Crosby V Radio Fund, raising the club's donation to this Fund to \$250. The sale of 1000 boxes of AOTS Christmas nuts, in a "one-night blitz", provided funds for support of local youth work. The Brechin club brought the "travelling gavel" in November so it is now up to Oak Bay to "move it on" to another Island club.

* South Burnaby U.C., Burnaby (#307), again a note from our assiduous sedulous itinerant correspondent Don Morton (who is probably in Duncan only enough to keep his membership in good standing and pay taxes). Don was at the December meeting to install the 1981 executive and enjoy, with 95 members and wives, a steak dinner prepared by the men plus an evening of Christmas music. The new president is Al Cazes.

Alberta Conference, 2 clubs reporting.

* Ponoka U.C., Ponoka (#466), a brief note from secretary T. E. Hoover reporting on the annual Ladies Night Banquet in November. Guest speakers were Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Gerry Hutchinson who had spent a year with the church on the island of Granada (West Indies, 80 miles north of Trinidad). He described the origin of the people, their life-style, and some of their problems, and she spoke about housekeeping and family life.

St. James U.C., Edmonton (#458), two reports from secretary George Robertson, one on the annual Ladies Night when 70 members and wives gathered to hear guest speaker police chief R. F. Lunney. He spoke about police work in general in Edmonton, the effect of their growing population (3% per year), and how at least 70% of local crime was related to the use of alcohol and drugs. The second was on the January meeting with guest speaker Rev. W. G. Huata, a Maori and an Anglican minister from New Zealand. A most interesting person (he was awarded the M.C. for action in World War II), he spoke on the need to give Jesus

Christ "first place" in our lives. At the end of his talk he, with his wife and daughter, treated the meeting to several Maori songs.

George also attached a note on the 26th Banff Conference of last October. 686 men attended the 3-day meeting representing all of western Canada, a number there for at least the 10th time and one, from St. James, for his 25th. Theme speaker was Rev. E. W. Scott, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, on "The Influence of Affluence". Edmonton men convened the 1980 conference; Calgary will be handling the 1981 meeting.

Saskatchewan Conference, 2 clubs reporting.

*Lakeview U.C., Regina (#315), a note from secretary Howard Riddell reporting a good year in 1980: five dinner meetings, Valentine Ball in February, catered a spring dinner for 600 people, canvassed for both the Cancer Society and Heart Fund. Donations included \$325 for kitchen equipment and \$3000 for a copier, both for the church. He adds that there is still money in the bank!

St. Andrew's U.C., Moose Jaw (#158), copies of their newsletter The Menu, September to January, the latter numbered Vol. 23, #1 (!!), reporting on the fall program: the rag drive (proposing that it be held 4 times rather than just once a year), annual nut drive (raised \$1200), sale of Savings Bonds (\$82), the annual Chuckwagon Dinner, children's Christmas party, and Ladies Night (in January). The club sent 10 men to the Banff Conference. Looking at donating a wire-less microphone for use in the sanctuary, at about \$1000. The president for 1981 is Jack Batty. A more personal note: member Ab (at 95) and Mrs. Tremain, though both currently in the hospital in Regina, recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary! Congratulations!

Ray Silzer, AOTS President for the Conference and member of the Lakeview club, and Al Diston of the Westminster club have very kindly supplied some background information on Hewitt Place and Mutchmor Lodge, two homes for senior citizens that the Regina clubs, through their District Council, have supported for many years (see AOTS Newsletter, September 1980, page 9):

"Out of a need for more accommodation for single senior citizens and at the request of the Department of Social Services (who had agreed to provide land) a committee was formed by Regina Presbytery to study the situation and report. Authority to proceed followed and in March 1960 plans were approved for construction of four buildings, each with 12 self-contained units. The project was funded by a 20% provincial grant, a 72% CMHC mortgage, and the balance plus furnishings from Regina Presbytery. Opened in May, 1961, it was named after Rev. Hewitt, the first Presbyterian minister in Regina.

Before Hewitt Place was finished the committee realized there was an even greater need for hostel-type accommodation and so laid plans for construction of Mutchmor Lodge. This was funded in a similar manner and opened in May, 1963, with 51 guest rooms. In 1971 an addition was started comprising 20 rooms plus a lounge, recreation area, chapel, and kitchenette, which opened in November, 1973.

The AOTS men of Regina did the original landscaping for these buildings and have since planted the flower beds each spring with annuals (about 1200 plants). The residents then care for them and in recent years have been awarded a plaque in recognition of the fine appearance of these gardens. The men have also transported the residents (plus some from the neighbouring Pioneer Village) to and from church services each Sunday, this requiring the use of up to 10 cars."

The men of Regina are certainly to be commended for their part in this work and for having been faithful to this responsibility for what is now 20 years. A great credit to AOTS.

Every job is a self-portrait of the person who did it. Autograph your work with excellence!
The Economics Press, Inc.

Manitoba Conference, 1 club reporting.

* Carberry U.C., Carberry (#675), a summary of 1980 activities via Clare Bailey, AOTS president for the Conference: in addition to regular monthly meetings through the year, the club helped sponsor an Easter breakfast, provided flowers for those in hospital and senior citizen homes, continued their "adoption", via World Vision, of Eun Joo, ran a Chicken Barbecue in June (netting \$565), and again donated (\$150) to the Indian Ministry Training Program. A Chinese dinner with the wives wound up the year. 1981 president: Les Anderson.

A further note by Clare Bailey advises that W. J. (Pat) Hendy of Silver Heights U.C., Winnipeg, is 1981 president of the Winnipeg District Council.

Manitou Conference, 1 club reporting.

* St. Luke's U.C., Sudbury (#157), a brief note from Clarence Campbell reporting the loss of charter member Harold Workman and letting us know of some meeting topics planned for this year: in January - "How can the church keep pace with the times?", February - "Human sexuality and marriage enrichment", March - "Dealing with death and dying", and in May - "Dialogue with youth". Looks like an interesting program.

Bay of Quinte Conference, 4 clubs reporting.

George Street U.C., Peterborough (#390), copies of their interesting newsletter Harambee (which I think means "to pull together"), September to January, by Larry Seili. At the September meeting, an interesting talk by Ross Rains on "The Navigators", a Christian organization headquartered in Colorado Springs whose purpose it is to spread the word of God through group study and discussion. Ross spoke on the activities of the Canadian branch. The club is again active in the sale of AOTS nuts, collection and sale of waste paper, and the annual Christmas tree sale. Coming up: Ladies Night - February 25th, Pancake Supper - March 3rd. Beneficiaries of their efforts in 1980 included: Canadian Bible Society, Ontario Community Centre for the Deaf, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Peterborough, the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, and several local church projects. Here are two of Larry's monthly "thoughts":

"A Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks, a hand through which Christ helps."

"Some people are certainly funny --- they want to be in the front of the bus, in the back of the church, and in the middle of the road."

* Consecon U.C., Consecon (#502), a report of 1980 activities, including: a pancake supper in March, fund-raising auction in May, Ladies Night in June, celebration of their 20th anniversary in October (visitors swelling attendance to 75), hosted the Belleville Presbytery round-up in November (91 in attendance), a father-son-daughter night in December, and finally, to cap the year, a New Year's Eve party. An interesting item: a \$20 gift, received at the 20th anniversary meeting and applied to the purchase of wrought iron, was converted by member Frank Wilson into \$175 worth of saleable articles --- which shows what ingenuity can do. Donations included: \$200 to the church and \$125 to the M & S Fund. Six men were sent to the 1980 Ontario Round-Up at Geneva Park. A fine year.

St. Paul's U.C., Stirling (#235), newsletters for September to January from editor Harold Hagerman. Noted particularly two letters (reprinted) from Cecilia Bisis, their foster child in the Philippines. Cecilia is in grade 5, is doing well as a student, and writes to express her gratitude for the help she is receiving. Other outreach projects in 1980 were \$500 for "Insulin for the Children" in Zaire (AOTS Newsletter, April 1980, page 10) and \$500 for Camp Quin-Mo-Lac. Members of the Westminster club of Belleville were visited at the September meeting, boosting attendance to 40. In November Rev. Kenneth Russ, who had come to St. Paul's as their new minister in September, was welcomed as guest speaker. Ken Tompkins is their president for 1981.

Holloway Street U.C., Belleville (#353), a letter from secretary Carl Wanamaker: joined with the UCW to put on an Irish stew dinner for the congregation in June, then staged their Roast Beef Dinner in October. Various projects combined to support donations to the church amounting to nearly \$1000.

London Conference, 5 clubs reporting.

South Raleigh, Merlin (#773), a letter from secretary Francis Pease. This is one of the few clubs having a substantial number of younger members. Highlights of the year: average attendance of 49 at the monthly breakfast meetings, sponsored the new Tilbury-Quinn club, and sent a delegation of 17 members (out of 32) to the 1980 Ontario Round-Up, to win the attendance trophy hands down. The club raised \$150 at a pancake supper and about \$1300 through the sale of nuts! A donation of \$560 was made to Camp Kenesserie (plus a work party to clear dead trees, etc.) and a number of smaller ones to the Cancer Society, Manse Building Fund, Compassion (child support), and several youth organizations, amounting to about \$840. A year to be proud of.

* South Chatham Township, Chatham (#777), a brief summary of the year's activities from secretary Bill McLellan (?). Program topics at the monthly meetings included amateur radio, natural resource management, town planning, and the tour of a local canning plant. They visited the Thamesville (April, charter night) and Park Street (Chatham) clubs, the latter to bring them the "travelling cross". The fellows also supplied a work party for cleanup etc., at Camp Kenesserie, and staged a June Pork Barbecue and sold Christmas nuts to support donations to local charities. 3 members attended the Ontario Round-Up.

Harrow-Malden, Harrow (#003), a short letter from secretary Floyd Stroud. The club sponsors Beavers and Cubs, assists with Meals On Wheels, transports cancer patients to the Windsor Hospital, and contributes to the varied work of church maintenance. Members are active in several local charities. Sale of Christmas nuts is the main source of funds.

Thamesview U.C., Fullarton (#114), assorted news clippings from Clare Boyd. Noted an interesting item in the report of an August breakfast meeting (pancakes and sausage!): the speaker was Rev. Garbutt Smith, retired Baptist minister from Ontario Street Baptist Church, Stratford, cousin of Al Smith, our National executive secretary. He spoke on drug abuse in our society. The annual Ladies Night in November took the form of a bus trip to Kitchener to enjoy a Caribbean Carnival.

Victoria Avenue U.C., Chatham (#188), newsletters for September to January. As indicated in a previous Newsletter (September, 1980, page 8) this "periodical" is quite unlike anything we have ever seen. "Uninhibited and sometimes illiterate" we said last time; other not inappropriate adjectives are: brash, irreverent, jocular, waggish, humorous, jesting. Anyway (better you should see it and judge for yourself), the message that comes across is that they must be having a great (hectic?) time there. In response to the above there was, in October, a "special edition". It began: "Since Ye Olde Club Secretary has put Chatham on the 'National Map' through his illiteracy and backwardness, this issue is respectively (sic) dedicated to the 'boys' in Toronto", and then followed the news printed backwards, in mirror image to normal print! Well shucks --- this was easier to read than the regular stuff.

The current epistles deal with the selling of nuts and mugs (no - the nuts are vegetable and the mugs mineral) plus a report on the memorable 25th anniversary weekend they had (Nov. 15-16) with Dr. Bob McClure as their guest. AOTS Conference president Ross Agar also sent a report on that weekend. Dr. McClure spoke to a Saturday evening banquet audience of 115 members and guests (including 11 of 16 past presidents) on the coming revolution --- the revolution of rising expectations in the world's less affluent countries, a revolution born of technological change because it has made us all neighbours in a world shrunken by high-speed travel and the rapid movement of goods and ideas. He sees

this as a great challenge to the Christian laity for they can bring to the task ahead "the idea of love". Dr. McClure also spoke at the two regular Sunday morning services. Also part of the anniversary weekend was a Sunday morning breakfast meeting, 72 men attending, with former member Peter McGarvey (now of CKEY, Toronto) as guest speaker. Aided by a slide presentation he described his recent visit to the Middle East, in particular the Armenian sector of Asia Minor. He compared the attempt at extermination of these people in 1914 with that of the Jewish people in Germany in 1939-45.

Hamilton Conference, 1 club reporting.

St. Paul's U.C., Oakville (#103). Several noteworthy items in the latter part of the year: proceeds of \$510 and \$380 from the sale of crafts and nuts, respectively, supported a total of \$725 in donations to a number of groups, including the Christmas Bureau, Youth Parliament, Boys and Girls Softball, and the Second Mile Fund. There was a good program of meetings through the year which saw an increase in attendance and a sharp 70% increase in paid membership, to 51. The president in 1981 is Roy McEwen.

Toronto Conference, 2 clubs reporting.

Faith U.C., Toronto (#151), a letter from president Fred Wagg. This is the story of a club, down now to about 12 members, in which the fellows are getting on in years and sufficient younger men are not coming in to carry on (see In Memoriam, November 1980, page 8). I am sure a word of encouragement would be much appreciated. Drop a line to Fred at 327 Boon Ave., Toronto, M6E 4A4.

Bellefair U.C., Toronto (#558), copies of an excellent newsletter, September to January, by president Harry Wolfram. Several interesting events: a joint meeting with the Wilmar Heights men in October, visits to the Fred Victor Mission and to Fudger House (a senior citizen's residence), and Ladies Night in February. Harry reports that through the sale of Savings Bonds the club earned \$2043! The president in 1981 is Alan McLean.

Maritime Conference, 2 clubs reporting.

Gibson Memorial U.C., Fredericton, N.B. (#350), a letter from secretary Gordon Coffin. This is a small club (10 members) but the fellowship no less enjoyable. They sponsor an annual beans, pancake and ham supper in February and sell AOTS nuts at Christmas as fund-raising activities. Among several local projects in hand are improvements to the church sign and support for the new Young Teens Christian Drama Club.

* Brunswick Street U.C., Halifax, N.S. (#253), a letter from Osborne Crowell, member of possibly our smallest club (5 members), also one of the oldest. Osborne has given us the following interesting account of this group known as the Men's Own Class:

"The Men's Own Class of Brunswick Street U.C., Halifax, recently celebrated its 80th anniversary. It was in 1900 that the late Maurice O. Crowell, prominent Halifax businessman, founded it as an adult study group, and after his death in 1945 his son Major Osborne R. Crowell carried on as leader. Following the unification of all men's work in the church under the new National Association of United Church AOTS Men's Clubs, in 1959, the Class was among the first to join, and has been active ever since. One year they won the D. R. Poole Trophy for youth work.

Although primarily a bible study study group the Class has been active in many areas of church work. Some members have qualified as lay preachers; others have served on various church boards at the local through to General Council levels, and some shared in the founding of the Halifax Inter-Church Protestant Laymen's Association and the Halifax-Dartmouth Council of Churches, two local inter-church organizations. Members have also been active in the business and professional life of the community and in service to their country in two world wars."

A further note of interest: Osborne was on the committee working towards unification of

UCM and AOTS and was the one asked, at the 1959 Keswick Convention, to move the resolution which launched the new program. He also chaired the 1963 Halifax Convention, and is a Life Member of the National Association.

Newfoundland Conference, news of 7 clubs.

From minutes of quarterly meetings of the Central Newfoundland and Humber Presbytery District Councils we have brief reports on a number of clubs. First, from Central Newfoundland:

Botwood U.C., Botwood (#023).

Reported going strong. Shared with Beavers and Cubs in a successful father-son banquet. Are welcoming a new minister, Rev. Sid Newbury.

Bishop's Falls U.C., Bishop's Falls (#215).

Held their June meeting at Loon Bay Camp and partook of a fresh salmon dinner. Looking forward to 1981. Fred Balsom returned as president.

* Buchans U.C., Buchans.

Things are quiet and the club off to a slow start because a number of members have been laid off from the mining company. The present executive will serve for a second term.

Memorial U.C., Grand Falls (#566A).

Enjoyed a very good second year despite growing pains. The successful hosting of the Loon Bay Camp meeting in September was a great boost to the members. Also conducted evening services in the absence of the minister.

St. Matthew's U.C., Lewisporte (#324).

Sponsored the Harvest Thanksgiving Festival, including the sale of vegetables. Planning, with the UCW, the purchase of a new stove for the church kitchen.

Windsor U.C., Windsor (#461).

Regular program of meetings. Sponsoring a child with Compassion Canada and contributing to support of a Vietnamese family. Friends from other churches and neighbouring communities were guests at the Ladies Night in April.

The new president of the Central Newfoundland District Council: George Morris of Grand Falls.

And from the new Humber Presbytery District Council: the clubs of St. Paul's (Deer Lake), Grace (Springdale), Zion (LaScie), and First (Stephenville) U.C.'s were represented (Nov. 6th) and reported but the reports were not recorded. The suggestion that clubs donate to the building fund of Heatherton U.C. (west coast, south of Stephenville), which had been destroyed by fire, was discussed, as were plans for a spring rally. A separate note from secretary Malcolm Fudge of St. Paul's (#778) reported two events: a Thanksgiving Day "soup supper" plus sale of fresh vegetables and, in December, a "bean supper" with sale of baked goods and preserves, the latter event netting \$533 for the club.

So ends the news. Next deadline: March 27th. Hope to hear from you.

* * * * *

Charlie Burritt Memorial Fund

We understand (from VIDC minutes) that a fund by this name in memory of Charlie Burritt has now been established. Contributions may be sent to: Mr. Don Wheeler, Secretary, South Burnaby U.C. AOTS Men's Club, 6108 Carson Street, Burnaby, B.C. V5J 2Z9.

The glory of life is to love, not to be loved; to give, not to get; to serve, not to be served.

Announcement

When it was reported last fall that Al Smith had submitted his resignation as executive secretary (AOTS Newsletter, September 1980, page 11) the reason given was "his personal situation". This was, in fact, the serious illness of his wife, Vi. On December 25th Vi passed away. As a result Al has reconsidered, and at the meeting of the National Executive on January 17th he said that he wished to continue in this office. This wish was granted.

While those close to Al were understanding of his action of last fall they also realized that with his intimate knowledge of AOTS matters and dedication to the job it would be extremely difficult to replace him. The need for this no longer exists so we can continue to enjoy his competent management of AOTS affairs as we move into the future.

We extend to Al our sympathy for the personal loss he has suffered and wish him well as he carries on as our executive secretary.

Al Smith has requested that the following message from him be printed:

"I want you all to know that I was deeply grateful for your understanding and support during the long months of Vi's illness and for your many expressions of sympathy when she passed on. Only as one lives through this experience can such concern be fully appreciated. I also acknowledge, with thanks, the many donations made to the Cancer Society in Vi's memory, by individuals and organizations. Many people will be helped by these generous gifts. Thank you."

* * * I N M E M O R I A M * * *

Josh Donnan, member of Bellefair UC AOTS Men's Club, Toronto, August 1980, at age ~60.

Jock Bremner, charter member of St. Andrew's UC AOTS Men's Club, Moose Jaw, Sask., October 1980.

Ernest McTaggart, four-time president of Cowichan Lake UC AOTS Men's Club, Cowichan Lake, B.C., October 18, 1980, at age 64.

Douglas McNabb, charter member of Minnedosa UC AOTS Men's Club, Minnedosa, Manitoba, November 6, 1980, in his 86th year.

Harold Workman, charter member of St. Luke's UC AOTS Men's Club, Sudbury, Ontario, January 3, 1981, at age 72.

Oswald Anderson, member of George Street UC AOTS Men's Club, Peterborough, Ontario, January, 1981.

Jack Grier, member of Fairfield UC AOTS Men's Club, Victoria, B.C., January, 1981.

* * * * * * * * *

NOTES FROM ALAN STAIG

There are two things that I feel the need to share with you at this time. [Actually, there are many more than two, but our editor has space limitations.]

1. AOTS and the United Church Structure.

As I travel around and meet the laity groups (especially with AOTS Clubs) I find some are not clear about the links between AOTS and the United Church, so here is a brief description.

In many ways, the National Association of United Church AOTS Men's Clubs is independent of the United Church of Canada; it has its own constitution, elects its own officers, has its own executive secretary. Membership is not confined to members of the United Church. However, the words "United Church" are in the title, and the United Church

recognition appears in tangible form as a grant (currently \$6000 a year) to the National Association. In addition, the United Church has two staff positions (of which I occupy one) with responsibility for "Ministry With Adults". My responsibility specifically includes all men's work in the Church, which in turn of course, includes AOTS. (The other staff position is filled by Marion Logan, and her ministry is primarily with women of the Church.)

The work of the National Church is carried on by a number of divisions, and we come within the scope of the Division of Mission in Canada. Within that Division, a number of "Working Units" (another name for committees) have been formed, and Marion Logan and I work with the "Ministry With Adults Working Unit". AOTS President, Murray McPherson, is a member of that Unit.

At a meeting of the Adult Working Unit last November, the following resolutions were approved:

1. Be it resolved that this Unit re-affirm the validity and desirability of men's work at all levels of the United Church, this affirmation to be expressed through recognition and support for organizations such as the AOTS and other men's groupings.
2. Be it resolved that the DMC take steps to see that the United Church Manual be revised with respect to men's work at all levels of the Church.
3. Be it resolved that this Unit request all Conferences to take the steps necessary to express their recognition of the validity and desirability of men's work within their Conference.

I shall have more to say about these resolutions in a future edition of the "Newsletter".

2. Laity Events in 1981.

On page 2 of this Newsletter is a list of some of the men's and laity events in 1981. By the time you read this, you may think that it is too late to make "New Year's Resolutions" for 1981, but in any event, please resolve to read the list with care. As you read, may I suggest you consider the following actions:

- Plan to attend at least one of the listed events.
- Copy out the information of the event nearest to you, and pin up a notice on your church notice board.
- Take note that laity events are being held in almost every province.
- Keep the list for reference, especially for names, addresses and phone numbers of the "contact persons" in the various provinces.
- Check the list for errors and changes. Because of the long lead time some of the dates are tentative (those marked *), and may move by a few days.
- Do not hesitate to contact me by letter or phone for further information on any of these events: at 85 St. Clair Ave. E., Toronto, Ont. M4T 1M8 (416)925-5931.
- When you have done all that, go back over the list, and act now to register, get information, and perhaps include one or more events in your vacation plans. The AOTS Convention in Calgary in August is particularly suitable for combining with a vacation trip.

Have a great time at the event of your choice in 1981!

— * — * — * — * —

Have you ever noticed that we are always learning new things? Even buying a load of top soil can be educational because you soon learn that while some things are dirt cheap, dirt is not one of them. Stoney Creek Horticultural Society, Newsletter, May 1980.

Annual Financial Statement, 1980.

Balance, December 31, 1979, general account \$6765.21

Receipts

Membership dues (@\$5.00/member):	Clubs	Members		
Club members -				
for 1979	6	156	780.00	
for 1980	89	1765	8825.00	
for 1980	6	104	303.50 (donations)	
			<u>9908.50</u>	
Individual members -			<u>500.00</u>	10408.50
Life memberships				50.00
Contributions				996.75
Second Mile Support				4944.10
Grant, Division of Mission in Canada				6000.00
Sale of supplies				1575.14
Interest				529.78
Miscellaneous				<u>200.00</u>
				<u>24704.27</u>

Disbursements

Executive Secretary, salary		8400.00
Employee benefits		238.80
Office expenses (supplies and stenographic)		2066.76
Telephone		337.19
Postage		450.47
Travel:		
Executive Secretary	480.00	
National President	1868.32	
Regional Vice Presidents	<u>986.65</u>	3334.97
Meetings expense:		
Annual (one)	6337.70	
Executive (four)	<u>680.50</u>	7018.20
Committees, expenses (includes Newsletter at 2163.77)		2599.42
Supplies for resale		4629.72
Conference funds		545.00
Miscellaneous (including travel advances)		<u>1393.79</u>
		<u>31014.32</u>

Balance, December 31, 1980, general account (Royal C/A) 455.10

Reserve fund (Royal S/A) 118.45

Harry Colnett Memorial Fund

Balance, December 31, 1979 9213.82

Receipts

Individuals	210.00
Clubs	633.38
Ontario Round-Up offering	573.56
Interest	<u>775.20</u>
	<u>2192.14</u>

Disbursements

Bursary to:	
Jeannette Tramhel	500.00
Melvina Johnson	500.00
	<u>1000.00</u>

<u>Balance, December 31, 1980:</u>	Royal S/A	1605.96	
	Debentures	<u>8800.00</u>	10405.96

Nominating Committee (cont., p 13)

Tom Ferguson (Chairman) - P.O. Box 13, Trenton, N.S. BOK 1X0

Phil Spence - P.O. Box 1421, Deep River, Ont. KOJ 1P0

Murray McPherson - 740 Lanark St., Winnipeg, Man. R3N 1M3

Alan Staig - United Church House, 85 St. Clair Ave. E., Toronto, Ont. M4T 1M8

Don Morton - 2832 Phillip Street, Duncan, B.C. V9L 2A4

A message from the Spiritual Life Committee, Reg Attwell chairman.

"We are in the early stages of 1981 - a New Year that stretches into the future. We do not know what lies ahead for ourselves - for our clubs - for our AOTS organization, but we do know that God has been faithful and that we can entrust our lives to Him as we journey throughout this New Year.

The Rev. Harold Boyd of Brechin U.C. AOTS Men's Club wrote the following guest editorial for the Nanaimo Free Press.* I felt that it should be shared with our total membership through the Newsletter, as the five concerns, or hopes, expressed are meaningful to each of us.

May we all step forward into 1981 with God at our side - may we share the joy of Christian Fellowship as we grow in our Faith."
*January 3, 1981.

Five concerns for new year

By Rev. HAROLD W. BOYD
Brechin United Church

It is now one week after Christmas. A brand new year awaits us. We wonder what 1981 will bring. A better question would be: what shall we bring to the new year?

Let me suggest five concerns or hopes for 1981.

1. I would hope for a deep faith, a strong inner force, a stable inward resource. We live too much on the surface and we tend to judge life by surface values: outward appearances, the amount of money, material success. Life is more than any of these. The forces of life tumbler in upon us and life becomes a scramble.

However, I think it is important to know who determines what. Do the outward forces of life which surround us and pressure us determine who we shall be or what we shall be or is this determined by a deep and abiding faith?

2. I would hope for a discerning conscience in 1981. I think we accept far too many things in

life with an easy conscience. Usually an easy conscience produces an easy morality. I am concerned with the type of morality I see looming on the horizon of life. It is a practical, pragmatic and technician type of morality. "I want what I want . . . or else" sort of thing is part of the dynamics of morality reflected in the protest movements, the acts of violence and terror, and even in some liberation movements.

Such a morality is self-centered and self-motivated. There is no real concern for one's neighbor or for the world community. What is hoped for in 1981 is a discerning, well informed and committed conscience on the part of all of us.

3. I would hope for the practice of prayer in daily life. Clergy are not the experts of prayer. Each one can lay claim to prayer and each one can begin the day with prayer. In this modern computerized society, we have practically abandoned prayers but it is a vital force which we need each day to know

God's will for our lives.

4. Always I hope for the evidence of care and it is an essential need in the world today. We can easily become programmed and when this happens we often become insensitive to others. Christianity is a caring religion and Christ is the One who cares supremely. Are we developing a caring, people oriented community?

5. My fifth concern is to

develop a hopeful outlook for life. We are a planet visited by God in a unique way. He came in Christ to reconcile, to restore, to heal and to establish his kingdom. Here is a plan of hope for the world. When we live close to God the present becomes full of life, rich in meaning and purpose. That is hope. May 1981 be a rich year of hope for us in Nanaimo, Canada and the world.

Rich Discovery

I sought my soul,
But my soul I could not see.
I sought my God,
But my God eluded me.
I sought my brother,
And I found all three.

William Blake

(Harambee, March 1980)

Nominations for National Council

An important item of business at the forthcoming 12th Biennial Convention to be held in Calgary, August 21 - 23, is the election of a National Council for 1981-83. Phil Spence, Murray McPherson, Alan Staig, and Don Morton, with Tom Ferguson as chairman, have been appointed as the Nominating Committee (addresses: foot of p 12). Members everywhere can share in this by seeking out men who are willing to serve and giving their names to the Committee. It is hoped to circulate the list of nominees, together with a brief resume, well before the Convention (possibly via the April Newsletter). Nominations can also be made at the time of the Convention but by doing so now members will have an opportunity to consider the candidates beforehand. This is a most important step in the election process so members are urged to give it very serious consideration, now!

The positions (incumbents): President (Murray McPherson); Eastern (Malcolm MacDonald), Central (Keith MacFayden), and Western (Jim Dickie) Vice Presidents; Treasurer (Bob Lewis).

Committees: Communications (Maurice Wright), Constitution (Jack Cleave), Finance (Gordon Hall), Leadership Development (vacant), Membership (vacant), Programs (Don Smith), Projects (Norman Pydde), Spiritual Life (Reg Attwell), Youth Work (Bill Sefton).

Editorial

The "Long Journey"; time to get on with it.

Recent charges of elitism in the United Church^{1,2} will find a sympathetic ear in many members. There have been denials^{3,4}, but coming from such as Rev. George Goth of London, Ontario, and Hugh McCullum, editor of The Observer, they cannot be dismissed lightly.

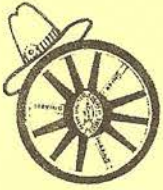
Why is this? Why is a "peoples" church, "this most democratic of all churches"², "the conscience of Canada?"⁵, accused of elitism --- an "evil" that McCullum says is racism "without the colour, and therefore may be even more insidious"². One reason, I believe, is that we have moved away from our democratic roots, from the concept that the people are the church; "the Laos: the people of God; bishops, deacons, deaconesses, elders, whatever the title, all of us here all of us together"⁶. This is the central idea in "The Long Journey"⁶, the remarkable laity address delivered to the General Conference of the United Methodist Church of the United States in April, 1980. In calling for due recognition of the laity, it says that Christianity began as a lay movement, that it grew through the leadership of dedicated lay people, that the early preachers in North America were lay people; even today, in many lands --- and Cuba, Africa, and Uruguay are cited --- the Christian church survives because of the leading role taken by the laity. Then, it goes on, in 1784, with the organization of the Methodist Church in the United States, there was created "an ordained ministry, and lay people were excluded from its formal leadership". This is said to have held true for other denominations as well. Peter McKellar, Executive Secretary, Bay of Quinte Conference, in calling for the laity to re-assert the leadership shown in the Reformation, makes a similar statement: "The clergy did not become a learned profession in Europe until the 18th century. When they did, the laity naturally moved out of the centre of leadership in the congregation"⁷. Likewise, the recent 28th General Council of the United Church, through approval of the report of Project: Ministry, affirmed that the ministry of Christ is one to which "the whole people of God are called", though it was unable to discard "lay-clergy language", and some commissioners were said to feel left in an "ambiguous secondary" position.⁸

Today, lay people are not "excluded" from positions of leadership, but the "long journey" back is by no means finished. What have we in the United Church? Lay delegates to Presbytery are elected by the Official Board rather than by the congregation; clergy become members without election, automatically. Delegates to Conference are elected at the Presbytery level; lay delegates are at least equal in number to clergy delegates. Delegates to General Council are elected at the Conference level; lay and clergy have equal representation. Thus, at the policy-making level of General Council, the clergy, who probably constitute less than 1% of the Laos, are allocated 50% of the voting power. Moreover, 27 of 28 moderators have been clergy, the secretary of General Council has always been of the clergy, and the clergy dominate key positions in the Divisions and Conferences. So, when we call for the laity to reassert a leadership role we are asking for something that is inconsistent with our form of government; lay people are not likely to come forward in a structure based on inequality. The form of government must be changed to reflect the fact that we are all equal in the calling to serve Jesus Christ.

We have far to go in the long journey to equality. It is time we got on with it.

1. Rev. George Goth, The Observer, November 1980, page 8.
2. Hugh McCullum, The Observer, June 1980, page 3.
3. The Observer, August 1980, pages 4 and 5, letters by: D. Reed and Rev. Iain Macdonald (letters by Rev. Wayne Irwin and Rev. Bill Boyd are supportive of the charges).
4. The Observer, January 1981, pages 10-11: Rev. Donald G. Ray, Secretary of General Council; W. R. Davis, United Church Treasurer.
5. Elwin Moore, The Observer, November 1980, page 20.
6. "The Long Journey", National AOTS Newsletter, November 1980, page 10.
7. Peter McKellar, Exchange, Winter 1981, page 4.
8. The Observer, October 1980, page 13.

M. M. Wright, Oakville, Ontario, February 18, 1981.



12th AOTS NATIONAL CONVENTION - AUG. 21-23, 1981

REGISTRATION FEE (payable in advance)	UNIVERSITY of Calgary
Men	\$30.00
Ladies	\$20.00
Children	\$ 5.00

GUEST SPEAKER



REVEREND ALAN REYNOLDS OF VANCOUVER'S RYERSON UNITED CHURCH HAS AGREED TO SERVE AS THE KEYNOTE CONFERENCE SPEAKER. HE IS A NATIVE OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, AND WAS ORDAINED IN 1954.

No refunds on cancellations received after July 15, 1981

ACCOMMODATIONS
(to be paid on arrival)
Rooms with two single beds.
Breakfast on Saturday and Sunday included.
One cot for child can be accommodated if necessary.

Single	\$20.00 per person per night
Shared room	\$15.00 per person per night
Youths	\$12.00 per person per night (under 18)
Cot	\$ 8.00 per night

MEALS
(to be paid on arrival)
Friday lunch thru Sunday lunch inclusive Total cost \$20.00
Saturday night banquet cost included in registration fee.

"In His Service to Care and Share."

REGISTRATION FORM

To: **STEVE MEGLEY**
REGISTRAR, 12th AOTS NATIONAL CONVENTION
10707 MAPLECREEK DR. S.E., CALGARY, ALBERTA, T2J 1V4

Name _____

Address _____

Club _____ Church _____

Office Held _____ Voting Delegate _____ Individual Member _____

My wife will be attending _____ Her name is _____

Children attending: Names _____ Ages _____ Sexes _____

I will be travelling by: Car _____ Train _____ Plane _____ Bus _____ and expect to arrive

in Calgary Date and Hour _____

Will require trailer-park accommodation _____

Want to stay at University of Calgary _____ I wish to share a room _____

Special arrangements required Specify... _____

Attach cheque or money order payable to: 12th AOTS NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE

I enclose cheque/money order for \$ _____ for full registration fee