

# THE HANDSHAKE



United Church AOTS Men's Clubs

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Spring, 2005

## National Annual Meeting

### October 1 - 3, 2004

## Hosted by Holy Trinity AOTS, Elliot Lake, Ontario

by Richard Deitriche

Hosted by the Holy Trinity AOTS Club in Elliot Lake, Ontario, the Annual Meeting was held in Holy Trinity United Church. A shuttle service between Toronto and Elliot Lake, provided by Ken Lane and Jonathan Wardlaw, allowed those from long distances to fly to Toronto and arrive in Elliot Lake in time for the BBQ buffet held prior to the meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Friday.

Members of National Council were billeted in the homes of the Holy Trinity club members. Their wives accompanied seven of the National Council members.

For the first time, as directed by the National Council Executive Meeting of May 16, 2004, presidents or their delegates, in the Conference near where the meeting is held, were invited to attend. Bob Astley of Holy Trinity; Al Anthony of Grace Church, Trenton; Colin Taylor of Trinity in North Bay; and Tom Nash from Wellington expressed their appre-

ciation for the invitation and thanked all for a good weekend of information and fellowship.



Back Row: Bill Love, Larry Smith, Ernie Dixon, Ken Lane, Jim Lawrence, Richard Deitriche, Keith Elliott, Tom Nash, Harry Wolfrain, Brian Bigelow.  
Middle Row: Harry Burdon, Craig Watson, Al Anthony, Jim Upright, Bob Lewis, Howard Wills.  
Front Row: Merle Shipley, Ernie Orpin, Garnet Thompson, Ernie Paddock, Jan Maandag, Mark Browning, Gary Ross, Colin Taylor.

The ladies in attendance joined the men for the formalities of the Opening Meeting on Friday evening, for the dinner and entertainment on Saturday evening and for the church service on Sunday. Apart from these, they had their own program.

At the dinner on Saturday evening,

Ken Lane presented President Ernie Paddock with a Holy Trinity plate to remind him of this Annual Meeting and Richard Deitriche presented the Handshake Editor, Ernie Dixon, with a National Life membership.

Thanks to the skilful management of our president, the business was concluded on Saturday evening, leaving Sunday morning free for a group photo at 10:00 a.m.

## Motions from the Annual Meeting

Lewis/Orpin: In view of the fact that the National Hospital Project is a very important part of our National Outreach, it is moved that each year, starting in 2004, the difference between \$7500 and the total donations be transferred from surplus funds to the Hospital Project Funds.

Carried.

Lewis/Orpin: That the three area vice presidents take action to ensure that the \$2500 allocated for their region's Hospital Project is utilized each year.

Carried.

Lewis/Orpin: That an annual \$500 honorarium be paid to the National Treasurer.

Carried.

Lewis/Orpin: That the 2005 budget be accepted.

Carried

Maandag/Lawrence: That the deadline date to receive materials for the Fall edition of the Handshake be October 15th. Carried.



Richard Deitriche and President Ernie Paddock present Life Membership to Ernie Dixon

## Reports from the Annual Meeting

### **Treasurer's Report:** Ernie Orpin

Ernie presented a comprehensive report of the financial situation of the organization with comments on the circulated balance and project funds. He commented that the organization was in fairly good financial situation within the budget for the year.

### **Church & Community Service:** Jim Lawrence

Harry Colnett Scholarship of \$1000 - Jenni Taylor was the recent recipient.

The National Music Bursary - a pilot project in Winnipeg has been very successful in Winnipeg, but not developed across the land. He hopes that other clubs will become interested and promote it.

Hospital Project - Central Region awarded its 2004 Hospital grant to Eastern Ontario Children's Hospital in the Ottawa area. Western Region and Eastern Region had not yet awarded any money in their regions for 2004.

### **Youth to Camp:** Mark Browning

Bay of Quinte clubs raised over \$11,000 as an 80th Anniversary project to finance and build a much needed staff cottage at Quin Mo Lac. 1500 youth

attend this camp annually. The camp has been updated with \$29,000 spent to date but with required updates and new regulations, will experience a \$49,000 debt.

Mark Browning noted that the Website has been updated and he suggested that persons desiring to add articles or dates of events to the website should e-mail him directly or to the website itself. His e-mail is marklb@magma.ca

### **Membership & Fellowship;** Richard Deitriche

Richard circulated a draft copy of a proposed new 'individual member' pamphlet and reviewed the changes that had been made. Discussion followed with additional suggestions for changes from several members. From these suggestions, a new draft will be presented at the January Conference call for approval.

### **Spiritual Life & Leadership:** Ken Lane reporting for George Bishop

The book, Exploring Faith Questions, by Anne Martin is highly recommended as a very useful resource for discussion and study in clubs. This book

is an invitation to explore and grow with others. It is available from United Church Resource Distribution at a cost of \$15.95.

### **Other Matters:**

The Council was reminded that the Nomination Forms for 2005 National Council positions would soon be sent to all clubs .

Colin Taylor of Trinity AOTS in North Bay has been named the Manitou Conference Representative.

Harry Wolfraim and Howard Wills volunteered to assist Reg Cooper with his work as archivist.

## **Conference Reports**

### **British Columbia - Jan Maandag**

All BC clubs are active and have a good combination of fellowship, work and projects. At present all clubs are busy with plans for the Biennial Convention in Victoria in August.

### **Alberta - Bill Love**

Three Hills has expressed an interest in AOTS and Bill will visit there with the hope of initiating a new club in that congregation.

### **Saskatchewan**

Jim Upright reported that a rep for Saskatchewan was actively being sought from the three active area clubs.

### **Manitoba - Charles Klein**

Charles regretted that he was unable to attend the meeting, but sent his report noting that there are 4 active clubs in Winnipeg and one in Minnedosa. He noted the importance of having the support of the minister of a congregation to make a club successful.

### **Manitou - Ken Lane**

There are now AOTS clubs at Trinity in North Bay, Matheson, a combined 3-church club in Timmins and Holy Trinity in Elliot Lake. An active 20-member non AOTS club in St. Andrew's in Sudbury is considering becoming part of our organi-

zation and there is the possibility of a new AOTS club in Espanola.

### **London - Merle Shepley**

Among the activities of the London Conference was the Fall Rally scheduled for October 22nd at Lambton Centre. The golf tournament is an annual event and the clubs in the Conference are sponsoring the 2005 Central Round Up being held in April. Merle commented that the Harrow Club is very active, raising money through selling pies, coffee and muffins - an activity which netted them \$8000 this year. They also sell Christmas cakes and hold a turkey dinner in November.

### **Hamilton - Howard Wills**

Even though the St. James Rosemount Club in Kitchener has folded, their members visit with St. Paul's Club in Oakville and they still participated in the golf tournament. St. Paul's has a series of special breakfasts planned for the near future. The Annual Fair still attracts AOTS participation at Howard's church.

### **Toronto - Harry Wolfraim**

Wilmar Heights UC and Wexford UC have combined and their AOTS Club is now known as Wexford Heights AOTS. Harry drew attention to the Toronto Fall Rally to be held at Trinity UC in Newmarket.

### **Bay of Quinté - Keith Elliott**

Eastminster Club reported six new members. Grace Trenton now has 20 members. Keith commented on the successful Fish Fry and Strawberry Social held in Wellington, showing a profit of \$1100. He also noted the support of their clubs for Camp Quin Mo Lac in both financial and labour contributions.

### **Newfoundland & Labrador - Gary Ross**

Gary circulated his report which outlined his activities as Conference Representative for the past year. Gary visited several clubs and churches to stimulate men's work in the conference. He reported on the successful West Haven Men's Retreat and the Loon Bay Camp Men's Fellowship Rally. Loon Bay

will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2005. He noted that 14 men from Cape Breton attended the Humber Bay event. He indicated that the Gambo Club was expected to affiliate with AOTS. Gary was very appreciative of the support received from Rev. Bernice Spracklin as indicated by her presence at the men's camp. He encourages other ministers find the time to attend. Gary also has a concern about the financial support which the camps receive from Conference and hopes that this topic will be discussed at the Conference level.

### Other Reports

There is still a need for a Conference Rep in each of Montreal-Ottawa and the Maritimes Conferences. Eastminster Club, under the direction of Ian Cullis, is handling 250 tape subscribers per month for the "Observer on Tape" but have the capacity to handle 150 more each month. There are 42 volunteers involved in this project.

Harry Burdon is working on a pictorial history poster in colour of our National AOTS Lapel pins from the first one to our latest version. Harry hopes to have it completed for circulation soon.

### Report of the Regeneration Committee to the Annual Meeting on October 1 -3, 2004.

*(Due to the importance of the work of the Regeneration Committee to the future of National AOTS, the editor decided to include the committee report in its entirety. Since the Annual Meeting, the committee has produced a Draft Copy of a brochure. Perhaps the final draft can be printed in our fall issue.)*

**Regeneration Committee:** George Bishop (chair), Ken Lane, Jim McKibbin, Garnet Thompson, Jim Upright.

#### Mandate (from the AOTS Biennial Convention of 9<sup>th</sup> August 2003)

- prepare and present a proposal for the growth of the AOTS men's movement:
- will include a proposal to the AOTS national Executive and the United Church of Canada on the future direction of men's ministry within the

#### United Church

- will include closer integration between the National Office of the United Church and AOTS National
- budget set at \$3000. for the balance of 2003 and 2004
- given the authority to use resources from within AOTS as well as outside

#### What do we hope to accomplish?

- ◆ inclusion of more men and men's clubs following the aims and objectives of As One That Serves
- ◆ more AOTS men's clubs
- ◆ more young men involved in men's clubs activities
- ◆ more AOTS individual members
- ◆ continuing financial and structural stability of AOTS National
- ◆ more members of men's clubs working with presbyteries, conferences and the National Church
- ◆ more support from men's clubs for United Church adult programs and initiatives
- ◆ more support from men's clubs for children and youth activities within UCCan
- ◆ more spiritual nurturing materials available for men's ministry
- ◆ network of men and men's clubs involved in ministry with men

#### What has been accomplished?

- √ affirmation of Mark Browning as webmaster with compensation to permit outside keystroke support
- √ establishment of website support team consisting of Mark Browning, Tony Hodge, Dave Morris and Jim Upright
- √ new refreshing format of website, inviting and informative for younger men
- √ fairly regular updates of the website
- √ new links with the United Church website on men's ministry
- √ initial meetings with Faith Formation group at National office with time, material and financial support for our joint efforts
- √ ongoing discussions with Anne Martin of the Faith Formation group
- √ new brochure, "You were asking...."
- √ close co-operation in some presbyteries and conferences

√ committed support to the National Church initiative "That we may know each other" which is intended to facilitate our understanding of the relationship between Christianity and Islam in Canada

#### **What else has been started?**

- have requested lists of all AOTS members names, addresses, phone numbers, e-mails from existing clubs
- new brochure defining requirements for individual members
- interviews for article in "the Observer"
- Initial layout for ad in "the Observer"
- discussions re follow-up meetings with Faith Formation
- discussions with Anne Martin re support for AOTS leadership in the National Church initiative on small group discussions on "Exploring Faith Questions"
- new AOTS aprons for identification

#### **What else is proposed?**

- further meetings with National Staff - plan to have a meeting this fall in the National Offices to meet briefly with several of the individuals involved with ministries with children, ministries with youth and young adults, camping ministries, as well as ministries with men and ministries with women
- list all congregations with a men's club from the input recently received from all congregations
- discussion with those who helped to form the Women's Ministry Network and those currently involved
- discussion with leaders in men's work (non AOTS) in other areas of the country such as the Banff Men's Conference, the Maritime Conference United Church Men, the Cape Breton Men's Rally, lay out plan to bring the Men's Ministry Network into being as a working organization
- monthly or bi-monthly advertisements in 'The Observer' including ads for the Biennial Convention, for members-at-large (individual members), Observer-on-tape
- recognition of AOTS/men's ministry from the National Office going by formal letter to every congregation

#### **What new initiatives have happened or are happening where you are?**

New clubs? New members? New projects? New co-operation? New youth support?

Please keep the regeneration committee advised through the national secretary.

#### **What does the regeneration committee need?**

Continuing financial support for the website. Financial support to allow meetings in other geographical areas.

Request budget for 2005 of a minimum of \$5000.

Suggestions from Regional VP's and Conference Presidents re contacts.

Existing AOTS clubs to arrange joint meetings with neighbouring United Churches and provide contact names for follow-up.

Proposal for presentation at National Biennial Convention August 2005.

Announcement of formation of Men's Ministry Network (MMN) to be made at General Council 39 in 2006.

Possible redefinition of AOTS memberships to incorporate other levels and types of men's clubs.

Future funding of MMN and AOTS.

Answer to how we meet the spiritual needs and involve younger adult men, single and married, in men's clubs and men's ministry in the United Church of Canada.

#### **Footnotes**

What we have been trying to do is convince other men's groups, both formal and informal, that they should become dues-paying AOTS clubs. **It isn't working!**

We have also been trying to convince younger men to become members of the clubs that have existed for many years. **Our success is very limited!**

Please continue to pray for our organization and our work. **Prayer does work!**

**The deadline for articles to be included in the next issue of The Handshake is October 15, 2005. Your co-operation is appreciated.**

## Editorial

### In Memoriam

In this issue we give recognition of the lives lived by Reg Cooper, Sidney Bagnall, and Bud Maxwell.

There are probably others that I didn't hear about, that should have been included. Indeed, the Annual Meeting recognized 14 that had died in the past year. So, the editor faces a problem. Who gets included in the Handshake and how much space does he get.

After thinking about it for some time, I decided that we should try to include everybody and that the space should be minimal - just a few lines pointing out the highlights of the deceased's contribution. Of course, this can only be done if every club sends me the information. And that information needs to be:

Name of Deceased

Name and location of AOTS Club

Date of Death; Age (optional)

A few lines about the deceased's life, particularly as it relates to AOTS. (send a eulogy if you like and I'll cut it down to size.)

To reach this stage requires a bit of compromise. It is unfair to change the rules in the middle of the game and I didn't want to disappoint those who had sent me death notices for inclusion in this issue, so I have included them this time, but I would like to start the above suggestion with the Fall Issue.

Also included in this issue is a copy of a letter from Harry Wolfrain to the widow of Sidney Bagnall. I don't know about you, but I have never seen such a good letter of condolence, nor could I write one like it. How fortunate we are to have Harry writing on our behalf!

### Broader Horizons

After the last issue of The Handshake was sent out, I sent letters to six clubs inviting them to contribute to this issue, telling us something of their history and their club activities. Three responded and we thank them for taking time to share their thoughts with us. They are: Ray Collett, Lakefield; Bob Hibbard, St. James'-Rosemount, Kitchener; Watson Tucker, St. Anthony, Nfld.

## We Remember Them

### Reg Cooper

*Eulogy given by George Bishop  
at the Memorial Service, October 28, 2004*

George Reginald Cooper was known from Vancouver Island to St. John's Newfoundland in AOTS men's club circles. He was known as Reg to more than 1000 men of the United Church in every province and known affectionately as Sir Reginald to some of the men in Alberta.

As you may know, AOTS is the acronym for "as one that serves." This name was adopted for a men's club based on the 22nd chapter of the gospel of Luke. Jesus' disciples were arguing about who was the greatest when Jesus asked. Who is greater, the one who sits to eat or the one who serves? But I am among you as one that serves." Reg was a man who followed Jesus example as one that served.

I first met Reg about 15 years ago. We had an AOTS men's club in Trinity United in Newmarket, but we were experiencing some serious conflict within the congregation and the number of men involved in the men's club was decreasing. We called on the National Executive of AOTS for support and encouragement. Reg was the one who reached out and came to talk to us. He stressed the importance of a men's club as a gathering where men can share their problems and their aspirations together while calling on Christ for support and guidance. He further noted the effects of a men's club that follows the aims of AOTS in holding a congregation together. As a result, a few of us agreed to work to reach out to other men. Today, we regularly involve 20 to 30 men in our programmes.

The first aim of the AOTS is to be an arm of the church reaching out in Christian fellowship to all men. Reg's visits were one of the many ways he reached out. The second aim is to deepen the spiritual life of men. Reg was always looking for and using stories and prayers to help others develop their faith. The third aim is to encourage and promote effective Christian service. Reg was the one we turned to when we were looking for a hospital or nursing centre that AOTS could help to meet a need in equipment or nurse training.

I understand that Reg was a member of AOTS

clubs for more than 50 years and a life member for many years. He took an active part in the National Council and Executive for many years, all the time I have known him at least. When I was elected National President three years ago, Reg was named as honorary president. In that position, he quietly gave me advice on actions I might consider taking. He was an excellent mentor. When our two years were up last year as presidents, Reg volunteered to be the National Archivist.

He also took an active part as a member of the Wilmar Heights AOTS club. Reg enjoyed singing. He was very proud of the joy he shared with many people as part of the Scarborough AOTS glee club under the direction of Sid Bagnall.

Reg's life was like a diamond with many facets. His family, his work, his volunteer service, his country, his lodges, his AOTS clubs, his churches and his God were each an important part of his life. In recent years, Reg's health was not what he had hoped for. I read a statement this morning written by Norman Vincent Peale, "Whatever your problem, no matter how difficult, you can release spiritual power sufficient to solve your problem. The secret is - pray and believe."

Compare this with these excerpts from a letter written by Reg a year ago. "Yes; I suffered a heart attack and stroke on September 5th. I have no pain, just inconvenience. Having to learn all over again to walk, to speak, makes one humble. Good thing probably. I have had lots of visitors. I wish all in the National AOTS good luck and good work. Hope you can decipher this. I am disgusted with my handwriting. Keeping this scribble to a short bit, but love to all. Best wishes. Hope to be home this year but it's not so bad here. Have my own room - and all the comforts of home. Lucky me. Reg Cooper."

Friends are very rare jewels. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share a word of praise and they always want to open their hearts to you. Show your friends how much you care. Remember to always be there for them, even when you need them more. Cherish the time you have and the memories you share ... being friends with someone is not an opportunity but a sweet responsibility.

Reg, we miss you, but we will always cherish your friendship as one that serves.

## **Frederick George "Bud" Maxwell**

*Bud died on Thursday, January 28, 2005 at the age of 90. Bud will be sadly missed by his many lifelong friends and his church family. For many years, Bud was a member of the AOTS of Kingston Road United Church. A service to celebrate his life was held at the Kingston Road United Church on Tuesday, February 1, 2005. Ray Cockburn, President of Kingston Road (Toronto) AOTS Club delivered the following eulogy.*

When asked if I would say a few words on behalf of the AOTS Men's Club, I was honoured to be able to speak of such a great man. I can clearly remember over 23 years ago, Sunday after Sunday, Bud would speak to me about joining the Men's Club.

He was so passionate and determined to get men involved in AOTS. He would approach every new man that attended church tirelessly hoping to be able to share the great pleasure that he had found within the organization. I know in my heart that if it were not for Bud Maxwell we would not have an AOTS Club at Kingston Road today.

He was diligent and downright stubborn at times, never giving up; he would just keep asking you to come out and try a meeting or two. We'll even pay for your dinner, he would say, and you got to admit those words didn't come easy to our great friend Bud.

Bud was a charter member of this AOTS Club with somewhere between 50 to 60 years of service. He was a Life Member in National AOTS. He strongly supported the Choir Competition that used to take place in North Toronto.

In Quality Systems there is a saying, "Say what you do and Do what you say." This statement could not be written for any one with more meaning than for Bud. He was always the prime example of our Motto: As One That Serves. For years, he went up to True Davidson Lodge to visit Stan MacBeth and would make every effort to try and bring Stan to our meetings; until Stan was just not physically able to get out. Even then, Bud did not forget Stan. He went weekly to visit him and shave him and supply a great listening ear.

There were many more that Bud visited, but unless there was some positive thing to report about the visit, no one would even know that he went. This

was Bud's way. Quiet, unobtrusive; just being a Good person. Whether it was taking his neighbours shopping or walking his daughter's dog, he was always there to help. At all church activities always lending a helping hand or sometimes just giving advice on how others should be doing the job.

In closing, I would like to thank God for giving me the opportunity in my life to be touched by such a caring and giving man. Just for exemplifying and setting a great example As One That Serves. God be with you Bud.

### **Sidney Bagnall**

Sidney Bagnall died peacefully at home on November 17, 2004, after lengthy stays in hospital, in his 92nd year. Sid and his loving wife Dorothy were married for 60 years and have two children, Jane and Hugh.

Born in Earlsfield, London, Sid came with his family to settle in Ingersoll, Ontario and received his education there.

From singing as a boy soprano, doing solos in the Anglican Church, his passion for music began with voice training and continued with solo competitions, winning medals and developing musically thereafter in church choirs, operettas, the Mendelsson Choir and Barbershop groups. He was the founder and director of the AOTS Glee Club, United Church Male Group, which he directed for 25 years. They cut seven records and sang their way from Vancouver to Charlottetown. Their secular and sacred music brought pleasure to hospitals, senior homes and churches. Sid enjoyed directing the Taylor Place Choir, Don Mills, which has continued successfully as the Serenata Singers.

Sid retired in 1978 from Grand & Toy, having been Supervisor for Printing Production at Don Mills for 26 years. He was well known as Santa Claus at the Children's Christmas Parties.

Sid's many interests included being a founding member of the Wilmar Heights United Church and life member of AOTS. He belonged to the Aca-cia Lodge, Masonic Lodge 430, a member of the Kiwanis Humber Valley Seniors Club, Islington, and Past President of the Don-Eglinton Club.

Sid and Dorothy have been strong supporters of Murray Dryden's "Sleeping Children Around the World" and would be glad for donations to this cause in Sid's memory.

## **A Letter of Condolence**

Mrs. Dorothy Bagnall,  
78 Elvaston Drive,  
North York ON M4A 1N6

Dear Dorothy,

Harley Williams phoned me today to tell me of Sid's passing and on behalf of the AOTS and myself, personally, I send you our condolences. Sid sure lived to a ripe old age. You must have been good for him.

At the National Annual Meeting in Elliot Lake awhile back, they were wondering how Sid was doing and, while there will be sadness at his passing, there will be lots of gratitude for his long life and tremendous leadership.

We all have our memories of Sid and when we get together we'll be reminiscing. You'll have a ton of memories too, some sad, but mostly happy I hope, and you'll laugh - and cry - as you exchange memories with family and friends. It's fun and a very important part of the grieving process.

You know none of us is getting any younger - we're wearing out, some faster than others - but we're saddened when we hear that our friends like Sid and Reg Cooper have gone.

Dorothy, I'm sure it's been rough for you the last few years coping with Sid's illness. You've been great. God bless!

Sincerely,  
Harry Wolfrain

*Editor's Note: Harry also sent me a copy of a letter of condolence that he sent on behalf of AOTS to Keith and Evelyn Elliott. Keith's brother Clifford passed away in December, 2004.*

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Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee.

Trust in the Lord forever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength.

Isaiah 26:3,4



## Membership & Fellowship

by Richard Deitriche

As chairman of this committee, I write these words, "That we must strive to go forth and yes, show our love and our AS ONE THAT SERVES commitment to the willingness to serve. To go forth like the disciples of Jesus did so many years before to stand up and say, 'yes, I shall give my best, my all, and yes, serve.'"

Over the past few years, our membership numbers are going downward, not because we are not there, but because we are not going forth into the wild world of the unchurched, the lost soul.

There are many avenues of attracting others, one of which is not sitting in our comfy chairs in our club rooms with the sign "Vacancy" outside. No, we must stretch out and go forth into our various committees across Canada and spread the word, "JESUS IS ALIVE and, Yes, so is AOTS." Yes, we celebrated our eightieth year, but have we really moved forward after the big event at Western University in London?

I wonder sometimes, if we are passing the mighty buck to others or just figure, 'well, they'll come in'. No they won't. I say we must go forth and spread the word loud and clear, 'AOTS is here.' The motto for 2005 is "SPREAD THE WORD IN 2005, AOTS IS YES, ALIVE."

I realize I may be asking too much, but I feel if I don't say this as Membership and Fellowship chairman, you might think I am asleep at the switch. No, not me!

I believe in spreading the news of our living GOD and the love we share at our various functions, be it a club meeting or a fund raiser - let us show we care about our brothers in this world. Let us go forth and be a voice that recruits new blood and new ideas to keep us strong.

We have lost several AOTS brothers this past year and, yes, it will be hard to fill their shoes, but we can do it through word and yes, prayer. As I strive to serve, I look forward to hopefully seeing many new names on our roll of members across Canada.

## Manitoba - NW Ontario Report

by Charlie Klein

This has been a long and cold winter for most us here in Manitoba, but filled with the warm spirit of Christian fellowship from all four clubs. As this is being written, District Council is busy with the work of planning and organizing our annual musical concert to support the youth music bursaries. This event takes place on Sunday, April 10th at Westworth United Church. Participation is excellent with representation from Transcona, Donnelly, Grey Street, Windsor Park, Westworth and Gordon King United Churches, as well as individual performers.

Our involvement continues at Riverview Health Center with members of all Winnipeg clubs attending to help with the Sunday Services under the guidance of Harry Burdon who has been involved for thirty years.

In January, District Council was represented at Minnedosa when a cheque was presented to the Palliative Care section of the Minnedosa hospital. (report by Harvey Douglas, see page 13.)

District Council looks forward to the conference calls and the opportunity to exchange greetings and ideas with other members across the country.

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### Going Deep

We need to get below the surface of life and go to the depths. On the surface of our times there are winds and waves storming and crashing with horrible lightning and thunder. We can see the darkness of the storms of war and murder and rape and brokenness all around us. But down in the depths, the love of Christ shines. In the depths, we discover stability and calm; wisdom and faith; love and mercy; forgiveness and new life. In the depths is where the spirit of God is working, creating, recreating, transforming, redeeming and saving our lives. We need to go deeper into the things of God.

*from a sermon by Dr. Gary Hogue*

National Association of AOTS Men's Clubs

## 24<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention

August 5 - 7, 2005

University of Victoria in Victoria, BC, on Vancouver Island

**Theme: "O My Lord, Please send someone else."**

**Theme Speaker: Rev. Keith Howard**

Contributor to the "Back Page" of The Observer

**Music Leader: Gordon Miller - St. Aidan's United Church, Victoria**  
Theme Presentations; Discussion Groups; Singing; Worship; Fellowship.

Cost Minimum: \$165. per person for those in residence  
Complete cost information on Registration Form

Planning co-chairmen: Roy Jones, Esquimalt, BC and Jan Maandag, Duncan, BC

### AOTS Archival Material

**From: Harry Wolfram,**

**33 Cavendish Street, Toronto, ON M4E 1N9 tel: 416-694-4522**

*Harry has uncovered information about the Archives which he share with us*

#### **Contact:**

Ken Wilson, Archivist,  
United Church of Canada/Victoria University  
Archives,  
73 Queen's Park Crescent, Toronto, ON M5S 1K7  
Tel: 416-585-4563. Fax: 416-585-4584 e-mail:  
Ken.wilson@utoronto.ca  
e-mail for reference inquiries:  
uccvu.archives@utoronto.ca

My friend with a computer was able to get 6 pages of what's in the archives regarding men in the United Church. When I phoned Ken Wilson, he confirmed that the list was prepared about five years ago. Since that time, Reg Cooper took down material.

When we want to put in more material, we should document the items (with a copy for ourselves) and arrange to deliver them to 73 Queen's Park Crescent. If the items are sent to me (with a list of what they are) I will get them to the archives. I hope that doesn't automatically make me the AOTS archivist!

I think we should be selective about what goes in; otherwise we end up with a pile of junk

which nobody will ever refer to. Potentially useful items would be, "Our first 50 years" history; current constitution; the ByLaws and Rules of Government; Membership lists; Minutes of Annual or other special meetings; pamphlets for our various projects; Biennial minutes and sample mailing/reservation material, etc. I don't think all the minutes of every meeting of every AOTS club in Canada is a good idea.

So what's the next step?

For information purposes, copies of the seven pages mentioned at the beginning have been sent to Ernie Paddock, Howard Wills and Ernie Dixon.

For possible action, copies of the seven pages have been sent to Jim Upright and Ken Lane so they can purge their files. We'll see what they come up with.

*Editor's note: If you have materials that you think should be in the archives, CONTACT Harry at the address or phone number given above and he will let you know how to proceed.*

# Sharing Club Ideas and Activities

## **The Lakefield, Ontario AOTS Men's Club** by Ray Collett

Although this club has been in existence and active for well over 40 years, the following article is apparently the first contribution we have made to "the Handshake." For that we are remiss. This is written now at the suggestion of the Editor. It attempts to tell, briefly, a bit of Club history and give an equally brief summary of current activity. The history is, of course, from the files. For example...

*Entry #1 - Minute Book #1 - November 23, 1961*

*"A meeting was held in the church basement on Monday, November 20, 1961 to discuss forming a men's club. Rev. Gordon Ballantyne was appointed temporary Chairman and David Spence was appointed temporary Secretary. The aims and objectives of forming a Men's Club were discussed."*

Thus began the history of what is now the AOTS Men's Club of Lakefield (Ont.) United Church, still going strong after 40-plus years and still serving the church and the community within the framework of the seven objectives set out following the opening sentences quoted above. The two gentlemen mentioned are both deceased; David Spence some years ago, Rev. Gordon Ballantyne (who was the minister at the Lakefield Church when the minute was written) just this year.

Eight men were at that first planning meeting, twenty attended a dinner meeting on January 17, 1962, and the latter number, with some ups and downs over the years, has remained quite constant. Current registration is 23, and attendance at the club's monthly meetings is 16 to 22. When asked how we maintain interest, the answer is quite simple. We keep everyone busy and involved and if you miss a meeting, you don't know what's going on!

Through the winter of 1961-62, the new club was active on projects for the church and the Sunday School, and in getting an on-going program into view. Boys' work and projects to improve the church property were high on the agenda. Then came this further minute; *"An executive meeting of the Lakefield Church Men's Club was held at the home of Ed Richardson (who had been named the Club President), on February 2, 1962. After some discussion, Orville Kidd moved that the Club join the AOTS movement, seconded by Bill Benedict. The motion was passed and the proposal was placed for discussion at the next meeting of the Club."*

Sponsoring group for the Lakefield AOTS unit was the AOTS Club of Grace United Church, Peterborough,

Ont., which arranged a number of meetings, speakers and information sessions to help initiate the Lakefield group with its application. (The Grace United officers and their minister were prominent in the Lakefield induction service later on, but while Grace United is still going strong, its AOTS Club has been disbanded.)

At a dinner meeting in Lakefield on March 28, 1962, AOTS Charter #632, dated February 7, 1962, was presented to the Club with the names of 22 members inscribed thereon. It was agreed that the Executive Committee of the original Men's Club, with Ed Richardson as President, would continue in office for the balance of the year, with a new slate of officers to be elected in January, 1963.

One of the charter members is still an active participant in club activities. Tom Atkinson, who, over the years has filled every executive post, including the presidency, retired just this year as the Club Secretary after serving in that role for more than a score of years. Most of the men whose names are joined with his on that Charter list are no longer living or are not now actively involved in the club.

### **Where is Lakefield?**

Lakefield United Church is the larger unit of the Lakefield-Young's Point 2-point Pastoral Charge in the Peterborough Presbytery of the Bay of Quinté Conference. The village of Lakefield, for many years a separate municipality but now absorbed into the surrounding townships, lies 10 - 12 kilometres east of the city of Peterborough in the Kawartha Lakes area. It has a population of approximately 2,000 with an extensive rural community around it to expand its market and a much-increased population in the summer months. It was once a busy commercial, industrial and transportation centre, but with its lumber, boat building and related industries gone, is now largely a tourist and residential community with a small number of manufacturing industries helping maintain the village identity.

### **Lakefield AOTS today**

The Lakefield United AOTS Club is a busy organization. It continues its commitment to support the church and its facilities and programs both physically and financially, and gives significant assistance to community and area entities like Community Care and the Five Counties Children's Centre in Peterborough. In the current Annual Report it lists a total of 15 groups or entities which have had club attention in 2004, some church related, others outside the immediate church orbit.

### **Fund Raising**

Early on, the club recognized the need to raise funds for

its work and a minute in June, 1979, noted that members "were pleased" with the results from a 'strawberry social' (\$65.80) and 'bazaar' (\$63.82) organized and staffed by the club.

Currently the club sponsors one, and generally two, concerts per year in the church as fund raisers. It organizes the annual ecumenical Community Carol Service held on Advent Sunday which has become the traditional curtain raiser for the Christmas activities locally. All receipts from the free-will offering at this service, always a significant sum since the church is usually packed for the service, are split between Community Care and the Children's Centre.

The AOTS Club has also become the primary supplier of Christmas trees in the community and this activity, starting from small roots, is now the major fund raising project, representing about 30% of the club revenue each year. For many years, club members went to the bush and cut and hauled the trees. Now, about half the requirement of approximately 300 trees is purchased and delivered from tree farms in or before the first week of December. The members still cut the other half of the requirement. Club members handle all sales, working as volunteer teams over a 2 -3 week period and they "sell out" the stock almost consistently by the week before Christmas. The project is headed by a Committee Chairman but all club members are expected to be ready to serve on the sales team if needed.

The Club operates under a committee structure - every member is assigned to one or more of the working committees.

### **Club Meetings**

Club meetings are (generally) pot-luck dinner meetings and are held on the first Wednesday evening each month starting at 6:30 p.m. The Club recognizes the assistance of its lady helpers with one or more Ladies' Nights each year, when the club entertains the ladies as non-paying guests, generally at an out-of-club function. The Club includes in these events the ladies widowed by the death of members and maintains a regular visiting program to support sick or disabled members.

Some years ago the club requested, and received, status as part of the Co-ordinating Committee of Lakefield United, the governing body of the Pastoral Charge, so that its work could be better integrated into the projects, programme and activities of the church. The AOTS President is now, ex-officio, a member of the Co-ordinating Committee.

For years, the Club ran a Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday, but dropped this when too many similar functions emerged. The Club has sponsored yard sales, auc-

tion sales, rummage sales, and dinners and participates actively in the Annual Christmas Bazaar, a major Church function with a highly popular wood craft section staffed by members and selling Club-made wood handcrafts. Until recent years, the Club also took responsibility for arranging and staffing what was once "Layman's Sunday" now replaced by the more inclusive "Laity Sunday."

For the Club meetings each month, aside from Annual and Induction sessions, the agenda follows a simple format. A 6:30 opening with the AOTS grace sung; introduction of guests and new members; a sit-down pot-luck dinner; a devotional interlude led by a volunteer member; the business session which is generally concluded by 8:00 pm.; a program with a guest speaker or an out-of-club tour or other informative activity. This section is often thrown open to any member of the church congregation who is interested in attending. The evening activity concludes at approximately 9:00 pm.

### **2005 is a year of Renewal**

Executive Officers serve for a two year term. The 2003-2004 President, Ernie Wheeler, and the Past President, Dr. John Sherin, whose terms are completed, have agreed to continue in these positions during 2005 while new inductees, Vice-President George Mosier, and Secretary Ted King, "cut their teeth" on their up-coming Executive roles. These four positions, plus that of Treasurer, now filled by newly elected Gordon Pilkey, make up the Executive Committee, which carries on the club work between monthly meetings and during a lengthy summer hiatus. The minister of the church, the Rev. Warren Vollmer, is Honourary President as were his predecessors.

The year 2005 is actually a renewal year for the club, with a slate of younger men moving in to pick up the reins from veterans who have guided the club for many years. Like Tom Atkinson, retiring Treasurer Roger Charlton leaves that post after several decades of handling the club finances. (He also headed the Christmas Tree program and that task, too, has been assumed by Mr. Pilkey.)

In its 42 years from 1962 thru 2004, this club has maintained its dedication to the principles of the AOTS organization, including financial support for national activities. While not notably active in AOTS Conference and other senior organizational roles, its officers and members will continue their attendance at Round-Ups and other extended functions. The Club expects to maintain a solid member base and a busy operational program and carry on with its national support through 2005 and into the future years.

## Minnedosa Hospital Fund Presentation

The following is a brief statement ready by Harvey Douglas, Club President, on behalf of the Minnedosa and national AOTS clubs.

We are gathered here his afternoon to present a cheque to the Minnedosa Regional Hospital Palliative Care Committee totaling \$2,954 for the purchase of the Electrically operated bed for the Palliative Care Room.

The National Council of AOTS Men's Clubs for Canada established a "Hospital Fund" many years ago to supply special need equipment

for United Church run hospitals. The Minnedosa Club have donated funds to this cause regularly over the past 50 years. As the years have gone by, these hospitals have been taken over by the regional medical system and the fund has been divided into three parts with \$2,500 being available for each of the three regions across Canada. The Minnedosa United

Church AOTS Men's Club are very pleased to announce that our application for this fund has been

accepted by the National Executive for the Western Region. I am also very pleased to inform the committee that the local club has contributed the balance of the \$2,954 to complete the purchase for the new Palliative Care Unit I would like to have Mr. Ernie Orpin, representing the National Committee and Mr. Clayton Seale, the only active founding member as of this date, help make this presentation.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU goes out to all who support

the AOTS through our Pancake Suppers, Annual Neighbours Night in January, our Christmas Nut Sales and our many other fund raising projects. May God bless your work and make the Palliative Care Unit a special place for those in need.

"As One That Serves"

Harvey Douglas, President



A picture of the presentation - from left to right: Mr. Ernie Orpin, National Treasurer; Sharon McLaughlin, Roly Lemoing and Lynn Tolton, representing the Minnedosa Hospital Palliative Care Planning Committee; Harvey Douglas, President, Minnedosa AOTS Club and Mr. Clayton Searle, the one active founding member of the club. The Minnedosa AOTS Club have been active in the Minnedosa district for the last 50 years.

### More from Minnedosa

by Ray Coxe and Harvey Douglas

The club has had many fund raising projects over the past year including Canadian Neighbours Night, Pancake Suppers, a supper served to the Presbytery Choir Workshop, a supper served to the congregation in late May, a members fowl supper in the fall and the annual nuts and candy sale in December.

Several projects continue to receive support, including Ronald McDonald House, Big Brothers and Sisters, Rolling River Arts Festival and

the Prairie Spirit Camp Building Fund. Donations were also made to the Minnedosa United Church Building Fund and a purchase of silverware for the church kitchen. Second Mile received funding as well. It was a very successful year for the club.

Neighbours Night at the end of January was quite successful with 100 for supper. Master Warrant Officer Chris Waugh from the Canadian Forces Base Shilo/Princess Patricia Light Infantry described the Division History and move from Edmonton and Winnipeg to Shilo. During the evening, we enjoyed the singing of four young fellows from the Minnedosa area.

## **Trinity United AOTS in Botwood, Nfld.**

Clarence E. Langdon

### **UCW and AOTS work together.**

Our 23 members had a very productive 2004. Executive meetings were held on the 2nd Monday of each month with regular Dinner Meetings on the 4th Monday, September through June. We extend our special thanks to the UCW for supplying our delicious meals throughout the year.

Our Sick Committee was active all year visiting members who were ill. We were saddened in July when Home member Baxter Eveleigh died.

Again this year, we honoured our financial commitments giving the Board of Management \$2,750; M & S \$350; The Central West Helping Hands Foundation \$100; and the Sunday School \$50. In addition, we made contributions to the Red Cross and The Cancer Society. We also served breakfast at Memorial Academy three times during the year, as well as serving after Communion breakfast to approximately 40 of our congregation on Easter Sunday.

Lumberjack Meal takeout and the Flea Market/Bake Sale were two of our fundraisers.

Our June Dinner Meeting was ladies' night. Lobster and steak, followed by a sing-a-long with special guests Bob and Linda Aitkin. During the summer, we supplied lumber and paint to repair the small Cemetery at Phillip's Head.

Our biggest project of the year was held on Sept. 24th, 25th, 26th. Our club hosted 65 men at the Loon Bay Camps for "A Men's Fellowship Rally." According to some, it was the best camp ever! Wonderful fellowship, singing and meditation. Chaplin Calvin was theme speaker for all meetings and wowed the camp with his 3-stage presentation. As a Special Feature we had the Memorial United Church Men's Choir, 29 strong, with Gus Green from Gambo directing. The combined talent of all clubs presented a wonderful Grand Band as the music was outstanding. We will hold a Camp Reunion at Trinity some time in April or early May when everyone is invited to join us in the evening service.

On October 10th, we conducted the morning service at Trinity United as Rev. John had to attend district meetings. Our club was featured as choir and the sermon was preached by Chaplin Calvin.

On October 25th, 10 members travelled to Pt. Leamington to join 23 friends from Pt. Leamington, Pleasantview and Leading Tickles for an evening of fellowship and singing. Chaplin Calvin gave a very interesting presentation.

Our November meeting was attended by the men from Pt. Leamington and Pleasantview.

On December 15th, we held our Christmas Party with 54 in attendance, including Guest pastor Dale Waters and his wife, 22 from Pt. Leamington and Pleasantview, widows of deceased members and 18 members. Following a turkey dinner we enjoyed carol singing and storytelling. Pastor Waters, Ed Andrews, Edgar Brent and Bruce Burry entertained us royally.

## **AOTS Men's Club, Springdale**

by Donald Matthews, Secretary

Contrary to popular belief, a year is a long time. A lot of things can happen in the course of 365 days. Stepping from 2004 into 2005, it's a natural time to reflect on the activities that occurred in our club in the past year.

We welcomed some new members into our midst. We have General Meetings once a month, excepting the summer months, when some of us are away at the cabin or on vacation. Each meeting starts with a meal prepared by our women of the UCW or sometimes one prepared by our members, but the meals prepared by the men are not so good! Sometimes we invite guests to join us for the meals, and once in a while we have someone come in to speak on an interesting subject.

Each general meeting begins after the meal is finished. We start with an opening devotion and prayer, after which business is conducted. On behalf of our church, we take care of the handling of the "Advent and Lenten Folders." We had a Jigg's Dinner in November and a Bean Take Out in February. We also arrange for ushers for most Sundays and on occasion, conduct a church worship service.

Once a year we invite the "Graduating Students" from our High School to one of our dinners. On closing for the summers, we invite "Our Ladies" to a social dinner, which is always held at a "Fancy" restaurant in town.

We always maintain a small balance in our bank account. Monies are raised mostly by serving meals, either eat in or take out. We donate to our church and to charitable organizations throughout the year, and we also sponsor a child in Guatemala. One thing remains the same: our faithful members who partner with fellow Christians in the shared goal of spreading God's Word and Love.

All of us at AOTS thank those who have supported our club this year. It is a joy and a privilege to serve you, as you seek to serve others as well. In the next 365 days, changes are sure to come our way as we improve in the entertainment area, personal sharing and emotional interaction, but we are ever grateful to the one constant force that keeps us going, our members; and to the one constant Source of our purpose, our Lord and Saviour.

May you enjoy a happy, healthy 2005, filled with God's richest blessings!

## **St. James'-Rosemount United Church**

by Bob Hibbard

*The following announcement appeared in the church bulletin on Sunday, February 14, 1954, "Thursday 8:00 p.m. Organization meeting of our men's club at the home of Mr. J. J. Marshall, 700 Frederick Street. All men welcome." Two weeks later it was announced in the bulletin that the first meeting of the Men's Club was to be a Pot-luck Supper the following Thursday, March 4, 1954 at 7 p.m. in the Y.M.C.A. All men of the congregation were most cordially invited to attend. On September 26, 1961, the Men's Club of St. James'-Rosemount United Church became affiliated with the AOTS Men's Clubs of Canada. Mr. Phil Spence was the guest speaker at the inaugural meeting held on this day.*

*In February, 2004, fifty years after the organizational meeting, St. James'-Rosemount AOTS disbanded.*

During its fifty years, the St. James'-Rosemount AOTS fulfilled its commitment to service in its four planks: leadership and service to our church; fellowship among men in our community; education on many subjects; fundraising to reach out beyond our church.

Our members demonstrated their devotion to

Christ through their support of church life and finances; many have served on church committees. Morris Hammond, an active member since the beginning, has fond memories of the fellowship enjoyed by members doing lawn and garden maintenance, snow shovelling and various maintenance projects at a time when the church was young and on a tight budget. Paul Peterson recalls that the club had a baseball team and played against Moorefield Men's Club. He also says, "every fall there would be a Layman's Sunday and the speaker would be a member from the Men's Club. The choir usually consisted of about 20 members of the club. What a wonderful sound when they sang, How Great Thou Art."

There is a saying, "Those who eat together, play together, stay together." From the beginning, the fellowship of breaking bread together has been fundamental to the Christian Church and to AOTS. When men must rush home from work to eat supper, then rush away from the family to attend a meeting, they are likely to stay home; on the other hand they are very likely to attend meetings if you supply them with a home-cooked meal to be eaten in the company of friends. For many years, the United Church Women catered a 3-course dinner for the AOTS members. When they could no longer provide this service, we had to make other plans. Eventually, some of our own members volunteered to do the catering.

Each January we arranged an outstanding social event to which we invited the UCW and the wives of AOTS members. Following a gourmet meal at one of the area's better banquet halls, we enjoyed a special speaker or a travelogue. More recently, dinner was followed by attending a local theatre performance.

The Spring season ended in June with a Steak Fry for members and their wives. Weather permitting, it was held at the Hurlbut Farm near Roseville, a lovely rural setting where we could end the evening with a bonfire, singing and mosquitoes. Too frequently the weather did not co-operate and in later years it was held at the church. The men could still cook the steaks and burn them in their favourite way!

The devotional part of our meetings met with mixed success. The National Office prepares

monthly guides for short devotionals, but many of the members struggle to make these meaningful. Combining discussion with the scriptural message can be difficult even for a professional. It is a sure challenge for most laymen.

The fellowship and educational part of our program has been consistently meaningful. Among the activities over the years were: visit to a model train club in Aberfoyle; trip to the Home Hardware Distribution Centre in St. Jacobs; visits to neighbouring churches, local factories and places of general interest; visits to museums. Always a strong supporter of the Boy Scouts who meet at our church, we invited the boys to join us for a visit to Erb and Erb Transport and Vernon Erb's private collection of International trucks and tractors. All of the vehicles were in operating condition and the boys tore down the highways of their imaginations - horns honking, lights flashing - and not a single admonition of "don't touch" was heard.

There is an abundance of resources for speakers in our area. One of our members recalls the meeting we had as guest speaker a gentleman who raised mink commercially for the fur industry. After his talk describing the operation of his mink ranch including the processing of its product [skins] he asked if anyone had a question. One innocent question was, "What is the life expectancy of a mink and how many times could it be pelted during its life?" Apparently the questioner did not quite understand the term 'pelt-ing'.

To merit the title of service club, AOTS dedicates time and effort to serve others. When the church was young, we participated in various work-bees around the church. To extend our service beyond the church we raise money in imaginative ways.

One of our more memorable fund-raising efforts was the operation of a hot dog/hamburger stand at the Central Ontario Exhibition (COE) in Kitchener. When we asked former members of their most vivid memories, they consistently mentioned the hard work and fellowship of the AOTS experience at the COE. Over the years we found other ways to raise funds. We looked for products which we could sell to friends and neighbours as a service to them and for a profit to AOTS. At Christmas it was mixed nuts; in spring it was lawn fertilizer; now

it is Regal Gifts and Vesey's Bulbs who specialize in supplying goods to fund raising organizations.

The funds raised have supported many causes. AOTS clubs of Southwestern Ontario helped install a swimming pool at Five Oaks Retreat near Paris and recently helped to repair and upgrade it; youth work is a strong priority; we have "been there" on a number of occasions to assist with funding; sending a deserving Scout to Jamboree; providing for six New Canadian youngsters from Crestview Public School to go to a summer day camp; subsidizing youth projects suggested by our own youth director; helping Habitat for Humanity.

The AOTS club has been an important part of the life of St. James'-Rosemount United Church for 43 years, shaping and encouraging its members to provide leadership within the church and in the community. Two members and their families served abroad: Paul Peterson, our founding president, went to India for three years to set up a maintenance shop to repair well drilling equipment and Moe Beckham, M.D., went to Lagos in Africa to teach in a hospital. Paul tells of a unique use for the AOTS logo. He says, "While there, I was asked to have business cards printed. Since I had no degree, I had the initials of AOTS (as one that serves) printed behind my name. It opened many interesting conversations with fellow workers as well as with government officials with whom, I came in contact."

In February, 2004, fifty years after the organizational meeting, St. James'-Rosemount AOTS disbanded. Members were almost all retired and just did not have the interest in planning and organizing. After much soul searching, the club slipped into history - regretted by a few, but not important to enough men to justify continuing. As a final act of service, \$900 in the treasury was distributed among the AOTS National Office, the benevolent fund of St. James'-Rosemount and a special project at St. James'-Rosemount to improve acoustics in the Rose Room.

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*The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here. Come, see the place where He lay." St. Matthew 28: 5-6*



## PARK STREET AOTS MEN'S CLUB CELEBRATES 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

by Lloyd J. Clark

On November 21, 1974, the Park Street AOTS Men's Club accepted its AOTS Charter. Rev. Bruce Small (now retired in St. Catharines, Ont.) and the late George Oldershaw were the main instigators in this event.

Over the 30 years, a strong and dedicated fellowship has been maintained. Except for July and August, a monthly executive meeting has taken place plus, in most months on the last Sunday, there has been a Club breakfast at 8:00 a.m. with Christian fellowship around worship, business and a speaker, on some community issue. There were many summers in the past when our Club met at the cottage of Emilie and George Garlick for beef barbecue or a pot-luck dinner and fellowship.

In January, 2005, we had two events. On Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, after church, the Club is sponsoring a "soup and sandwich lunch" with a free will offering. On the last Friday evening in January we are having a pot-luck supper and games night, including our spouses. In place of the breakfast in February, we are planning two events: (1) a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper and (2) on the last Saturday, the 26<sup>th</sup>, we take our wives to Ridgetown to enjoy a Rotary dinner and the Ridge Players production, "Kiss Me Kate." Our organist and choir director, Mrs. Sharon Stepniak, is playing the part of Kate. The Rotary Dinner and the Ridge Players production is an annual event in Ridgetown which we often attend. Then, on Sunday morning, March 6<sup>th</sup>, our Club is invited to breakfast at 7:45 a.m. with the neighbouring St. Andrew's AOTS Men's Club, the speaker to be our Presbytery Youth Leader and Kenesserie Camp Director, Emily Carruthers.

Our main Club money-making project over the years has been an annual Roast Beef Dinner in October. Then, for the past eighteen years, our Club

has provided a free Christmas Turkey Dinner for the Canadian Mental Health Association, Chatham-Kent Branch. Last December, they numbered about 180 persons plus thirty-two of ourselves. One of our past Club members instigated the beginning of this project eighteen years ago when he and his wife experienced the tragic death of a schizophrenic son. Over the

years, he has donated \$200. for dinner expenses but this year the amount was \$300. In past years, our main service has been to youth: youth camp maintenance, camp donations, helping campers financially, and helping various mid-week groups financially. Last October, we paid the Scouts and Leaders \$200. for assisting us



Five Park Street AOTS 1974 Charter Members  
Left to Right: Jack Authier, Dick Macdiarmid, George Garlick,  
Al Dunlop and Roy Cornell

with our annual Roast Beef Dinner: setting up tables, serving coffee and tea, and cleaning dishes before putting them in the commercial dish washer. One potential Scout's fee was paid so he could enter the Scout group.

In past years, various mid-week youth groups have taken over the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper with the help of members of the AOTS Men's Club. Ladies, who are the wives or widows of present and past Club members are becoming increasingly active in helping out at our main Club events. We recently lost Bill Goslin, a willing, highly qualified, major chef in food preparation. But we still have his widow, Ruby, who, along with other women, is most helpful around the kitchen.

The Park Street AOTS Executive as of January 2005:

Past President	Terry Yako
President	Lloyd Clark
Vice-President	Jack Authier
Secretary	Roy Cornell
Treasurer	David Hillman
Program Chairman	Dick Macdiarmid

## Grace United Church AOTS, Sarnia, ON

by Marvin Bildfell

*Grace United AOTS in Sarnia sponsors youth from the church to attend training events. We are blessed to have a very effective youth minister, Pat Morrison, who has taken teens to a Seminar at Princeton for the past few years under this sponsorship. A recent attendee, A. J Willis sent us a letter of thanks which tells us just how much our support can affect a young man and provides good justification for an active AOTS club to continue its work. He writes:*

Dear members of AOTS:

I would like to thank you for your financial aid with regards to my attendance at the Princeton Theological Seminary Conference on Youth and Culture.

I consider this conference the most enlightening experience I have ever had. I attended lectures on various topics, all pertaining to the performance of youth ministry in the Church. On many occasions, I was able to converse, outside the lecture setting, with professors from various universities in the U.S. and Canada; leaders in their fields of theology, psychology, sociology and their applications to youth ministry.

The experience was amazing to say the least, and has renewed my excitement for this area of ministry. The theme of the week was Keeping the Passion Alive." I attended several lectures regarding this topic. They dealt with teenagers' passion in their lives and how the church can fill this longing. These included two lectures by Kenda Dean, one of the most well known names in youth ministry, author of *God Bearing Life*, and professor at Princeton Seminary. I later had a chance to converse with him.

I attended several great classes about various topics. I learned about the use of storytelling, environment, and many other styles and technicalities of youth ministry. There is also an extended seminar, which yielded a very interesting new idea that could be applicable to ministry at Grace. Pat and I intend to discuss these possibilities and how we may be able to implement them.

When I was not attending lectures and seminars, I was meeting the other people attending

the conference. I met many very cool people who helped me realize things about my own faith. I also had the chance to converse with a number of professors. It was a most interesting experience talking to these people. Electives dealt with various topics from Queen's, Pittsburgh, Atlanta, Princeton (the list goes on) about their ideas and life theses.

I would like to thank you for your pivotal contribution towards getting me to Princeton. This was one of the most amazing experiences I've ever had and it is in great part, thanks to the AOTS that I had it. Thank You.

Yours sincerely  
A. J. Willis

## AOTS Men's Fellowship Group, St. Anthony, Newfoundland

By Watson Tucker

We have just weathered (pardon the pun) another seasonal storm, and are shovelling out. Our winter, so far, has been very pleasant. We're getting our February cold snap early - we usually have a thaw just after New Year's Day. We mustn't complain, though, we don't have to contend with earthquakes, tsunamis, and mud slides.

Our Club history goes back many years, probably >60. and at one time, was called "The Wentworth Club." In my memory, though, it began as the United Church Men's Group, some thirty or forty years ago. Our membership is between nine and twenty, depending on what time, in our history, you look at. Presently, our meeting format includes a devotional period, followed by the business portion. This part of our meeting, although extremely important, is kept short, to allow more time for sing-a-longs, special presentations, guest speakers, slide shows, or whatever is planned by our Special Functions Committee. This committee meets quarterly to plan 'stuff.'

Our congregation began as a Methodist group, back before 1900. Incidentally, I remember that it was lighted by kerosene lamps and heated by a wood stove, at one time. But it had a bell tower and bell, that was faithfully rung for each Sunday service. Later in its history, the music was provided by a large

pipe organ, vintage 1948, one of only a few in the country. The pipe organ is now in our new church, opened in the mid-fifties, and the bell is still heard for each Sunday service.

Our AOTS group has, at times, adopted children in 'third world' countries, and always supports the Canadian Bible Society. Our members often provide service leadership at the church and at seniors' homes here in town. Our group is small, but active and enthusiastic, although our average age is creeping up. Because of this, we have fewer fund raisers than at earlier times, but we think that our main responsibility now is supporting each other, and our families.

We hope that the coming Spring season (and we are convinced that it will arrive eventually) is a time of reflection, satisfaction, happiness and challenge.

God bless you all richly.

### **AOTS North Bay**

by Colin Taylor, Manitou Representative

Our men's club had a very successful year in 2004 with many speakers.

Cliff Alger gave an interesting talk about his experiences in the RCAF World War 2. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross with the 434 Squadron. He is writing a book about the subject.

Bruce Taylor gave a talk on his trip to the Sudan with a group of Canadians. They were building an orphanage for some of the many thousands of children left homeless by the genocide. The AOTS gave a donation to buy soccer balls for the orphans there.

Ross Brewer spoke on his love of flying and a brief history of flight in Canada.

The Club bought supplies for the church picnic at Camp Tillicum. Thanks to everyone who helped.

We were responsible for the church service November 21<sup>st</sup>. Rev. Dr. Murray Arnill was our speaker. The Ladies Night was held at Emmanuel United Church May 26th and our guest speakers were Wanda and Roger Gleason. They told us, with many photos, about their rides across the country on a motorcycle.

Our many fund raisers for the year were the

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, the Jiggs Dinner and the sale of chocolates and coffee from Rocky Mountain Roasters of Jasper, Alberta.

On the first Saturday of each month, we meet for breakfast at 8:00 a.m. at Burger World, Fisher Street, followed by the meeting at Trinity.

All men of the church are invited to attend these meetings. We have about twenty-five active members.

### **Rothwell AOTS Men's Club**

by Des Jarman

"As One That Serves" is the guiding principle of all United Church Men's Clubs across Canada. Rothwell AOTS Men's Club fulfils the mandate in various ways: a sausage and pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday-; a similar breakfast at Easter; a strawberry social in mid March to relieve a long, cold winter; and a lunch at the UCW bazaar in November. At Christmas time we collect warm underwear, socks, etc. from the congregation for the downtown Mission. We support financially the Angola Memorial Fund; the AOTS Observer on Tape; the AOTS Youth to Camp project; and other projects as they come along.

The highlight of 2004 was our Christmas Party. This year we invited the children. We set up four tables for the children to circulate and try their hands at various crafts. About 110 people sat down to a turkey supper (including over 20 children). Santa brought gifts for all the children - Santa that they will remember for many years to come - and we finished the evening singing carols. Altogether it was a wonderful year of fellowship and fun.

We look forward to more of the same in 2005 and already have made one change in our program. We replaced our January Bowling Night with a Bean Supper to which we welcomed the whole congregation. People gathered at the church at 3 p.m. Some proceeded to enjoy winter sport - skiing, skating, tobogganing, hiking - while others played bridge. Everyone gathered at 5 p.m. and tucked in to plates of home baked beans. We were thrilled that over 40 people attended. Definitely an event that was superior to Bowling Night.

## AOTS "Youth to Camp" Project

by Ken Lane

His belief that young persons were the future of the Christian church, and that a Christian summer camping experience was essential in their development, motivated the late Donald Williams, then Honorary National President of the AOTS council, to challenge all AOTS groups to sponsor young people to such an experience. This challenge was accepted and the YOUTH TO CAMP project became a major focus of many AOTS clubs. Now, annually, some 300 boys and girls are sponsored and financially assisted to attend summer camps.

In Manitou conference, the 14 member Holy Trinity UC AOTS Club in Elliot Lake have responded and over the past few years have averaged 20 young people sponsored to a United Church camp. This club financially assists each camper with \$100 towards the total camp cost, and, in cases where the family finances would prohibit camp attendance, they supply the whole amount plus transportation. The young people sponsored are from all religious affiliations with about seven of claimed United Church adherence, five Catholic, three of other denominations and the balance without any family church affiliation.

The Club, to raise the \$2,600. needed to meet our commitment to this project holds an Annual Yard Sale and sponsors good musical concerts in the Church sanctuary. We annually sponsor about three concerts featuring such groups as CHAVERIM, the ALGOMA FESTIVAL CHOIR, the ONTARIO PRESBYTERIAN CHORUS, the PROVIDENCE COLLEGE CHOIR, the VALLEY MEN, the KAMPANA BELL CHOIR and our local MEN OF SONG. These musical concerts not only provide funding but meet our second goal to provide good musical entertainment in our community at a reasonable cost - particularly to the many 'seniors' in this area.

Another off shoot of the sponsorship is that young campers have gone on to take leadership training and three of our sponsorships have provided leadership in other United Church camps.

The National AOTS hopes that all AOTS Clubs, other men's groups and congregations will accept the challenge to sponsor area young people to a Christian summer camping experience

## Notice of Dissolution Grandview AOTS, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan

by Edwin A. Henry

As the present contact person for the club, it is with regret that I advise that a motion to disband was approved at our regular meeting on February 4, 2005.

While our roll indicates twelve members, some are unable to participate, and no new member has been added in five years, although one former member was restored to the roll upon retirement and the establishment of a permanent home.

There is regret, too, that this may sever the National link with Saskatchewan. There are very few men in the congregation in the 25 - 45 age bracket. Four members have passed on in my short period with the Club. Reluctantly, we face reality - age is overtaking us.

On the positive side, and consistent with the Constitution, remaining funds (assets) will be distributed within the circle of charitable organizations in the community, with the wind-up of affairs, on March 31, 2005.

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*Editor's note: Although Ebbie had depressing news to share, it is good to see that he still has his sense of humour. He sent this in along with the notice of dissolution. I hope he will continue to contribute.*

A man was brought to Mercy Hospital and went in for coronary surgery. The operation went well and as the groggy man regained consciousness, he was reassured by a Sister of Mercy waiting by his bed.

"Mr. Smith, you're going to be just fine," the nun said while patting his hand. "We do have to know, however, how you intend to pay for your stay here. Are you covered by insurance?"

"No, I'm not," the man whispered hoarsely.

"Can you pay in cash?"

"I'm afraid I can't, Sister."

"Do you have any close relatives, then?"

"Just my sister in New Mexico," replied the man, "but she's a spinster nun."

"Nuns are not spinsters, Mr. Smith," the nun replied. "They are married to God."

"Okay," the man replied, with a smile, "then bill my brother-in-law."

## Devotional for Spring 2005 Handshake Edition

by Gil Reashore

### “We Two” — “Need One Another”

**HYMN:** Vu 402 We are One

**SCRIPTURE:** 1st Samuel 20: 12-17; 41-42

Hebrews 10: 19-25

**Key Verses:** 1st Samuel 20:17 “Jonathan again made David promise to love him, for Jonathan loved David as much as he loved his own soul.”

Hebrews 10:24 “Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good.”

**OPENING PRAYER:** Open our minds O God, and renew us with your Spirit, so that our collective lives testify to the truth of your kingdom. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

**LESSON:** In G.K.Chesterton’s novel, *The Man Who Was Thursday*, an undercover policeman gets inside a lawless group that is solely dedicated to throwing the world into chaos. He is gripped with fear until he discovers an ally deep within the group.

The author writes these words of the policeman’s feelings at finding this friend: “Through all this ordeal his root harrow had been isolation and there are no words to express the abyss between isolation and having one ally. It may be conceded to the mathematicians that four is twice two. But two is not twice one; two is two thousand times one.

When David was being pursued by the jealous and irrational King Saul, he had a friend who risked great danger to stand with him. Jonathan, Saul’s own son, pledged his loyalty to David and warned him of his father’s intention to kill him. (1st Sam.20:31-42) Sometime later, when Saul pursued David into the wilderness, Jonathan “arose and went to David in the woods and strengthened his hand in God.” (23:16)

What a wonderful gift we give by standing faithfully with a friend in need. There is incredible encouragement and power when two people are allied in life. One has to ask, whose hand can I strengthen by being a friend today?

Now, if recent polls can be trusted; there is an upsurge of what one could call “Lone Ranger” spirituality occurring in our nation. Church attendance is down, Biblical beliefs are being abandoned; and more and more of our fellow citizens are looking forward, online, and out of doors, for that spirit they once sought in the church pews.

How different from Jesus! For he made it his practice to join in synagogue services regularly (Luke 4:16). But today, people no longer take him as an example. They settle for what is loosely called “Spirituality” and try to nurture their souls without the timeless traditions of “Need One Another” praise, prayer, biblical instructions, and edifying fellowship of the pew.

To gather regularly with others is an uplifting source of comfort, inspiration, and emotional strength. The Bible urges us not to forsake “the assembling of ourselves together.” (Heb. 10:25) We should have regular devotional times by ourselves. And just as surely, we need the blessing of uniting with other like minded believers for worship and fellowship. We need to spend time together “in order to stir up love and good works” (vs. 24). We surely need to make it our habit to worship with others. For, “We Two” - “Need One Another.”

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Dear Lord, help me to be the kind of friend that makes my friend secure he can find new strength and hope, his trials to endure.

**REMINDER:** Christians are like coals of fire: together, they glow; apart, they grow cold.

**AND THIS:** *We can each have sweet fellowship with Jesus*

*As through the Word we learn to trust Him more;*

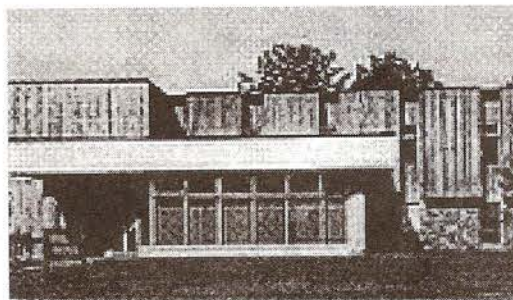
*But we must also meet with one another*

*As in His name we worship and adore.*

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**Website: [www.banffmen.org](http://www.banffmen.org)**

**Co-chairs: Darryl Auten and Ken Proctor**

## Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me, this I know,  
Though my hair is white as snow.  
Though my sight is growing dim,  
Still He bids me trust in Him.

*Chorus*

*Yes, Jesus loves me,  
Yes, Jesus loves me.  
Yes, Jesus loves me  
For the Bible tells me so.*

Though my steps are oh, so slow,  
With my hand in His, I'll go.  
On through life, let come what may,  
He'll be there to lead the way.

*Chorus*

Though I am no longer young,  
I have much which He's begun.  
Let me serve Christ with a smile,  
Go with others the extra mile.

*Chorus*

When the nights are dark and long,  
In my heart He puts a song.  
Telling me in words so clear,  
"Have no fear, for I am near."

*Chorus*

When my work on earth is done,  
And life's victories have been won.  
He will take me home above,  
Then I'll understand His love.

*Chorus*

I love Jesus, does He know?  
Have I ever told Him so?  
Jesus loves to hear me say,  
That I love Him every day.

*Chorus*

*Yes, Jesus loves me,  
Yes, Jesus loves me.  
Yes, Jesus loves me  
For the Bible tells me so.*

## Story Time — The Price of a Miracle

submitted by Harvey Douglas

A little girl went into her bedroom and pulled a glass jelly jar from its hiding place in the closet. She poured the change out on the floor and counted it carefully. Three times, even. The total had to be exactly perfect. No chance here for mistakes. Carefully placing the coins back in the jar and twisting on the cap, she slid out the back door and made her way six blocks to Rexall's Drug Store with the big red Indian Chief sign above the door.

She waited patiently for the pharmacist to give her some attention, but he was too busy at this moment. Tess twisted her feet to make a scuffing noise

Nothing. She cleared her throat with the most disgusting sound she could muster. No good.

Finally, she took a quarter from her jar and banged it on the glass counter. That did it!

"And what do you want?" the pharmacist asked in an annoyed tone of voice. "I'm talking to my brother from Chicago whom I haven't seen in ages," he said without waiting for a reply to his question.

"Well, I want to talk to you about my brother," Tess answered back in the same annoyed tone. "He's really, really sick...and I want to buy a miracle."

"I beg your pardon?" said the pharmacist.

"His name is Andrew and he has something bad growing inside his head and my Daddy says only a miracle can save him now. So, how much does a miracle cost?"

"We don't sell miracles here, little girl. I'm sorry, but I can't help you," the pharmacist said, softening a little.

"Listen, I have the money to pay for it. If it isn't enough, I will get the rest. Just tell me how much it costs."

The pharmacist's brother was a well dressed man. He stooped down and asked the little girl, "What kind of a miracle does your brother need?"

"I don't know," Tess replied with her eyes welling up. "I just know he's really sick and Mommy says he needs an operation. But my Daddy can't pay for it, so I want to use my money."

"How much do you have?" asked the man from Chicago.

"One dollar and eleven cents," Tess answered less audibly. "And it's all the money I have, but I can get some more if I need to."

"Well, what a coincidence," smiled the man. "A dollar and eleven cents ...the exact price of a miracle for little brothers."

He took her money in one hand and with the other hand he grasped her mitten and said, "Take me to where you live. I want to see your brother and meet your parents. Let's see if I have the miracle you need."

That well dressed man was Dr. Carlton Armstrong, a surgeon, specializing in neuro-surgery. The operation was completed free of charge and it wasn't long until Andrew was home again and doing well. Mom and Dad were happily talking about the chain of events that had led them to this place. "That surgery," whispered Mom, "was a real miracle. I wonder how much it would have cost?" Tess smiled. She knew exactly how much a miracle cost ...one dollar and eleven cents...plus the faith of a little child. In our lives, we never know how many miracles we will need.

A miracle is not the suspension of natural law, but the operation of a higher law. I know you will keep the ball moving!

Here it goes. Throw it back to someone who means something to you!

A ball is a circle, no beginning, no end. It keeps us together like our Circle of Friends. But the treasure inside for you to see is the treasure of friendship you've granted to me.

Today I pass the friendship ball to you.

Pass it on to someone who is a friend to you.

*Never been to a Conference? Here is your opportunity!*

*A Golden Opportunity! Save \$50.*

*That's right. Save \$50.*

*You don't get an offer like that every day! Act now!*

*Fees for first time attendees at the Round-Up are reduced by \$50.*

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### **2005 Fellowship Gatherings**

February 25 - 27 : Manitou Men's Retreat ( mark your calendar for next year! Feb. 24-26)

April 22 - 24 : Ontario Central Region RoundUp

Early June : West Haven's Men's Retreat

August 5 - 7 : AOTS Biennial Convention in Victoria, BC

Early September : Cape Breton's Men's Rally

Mid September : Loon Bay Camp Men's

Fellowship Rally - 50th Anniversary

October 14 - 16 : Banff Men's Conference

Late October : Four County Fall Rally

Early November : Bay of Quinté Fall Rally

Early November : Toronto Conference Fall Rally

????? Maritime Conference UCM

????? Stanhope Men's Conference

## **Guest Speaker for Central Region Round-Up**

### **Dave Loney**

Since the early nineties , Dave has been enabling individuals to reach their higher potential. He has an ability to perceive critical elements to success and help identify roadblocks. Dave has a great ability to vision and get others excited about ideas and possibilities. He started Groworks Coaching - a program specifically designed for performing entrepreneurs where Dave teaches strategies to stimulate entrepreneurial success and accelerated the realization of life goals.

Dave was a co-founder of Eagle's Flight®, an internationally recognized firm that develops experiential training programs to release human leadership potential. In 1996, Dave was recognized as a finalist for Ernst and Young's Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

In his book, "Sweating From Your Eyes - Emotional Fitness for Men", Dave uses principles of physical fitness to help men become better able to manage their emotions. Dave is also the leader of a men's group that meets weekly for mutual encouragement, accountability and personal and spiritual growth.

### **Winners of Youth To Camp for 2003**

**announced by Mark Browning**

Based on the size of the club:

Elliot Lake, with 13 members was first.

Lakefield, with 25 members was second.

Westminster, with 20 members was third

2004 results will appear in the Fall Issue